

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

May 12, 2025

The Legislative Meeting was called to order by Mr. Furry, President of Council, at 7:00 p.m. in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. O'Boyle,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

Council Members Absent: Mr. Shipp

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING IN OF LIEUTENANT COLLIN CUNNINGHAM AND FIREFIGHTERS CADE BONDS, JAKE MORAD AND DAN NURNBERG

Fire Chief Lenart said this evening is a special night as it is not often the Fire Department is able to swear in four people. This evening Collin Cunningham will be sworn in as a Lieutenant along with three new firefighters. Even though all of them have been with the department for a couple of months, the Chief likes to make it special and have their swearing in at a City Council Meeting.

Collin Cunningham was promoted to Lieutenant when Steve Golobic retired this winter. Collin has been with the Fire Department since 2014. He grew up in Fairview Park and tonight his badge will be pinned on by his wife Teresa. Mayor Bobst administered his swearing in. Lieutenant Cunningham thanked everyone who came this evening and thanked everyone for all their support.

Cade Bonds came to the department from the Marine Corps and is still in active reserves and the department will be losing him to the nation of Jordan for a few weeks. He also was at the Brunswick Hills Fire Department and tonight his wife Camerin will pin his badge on him. Mayor Bobst administered his swearing in. Firefighter Bonds thanked everyone for their support and all the senior guys taking the time to teach him and thanked his wife for supporting him.

Jake Morad grew up in Strongsville and came to the department from Northfield Village Fire Department. Jake's mom will pin his badge on him. Mayor Bobst administered his swearing in. Firefighter Morad thanked everyone for attending and for helping him out. He appreciates it.

Dan Nurnberg came to the Fire Department from the Rocky River Service Garage. Dan's wife Kaylee will pin his badge on him. The Mayor said that he has been a long-serving mechanic in the Service Department and is part of the reason the equipment runs so well. The Mayor said he comes with a skill set not often seen in a firefighter. Mayor Bobst administered his swearing in. Dan thanked everyone for attending and thanked his wife and family for supporting him through all his schooling and working full-time and taking care of the little one. He appreciates it.

Chief Lenart thanked everyone who attended this evening's swearing in. Thank you again for the opportunity. The Mayor said it speaks volumes that so many people were in attendance this evening.

MOTION:

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mr. Sindelar that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting of April 28th and the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of May 5th be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O’Boyle – aye	
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	6 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

MAYOR’S REPORT:

The Mayor stated that she will not go through the construction update as the update is sent out via ReadyNotify. If there are any questions please let the administration know. Information can be added to the website and future ReadyNotify announcements. The city will continue updating current projects along with future projects over the summer and fall construction seasons.

The Mayor discussed the removal of the drive-thru mail collection box at the Post Office. This is a huge issue for the community. This mailbox was the only mailbox that residents can drive up to and deposit mail. The Mayor has spoken with the Supervisor, the Manager, and two staff members at the Postmaster General’s Office and our Congressman’s office. They are working on understanding why this happened. At this point, no one can share with the Mayor why it was removed or whether it was a mistake, but this is extremely valuable to people that just want to drop mail or have mobility issues and don’t want to walk into the post office. The administration is working hard on getting that reinstalled. As soon as the Mayor has information as to why it was removed, she will share it. Congressman Miller’s office is working on it. He and the Mayor exchanged emails on Thursday and Friday and hopefully there will be an answer shortly.

Later this week, the underground fuel storage tanks that are close to the Fire Station, will be removed. As Council recalls, there are two above ground tanks that have been installed at the Service Garage. Director Snyder informed the Mayor that the fueling system that is currently at the Service Garage will stay in use to make sure there are no glitches in the new system and then the old fueling system will be decommissioned. The Rocky River City Schools are partnering with the city along with some usage by Rocky River Public Library and Lutheran West High School.

The city has been working on lighting for the new walking path at Linden Park. It has turned into a bigger project as the city wants to make improvements to the Danny Scherry Memorial that is in the southeast corner of Linden Park, while illuminating the path with light by flooding the walkway itself and not the neighboring homes. The city is also looking at the area by the Tennis/Pickleball Courts and restrooms to see if additional work is needed there. It has turned into a larger project but it will also be a better project. The Mayor has been communicating with the residents.

The Mayor announced that ten seasonal employees are returning to the Service Garage. The Mayor also said that an intern will be working with Director Thomas in the Finance Department and two interns at the Recreation Center who will be working primarily in marketing but also some programming. The city welcomes the interns to the City Hall Campus.

