

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER
February 24, 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. Furry

Council Members Absent: Mr. Sindelar

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING-IN OF DR. GARY PREVITS FOR THE BOARD OF TAX REVIEW

President Furry announced that the Mayor will be swearing-in Dr. Gary Previts for the Board of Tax Review this evening. The Mayor commenced with the swearing-in and thanked Dr. Previts for his ongoing willingness to serve in this capacity. The Mayor said that the city is honored to have Dr. Previts in this role. Dr. Previts is a Professor from Case Western University, Professor Emeritus that holds the Chair and he understands government finance. It is wonderful to have him as a member of the community. Dr. Previts’ son is currently serving and is also very helpful to the city in working with the Veterans. The Mayor thanked the Previts Family for their legacy of service.

President Furry thanked Dr. Previts for his continued service.

MOTION:

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mrs. Morris that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting on February 10th be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O’Boyle – aye	
Shipp – abstain	Morris – aye	Furry - aye	
5 – ayes	1 – abstain	0 - nays	PASSED

MAYOR’S REPORT:

The Mayor thanked everyone that attended the Great Estates Program sponsored by Cuyahoga County last week. It was very well attended. The County prepared for pre-registrants all the documents and deed paperwork necessary to list additional beneficiaries to property and a notary was also available. There were a lot of good questions. A big thank you to County Executive Chris Ronayne and the Cuyahoga County Finance Department, especially Brian O’Malley who heads up this program.

The Mayor thanked Director Snyder, the Finance Department and many other department heads for the award received from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency with regards to the city’s response to the tornado that hit in early August. The Mayor is happy to report that the city will be reimbursed \$183,971.00 for overtime, every material, use of equipment and any leasing or rental of equipment due to the tornado. The Mayor is pleased to receive this reimbursement for these expenditures.

The Mayor is happy to report that the Seniors Council met with Director Kerber regarding the Natureworks Grant Application for the trail that will go behind the Senior Center once the addition is completed and out to Wagar Road. Seniors Council gave it a resounding vote of approval and support.

The Mayor announced that the Spring 2025 Watermain Replacement applications are for Battersea, Beachcliff, Jameston and Gasser, Lake Road (Avalon to Parklawn – the project being done with sewer and pavement reconstruction) and Westmoor (Westway to Hilliard). The Mayor added that the city has received millions of dollars up to this point because of a program the city has engaged in with Cleveland Water and they have been highly responsive to the City of Rocky River. The Mayor said that a couple of the city's projects were the largest projects in the entire County. The administration appreciates the relationship with Cleveland Water. Cleveland Water likes doing the city's projects because they are done along with sewer projects and other work that the city is engaged in.

Director Snyder submitted the application for Tree City U.S.A. and once again the City of Rocky River was notified that it will receive the Tree City U.S.A. Award for the 41st time along with the Growth Award for work with trees in the Urban Canopy above and beyond the four standards of the Arbor Day Foundation. Congratulations to Rich and the city's great Parks Department and the highly trained arborists that love the trees as much as the administration. Director Snyder built that program and the city has now seen many of the benefits for 41 years.

The ice on the river is being monitored due to the combination of melting ice, snow and the expectation of rain and high winds. Today, the wind is coming out of the south which will push the debris and ice and logs out into the lake. The city is taking a close look at the river, monitoring it, watching it along with partners at the Yacht Club and residents in the Yacht Club Basin as well as in Lakewood. The city will let the community know if there are any issues with the river.

Tomorrow is the Heritage Home Loan Program which will be presented by the Cleveland Restoration Society. This is a program that the city belonged to at its first inception many years ago. It provides technical assistance for homeowners that have homes that are more than 50 years old. The city stopped being engaged in that program when the bottom fell out of the economy and the loan product was no longer competitive with what banks were offering during 2010, 2011 et cetera. It is different today. There are competitive loan products that can be offered through this program. Director Kerber of Planning and Community Development will be the local contact for the city. Director Kerber was in Bay Village for a time and was the point person in Bay Village for the Heritage Home Loan Program. This program begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Don Umerley Civic Center, February 25th. Information was sent out through ReadyNotify along with letters from the Cleveland Restoration Society to everyone's home that would qualify.

