

## CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

**January 13, 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, Mr. Shipp,  
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

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

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **MOTION:**

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mrs. Gallagher that the reading of the minutes of the December 16<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting and Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O'Boyle – aye	Shipp - aye
	Morris – abstain	Sindelar – aye	Furry - aye	
	6 – ayes	1 – abstain	0 - nays	<b>PASSED</b>

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mrs. Gallagher that the reading of the minutes of the January 6<sup>th</sup> Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O'Boyle – aye	Shipp - aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry - aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	<b>PASSED</b>

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mr. O'Boyle that the reading of the minutes of the December 6<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee Meeting be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Furry – aye	Hunt – aye	Sindelar – aye	Shipp – aye
	4 – ayes		0 – nays	<b>PASSED</b>

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Mayor met with Cub Scout Pack 390 and their Webelos. Most of the scouts were fourth graders from the local schools along with some first graders and their parents. It is great to see that the Scouting program is supported by so many parents. A big thank you to Patrick Bloom who organized the meeting. The scouts are very knowledgeable, and they now know that the Mayor and City Council has 21,755 bosses and they are one of them. They will let the Mayor and Council know what they would like to improve in the city.

The Mayor said that there was a delay in the certification from the state but the County Property Taxes are online so individuals can access their information on <https://myplace.cuyahogacounty.gov/> to obtain their tax bill. The deadline for payment is being extended until February 20, 2025.

The Mayor discussed the Clifton/Lake Project which includes the narrowing of the Clifton/Lake bridge with bike accommodation coming out of Lakewood. This is a very large project with a roundabout in Lakewood and a bike trail to the end of the Marion Ramp in Rocky River. This project will total \$11.4 million in total cost. The County has had several public meetings and the City of Rocky River conducted a survey on the webpage for several weeks

to collect data and people's interests. The city must decide whether to move forward or not. The City of Rocky River's portion would be \$540,000. There is a considerable amount of money coming from the County and NOACA's Emissions Prevention Federal Program. The City of Lakewood's portion is about \$1.4 million of the total cost. The Mayor is asking OHM, who has been working on the project and working with Rocky River on Lake Road and Hilliard Blvd., to make a presentation to City Council. The dollars would not be expended until 2026, but they need everyone's agreement so the millions coming from NOACA can be secured. The Mayor respectfully requests that a short presentation be done at the February 3, 2025 Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting.

The Mayor was on a call today with representatives from the County as well as ODOT regarding the Marian Ramp. A letter was sent saying it was time to talk about the removal of the Marian Ramp. The Mayor asked for a timeline and this is slated for 2033. Engineering would probably start within the next five or six years, but it is important to plan. This will be discussed further.

The Mayor said the Heritage Home Loan Program presentation will be held on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. A letter will be sent out to property owners with homes that are 50+ years old. The meeting will be held at Memorial Hall. The Heritage Home Loan Program is a program that provides technical assistance but also a very competitive loan product from a few local banks for improvements to homes. We have learned that these loans can also be used for private sewer projects, so the city may dovetail that with some of the work being done regarding Inflow and Infiltration.

The Mayor asked the County to come out to explain the Great Estates Program which is a way to structure your estate to avoid probate concerns. The county comes out to local communities with all the paperwork needed and it is a very straight forward process. This meeting will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

The Senior Center groundbreaking will be held this Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. All of City Council are invited to attend.

The Mayor read parts of the annual letter from the MetroParks concerning the Deer Management Program. This program establishes and maintains a balanced eco system. They will focus on a portion of the Rocky River Reservation from noon until 6:00 a.m. the following morning which will be closed to the public on several days from January 21<sup>st</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup>. Safety always remains their number one goal. The Rocky River Police Department is aware of the schedule. There will be signs posted and closure signs posted all over the valley. Residents with property adjacent to the valley will be notified by a letter. Alerts and closures will be posted on the Cleveland MetroParks website under Alerts and Closures. When the project is completed, the venison will be donated to a local food bank.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if the Clifton/Lake Bridge is a state or county route. The Mayor replied it is the state. He then asked how they decide who is responsible for what costs. The Mayor said they are taking the north side to narrow the bridge and then it is half of that. Mr. Snyder explained that this will be a multi-module transportation improvement project. The significant portion of this project is in Lakewood. As the Mayor mentioned, the intent of the bridge is to close the north two lanes of the bridge with two-way traffic on the southside of the bridge in either direction. Within Rocky River, as the northside is closed that will create a multi-use trail across the bridge. On the Rocky River side, the trail will continue along the north side of the north marginal to Lake Road and continue with the multi-use trail to Linda. It is a very small portion. Lakewood is going to be a multi-use trail all the way to West Clifton, an off-street multi-use trail, roundabout, signal improvements, right away improvements, right away acquisition. There is a significant amount of work that will take place in Lakewood which is why Rocky River's portion is a considerably smaller amount. They went through and figured out the amount of work that will take place from the center of the bridge west in comparison to the amount of work that will take place from the center of the bridge east. That is how they broke it down.