The Mayor announced that Fall Program registrations are open at the Recreation Center.

The Mayor shared Building Statistics through the end of April:

- There are 410 residential permits pulled for an added total valuation of almost \$8.2 million.
- There are 34 commercial permits pulled for a total valuation of \$7.6 million compared with \$6.9 million at this time last year.

The Mayor said that overall, the city is at the same place as last year at this time with 444 permits pulled with \$15.8 million of added valuation. People are continuing to invest in the community in robust ways. This is investment that is compatible and desirable with the Master Plan and the residential character which is extremely important. The Mayor extended a big thank you to the Boards and Commission members of the Land Use Commissions. They do a lot of work along with the Law Director, making sure that these projects are consistent with the type of development that the city wants to see. These numbers will increase, especially on the residential side due to the Heritage Home Loan Program that has been met with excitement and enthusiasm.

The Mayor said the Community Shredding will be held this Saturday in the parking lot in front of the Ice Arena. Residents can travel towards the ice rink where they will be directed to a queue line that will help them dispose of materials for shredding. A big thank you to the Community Emergency Response Team, great volunteers that have been with the city for many years in supporting the Community Shredding Event. Thank you also to Director Snyder, Mark Filipic and the Service Department.

The Mayor thanked the Sunrise Rotary Club who will once again be planting the large planters in front of the Police Station. They do a beautiful job honoring Law Enforcement Officials. The Mayor cannot thank them enough.

The Mayor asked Director Thomas to introduce the new Assistant Finance Director, Jonathon Lindow. Director Thomas introduced Jon Lindow, the Assistant Finance Director. Director Thomas appreciated Council's support in establishing this position and giving budget extra muscle in the Finance Department as they do some succession planning. Jon comes to the City of Rocky River from the assistant positions at the City of Brecksville, Upper Arlington and Bedford. Welcome Jonathon.

- President Furry asked if there was a two-banker box limit at the shredding event? The Mayor said yes, they would like residents to limit shredding to two banker boxes.

LAW DEPARTMENT: Mr. O'Shea said that he compliments the administration and everybody that has anything to do with the new webpage. It is very nice and brilliantly done. He commends them. Secondly, the blue light for supporting the First Responders began May 7th and continues through May 17th. Mr. O'Shea said to get the blue lights out and show support for our First Responders. Thirdly, Law Director O'Shea reports that the Building Department has been very firm enforcing the city's code with the owner of the building that the Police Department was temporarily housed in. The owners of that building pled no contest a week ago and conceded as the terms of their probation were to make the building right as it relates to the Building Department. In addition to that, the Fire Department cited that same building with fire danger concerns which is set for pretrial tomorrow. The city will take the same position on that.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if there is a timeframe for the commercial building to complete the tasks to make the building right. If the owner completes his tasks, the city often dismisses the case that the homeowner or the building owner accost.
- Mrs. Gallagher said that when she was on the Land Use Commission, somebody bought that building. The Mayor and Law Director said these are the new owners. They have abandoned their first project and have another project. There is motivation to do these repairs. The Building Department likes to see forward progress and that is what the Building Department will be looking for. Mr. O'Shea stated that there is a lot of garbage and very serious wiring concerns which are causing fire concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-25

BY: PAUL SHIPP

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH G & B ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR

THE CIVIC CENTER ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION PROJECT, UNDER THE SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$148,764.68, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

2nd READING

Mr. Furry said this has been discussed at the previous two or three meetings and Mr. Shipp circulated a memorandum from Director Balla. This will be discussed more at next week's meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-25

BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND HER DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY FOR THE LAKE/CLIFTON CONNECTOR PROJECT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$540,000.00 AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

2nd READING

Mr. Sindelar said this has been discussed for a long period of time, even prior to its introduction a few weeks ago. Outside of the initial boost of support, Council knows where the bike group stands. Mr. Furry said that everyone received the red line version of the agreement and has been discussing it either formally or informally since February. President Furry thinks the city could make the city more bike friendly and the new structure of the agreement makes him more comfortable with it. Mr. Sindelar spoke with Andrea Mediate this weekend and the one thing that has benefited City Council is the engagement of people in the community. When people want something done and they care about it, it is nice to see the support. Kudos to Andrea Mediate and her group.