The Mayor announced that the Swim-A-Thon is Sunday morning, March 2nd, beginning at 7:30 a.m. The Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary along with Harlan Radford has put the Swim-A-Thon together for the past several years. It benefits the Rocky River and Lakewood Fire Departments along with GiGi's Playhouse in Lakewood and the Rocky River Assistance Program.

The Mayor is very sad to report that this week is Mary Ellen Umerley's last week with the city, as she is retiring. Mary Ellen is the Mayor's Executive Assistant. Her husband, Jim Umerley worked for the city for 38 years and Mary Ellen worked for the city for more than 23 years in various capacities including the Law Department, the Municipal Court, Economic Development and then most of her time in the Mayor's Office. Mary Ellen is an exceptional individual. The Mayor will miss her along with the community missing her, but her presence will be felt for generations to come. Please join the Mayor in wishing her well. Law Director O'Shea concurred.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 2-25

BY: PAUL SHIPP

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A TWO (2) YEAR AGREEMENT FOR FULL SERVICE VENDING WITH METROPOLITAN VENDING COMPANY FOR THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER RECREATION DEPARTMENT AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”

3rd READING

Councilman Shipp said this has been discussed for about a month. The city has been using Metropolitan Vending Company and they have done a good job according to Mr. Holub, the Director of the Recreation Department. In addition to their fine service, they have also been sponsors at the ice rink and have donated sports tickets for raffles and special events. They have been a good partner for the city. Mr. Shipp moved this ordinance for passage, seconded by Mr. Furry.

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

PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 3-25

BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RENEW OUR AGREEMENT WITH NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) FOR THE NOPEC 2025 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”

3rd READING

Mr. Furry said this has been discussed for several weeks. It is to renew an agreement with NOPEC to provide the city with grant funding or reimbursement for energy efficiency and energy infrastructure updates. This program incentivizes the city to make more efficient, green changes and NOPEC reimburses the city for these projects based on how many residents are in their program. Mr. Furry moved this resolution for passage, seconded by Mrs. Morris and Mr. Hunt.

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

PASSED

RESOLUTION NO. 4-25

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 CENTER RIDGE ROAD GATEWAY PROJECT, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT “A”

2nd READING

Mr. Furry stated that Councilman Sindelar elaborated on this at the last meeting so he will defer comment on this until the next Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting. This has one more read.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-25

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 RESURFACING OF HIGLEY ROAD, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT “A”

2nd READING

Mr. Furry will defer discussion on this until Councilman Sindelar returns next week. This is regarding a joint project with Fairview Park.

ORDINANCE NO. 6-25

BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER REGARDING STORM WATER POLLUTION EDUCATION FOR A TWELVE (12) MONTH TERM, ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A

2nd READING

Mrs. Morris said this is a Memorandum of Understanding that allows the city to participate in the Public Involvement and Public Education (PIPE) Programs that are required by the current Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit for the City of Rocky River. It keeps the city in line with the Ohio EPA as part of the MS4 Annual Report.

ORDINANCE NO. 7-25

BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER REGARDING STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A TWELVE (12) MONTH TERM, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A

2nd READING

Mrs. Morris stated that this is a companion to 6-25. This allows the city to participate in an agreement that the city has had before with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District regarding storm water pollution prevention technical assistance for a 12-month term at a cost not to exceed \$13,080.00. This will allow the Cuyahoga SWCD to assist the city with inspection of all stormwater control measures for all construction projects with a disturbance greater than 1 acre. They will also provide guidance for any projects less than one acre in size as requested by the city. This can be renewed in 2026 at the same rate. The Cuyahoga SWCD are helpful with other projects in the city with construction and landowners when they are not in compliance.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-25

BY: PAUL SHIPP

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND HER DESIGNEE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CLEAN OHIO TRAILS FUND AND/OR THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT FOR A SENIOR CENTER TRAIL

2nd READING

Mr. Shipp said that in his absence at the last meeting, Ms. Kerber presented the information for this grant regarding the process of applying for grants to help with the Senior Center Trail.