- Mr. Hunt asked if they were waiting for approval from Rocky River to leverage the funds. The Mayor said that NOACA has already approved it. Local funds have not been appropriated yet.
- Mrs. Morris asked about the Great Estates Program. The Mayor reiterated that it is to provide tools and information to avoid unnecessary costs and time delays when settling an estate. The County visits communities to work with seniors and others regarding their real estate and vehicle(s).

**LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 99-24**

**BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION AND SALE OF A PORTION OF WOODSIDE DRIVE, AS BEING PART OF ORIGINAL ROCKPORT TOWNSHIP LOT NOS. 17 AND 2, AS RECORDED IN THE BEACH CLIFF SUBDIVISION NO. 3 AS RECORDED IN VOL. 66, PG. 6 OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY MAPS AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said this has been vetted for several weeks not with no comments or questions from anyone in the public or community at large. Mr. Sindelar moved this amended ordinance for passage, seconded by Mr. Furry.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O’Boyle – aye	Shipp - aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry - aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	<b>PASSED</b>

**ORDINANCE NO. 100-24**

**BY: THOMAS J. HUNT**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT UP TO \$35,000.00 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MARINE PATROL FOR THE YEAR 2025 AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mr. Hunt said this will be discussed more in two weeks. Mr. Hunt has not had any questions or comments and this ordinance has been passed for a number of years.

**ORDINANCE NO. 101-24**

**BY: DAVID W. FURRY**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN ZUPKA & ASSOCIATES AND KEITH FABER, AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR FISCAL PERIODS JANUARY 1, 2024 TO DECEMBER 31, 2028, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mr. Furry said this authorizes the awarding of the city’s Audit Services and will cover the fiscal periods 2024 to 2028. The vetting process is prescribed by the Auditor of State Keith Faber and is being awarded to the incumbent firm who just finished their five-year contract. Although this is for an additional five years, per Auditor of State criteria, the city cannot contract with a private firm for more than ten consecutive years. This will be their final time. Four firms were vetted and scored by Auditor of State and Zupka & Associates scored the highest. They were not the least costly but conversely not the highest. The city has latitude for lowest and best especially regarding professional services.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1-25****BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR****AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITIES OF FAIRVIEW PARK AND ROCKY RIVER REGARDING THE STORY ROAD AND ELDORADO DRIVE CULVERT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"****1<sup>st</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said that this is the first read and has pictures of the neighborhood this is referencing. This is a unique situation where the exposed culvert is located inside a neighborhood and has been disruptive. Mr. Sindelar asked how the percentages were figured out and when working on the easements do the residents need to agree or offer them any considerations towards this. Mr. Snyder said that he has had preliminary conversations with the property owners along North Valley Drive in Fairview Park for their easements. It benefits them for this work to be done because of the erosion along their rear property line. There is no proposed cost to the city for those easements. The breakdown is related to the amount of work in each city. It is not an exact science but a reasonable breakdown. The Mayor said the same city engineer is being used also. Mr. Snyder asked if there is an upgrade to technology or materials used. Mr. Snyder said yes. The concrete pipes will not be used. It will most likely be a corrugated steel and the new design incorporates headwalls to help hold the bank in where the culvert comes out. Mr. Sindelar expects three full reads for this.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE****COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** President Furry said that in honor of Martin Luther King Day, there will not be a City Council meeting next week. The next City Council Meeting will be the January 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

Mr. Furry moved to adjourn this evening's meeting, seconded by Mr. Sindelar.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O'Boyle – aye	Shipp - aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry - aye	
	7 – ayes		0 - nays	

**PASSED**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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David W. Furry  
President of Council

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Susan G. Pease  
Clerk of Council