- President Furry said the County would like to get started on this and asked about a Special Meeting next week. Council agreed to have a Special Meeting next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING AMENDED ORDINANCE 20-25, FOR POSITIONS AND FIXING OR ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL SALARIES AND HOURLY RATES COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025 FOR THE APPOINTED EMPLOYEES IN THE SEVERAL DIVISIONS AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

1st READING

Mr. Furry said that two changes were made to amend the 2025 Wage Ordinance. The first was to increase each step of the Lead Supervisors in the Service Garage which was \$1.03 an hour. The purpose of this increase is to align compensation with the increase of the service contract which the city has completed with every contract that was approved in April. The second change is to the Finance Manager annual salary. This was increased to \$81,500 to align its responsibility with the city budget, payroll, auditing, compliance training and supervisory duties.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-25

BY: JEANNE GALLAGHER

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO PURCHASE ONE (1) NEW 25 YARD SPARTAN SELF CONTAINED LEAF VACUUM TRAILER FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT UNDER A SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT FROM MACQUEEN EQUIPMENT, LLC, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$168,632.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

1st READING

This is an emergency ordinance requesting authorization to purchase one 25 Cubic Yard Spartan Leaf machine from MacQueen Equipment, LLC of Gahanna, Ohio, at a cost not to exceed \$168,632.00 as part of the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract. The City of Rocky River purchased two (2) of these units in late 2022 and they have been fantastic pieces of equipment for the Service Department. The total cost of \$168,632.00 includes a base

price of \$166,275.00, and an additional \$2,357.00 to upgrade the unit with a hood for the operator, to reduce dust inhalation and an upgraded directional light bar on the tailgate for safety.

This unit will replace and eliminate our final packer/tow behind unit that is over 20 years old. This process began in 2022 because to purchase a new packer and outfit it with a leaf box, the cost would be nearly \$200,000. That is without the cost of a leaf machine to attach. The other major issue with the packers for leaf collection is they are not designed for it. There are many maintenance problems that arise from cleaning leaves out of the hydraulics and sweep blade. These new leaf machines are towed behind a large dump truck and are ready at a moment's notice. We are also able to dump them directly into the transfer station.

Another major benefit to the tow behind unit is the significant reduction of staff necessary for leaf collection. The Spartan units are utilized for routes with a high volume of leaves and can accomplish this with a crew of three, that would have required six or seven personnel previously. This is due to the ability of the operator to swing in a wider arc over the tree lawn to collect leaves.

There is a chance this machine may be delivered this fall, but the lead times are currently uncertain. Mrs. Gallagher will email photographs to Council of this machine.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if there was any .govdeal value with the old unit. Mr. Snyder said that previous units have been sold on .govdeal for a nominal amount. The city will probably keep this as a backup just in case something happens to another unit.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-25

BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

1st READING

Mrs. Morris said this is a resolution that will allow the city to ratify the Solid Waste Management Plan Update for the fifth time. This happens every 15 years. There are new processes and methods that will be used as part of this plan.

- The Mayor pointed out that at the bottom of the page of the update, the new and expanded programs are listed there. They always have education services.

ORDINANCE NO. 27-25

BY: JEANNE GALLAGHER

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO PURCHASE ONE (1) NEW 2025 RAYCO RG80-R STUMP CUTTER FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT UNDER A SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT FROM MORBARK, LLC, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$81,434.12, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

1st READING

Mrs. Gallagher said this emergency ordinance requests authorization to purchase a Rayco Stump Grinder for the Service Department, Park Division, at a cost not to exceed \$81,434.12 as part of the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract from Morbark, LLC. Historically, the Parks Division has contracted stump grinding services, but the costs for service continue to increase. Over the past five years, the city averages \$15,000 per year in stump grinding services and the Parks Lead Supervisor has had to closely watch contractors to confirm proper removal of the stumps, to our standards. The new stump grinder will allow our Parks Division to properly remove stumps, in a timely manner, so that tree lawns may be remediated sooner. They also intend to use the stump grinder to excavate for tree planting. The Parks Division reviewed multiple models and manufacturers and feel that the Rayco unit is the best piece of equipment for their use and will be an effective tool for the community for many years. AG Pro - North Canton is the local dealer for Morbark, LLC and will be the local distributor for sales and service. Mrs.

Gallagher will forward a photo of this equipment to Council. If authorized, Director Snyder expects to see the stump grinder later this year. This will have three full reads.

- Mr. Furry asked how much idle time Director Snyder thinks this machine will have. Director Snyder said that the city has removed over 300 trees over the past five years. One of the big perks is this is a great tool for planting trees also. The city has planted almost 800 trees in the past five years. The Parks Department has pruned almost 4,000 trees over the last five years.

ORDINANCE NO. 28-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, CODIFIED ORDINANCES, SECTIONS 914.15(a) AND 915.18 CONCERNING SEWER USE AND RATES, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

1st READING

There was a revised Ordinance 28-25 at everyone's place this evening. This is for an annual stepped-up rate increase for sewer billing of \$2.50 a year base MCF for four years. President Furry thinks these rates are competitive especially compared to our neighbor to the east. This is due to EPA mandates and capital-intensive upgrades at the plant and costs continue to increase. The last increases were in December 2007, March 2003 and the one prior to that was December 1997. The Regional WWTP has been a good steward of its resources. This will have three full reads.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Furry asked City Council to complete the eight-minute training Wire Fraud Video. If not completed, please do so as soon as possible and forward your certificate to the Council Clerk and the Mayor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Paul Gallagher, 2159 Wooster Road, Cliff Towers, stated he has received a lot of phone calls and email messages regarding what is going on, on Center Ridge Road and other projects. He is asking about the transparency from Council as these projects popped up, nobody knows about them unless you attend the Council Meetings or read the notes. He suggests that when there is something as large as this, there should be a Town Hall Meeting so everybody can be brought in and sell and educate them on what the project will consist of. An example was with the Senior Center. He called people who use to be Council members regarding the \$4 million project that they knew nothing about it. The only thing he saw was an article in Westlife that was erroneous talking about \$2 million with no follow-up correcting the amount to \$4 million. Mr. Sindelar said that each week he extensively talked about introducing legislation years prior for NOACA funding, et cetera. The Mayor asked Mr. Gallagher to encourage people to call the administration. Mr. Gallagher's point is well taken that maybe the city needs to do a better job of talking about these projects. The city engaged stakeholders for the Master Plan and the TLCI Grant that were held at Goldwood School. The Mayor has not received a call from anyone about the Center Ridge Road project. Mr. Gallagher asked if the Senior Center will now only be for Rocky River residents since residents are paying the taxes on it. The Mayor said primarily, but others can, for additional fees, belong to whatever class or trip they want to attend. The Senior Center cannot schedule enough classes because there is not enough room. The Center Ridge Road Project is in the Master Plan and the city was waiting for the ODOT Urban Paving Program to kick in on Center Ridge Road where they will pay for all the pavement repairs and anything additional the city will pay. The city has been working with property owners to make improvements as they are making improvements. It is a very collaborative project. Mr. Snyder said that Center Ridge is one of the requirements for the funding that was demonstrated in detail on the city's website on the Public Works page. Mr. Snyder personally sat down with property owners who handle River Plaza, Westwood Town Center, the Woods, the Welsh Home and the bank at the corner of Spencer. The boulevards take place between Goldwood School and Spencer Road. Mr. Snyder also spoke to the School Board about the possible intersection coming out of Goldwood. These boulevards make sense to do now while the paving is taking place and the signal and pedestrian improvements. This is to improve traffic flow and make it safer, improve pedestrian safety but also to go through

and add a beautification, stormwater mitigation and reduce the impervious surfaces in that area. No bike accommodation will be added there.

Mrs. Emily Lyman, 21832 Addington, asked if this project will continue past Wagar to Wooster. Mr. Snyder said there is no plan in place for the area between Linden Road and Wooster Road because projects are leveraged with outside funding. Mrs. Lyman is also concerned about the left turning lane onto Spencer. Mr. Snyder said that the city is not shortening the left turning lane onto Spencer. The median is not going to inhibit that turn lane at all.

Mr. Peter Corrigan, 2993 Kingsmill Run, stated he has great trepidation about this project. He drives up and down that road six times a day. He thinks it might cause more congestion. He has concerns about expenditure on bike lanes and other things. He waited for more than a decade to get his street paved and he is concerned about money going to things like this, when there are streets in the city that need to be paved. He wants to draw Council's attention to the fact that we have really bad weather here. When we convert roads to bike lanes that don't get used for six months a year, he is not sure that is such a good usage of our roads and our space.

Mr. Furry wished Mr. Hunt a happy birthday on April 28th.

There will be a Special Meeting along with a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting next Monday. The Legislative Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council