ORDINANCE NO. 9-25

BY: JEANNE GALLAGHER

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO PURCHASE ONE (1) NEW 25 CUBIC YARD LEACH REFUSE COLLECTOR FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT UNDER A SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT FROM BEST EQUIPMENT COMPANY, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$279,950.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT “A”

2nd READING

Mrs. Gallagher said that as discussed at the last meeting, the city had a 2009 Leach Refuse Collector with 16,550 hours on the engine and 147,258 miles on the chassis that has experienced mechanical issues. After assessing the issues, the Lead Mechanic does not recommend the replacement of the engine due to other significant issues with rust on the frame, suspension beam, leak in air cooler, exhaust leak and rear brake replacement. This ordinance allows the Service Department to purchase a 2024, 25-cubic yard Leach Refuse Collector from Best Equipment Company, at a cost not to exceed \$279,950. The procurement is through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program. It is important for this collector to be replaced as soon as possible, and Best Equipment has the above unit available for delivery pending the approval of this purchase. The old refuse collector will be sold as is on gov.deals. President Furry added that this was in the budget to be replaced this year but moved up quickly with the catastrophic failure of the 2009 refuse collector. Mrs. Gallagher moved to suspend the three-read rule, seconded by Mr. Hunt.

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

Mrs. Gallagher moved for passage, seconded by Mr. Hunt.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-25

BY: THOMAS J. HUNT

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RECEIVE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$132,000.00 AND ADMINISTER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT “A”

1st READING

Mr. Hunt said that this resolution would authorize the city to receive \$132,000.00 in Federal Grant money at which point the city would match with \$33,000.00 to make a total project of \$165,000 for the city to hire a consulting firm that would collect information and provide infrastructure recommendations to address safety findings. It is an opportunity to have a comprehensive safety plan for traffic and non-motorized transportation throughout the city. This would be a very worthwhile endeavor. Anytime there is a chance to receive funds, the city is anxious to do that. Mr. Hunt anticipates three full reads on this and it will be discussed again at next week’s Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting.

- Mr. Furry asked what the chances are that this funding would be received. Mr. Snyder said hopefully good and that if this safety action plan is in place, it would be instrumental in receiving funding for implementation purposes.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-25

BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FABRIZI TRUCKING & PAVING COMPANY, INC., FOR THE PARKLANE DRIVE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT AND PAVEMENT RESURFACING PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$942,851.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT “A”

1st READING

Mr. Furry will discuss this now but will let Mr. Sindelar go into more detail at next week's meeting. This is requesting authorization to enter a contract with Fabrizi Trucking and Paving for the Parklane Drive Water Main Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$942,851.00 which includes the election to include an alternate of \$29,280.00 for additional catch basin replacements. Four bids were received on January 31, 2025, and the bid by Fabrizi was \$41,772.50 lower than the second lowest bid including Alternate 1. This project entails new water mains and connections to residential properties and will also be included and the replacement of any lead or galvanized water connections to homes on Parklane Drive, west of Wooster. The water main replacement is being funded as part of the Cleveland Division of Water's Suburban Water Main Renewal Program in an amount of \$401,160.00. Upon completion of the water main work, the street will be resurfaced with apron and curb repairs, full depth concrete repairs and an asphalt overlay. MacKay Engineering sent out 25 bids and received four back. Mr. Furry would like the ordinance to say that the city is receiving \$401,160.00 as a condition of this ordinance. There will be an amendment by substitution at the next Legislative Meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Tim Furey, 19605 Beachcliff Blvd., began by saying he has been a resident of Rocky River since 1984. He is also a member of the Rocky River Green Team and a member of Bike Rocky River. There are over 200 Rocky River residents who are affiliated with the Green Team and 125+ residents who are members of Bike Rocky River. He is here today to advocate for the enhancement of our city's multi-modal infrastructure to modernize and create safer streets for all residents, including motorists, walkers, runners, students commuting to and from school, and recreational cyclists. The 2018 Master Plan addressed multiple issues and critical agendas to improve the livability of the city for all its citizens. The plan very clearly stated in goal #6 that Rocky River's neighborhoods are among the strongest in Cuyahoga County due to our quality school district and attractive, diverse stock of homes. However, in goal #5, the Master Plan identified that the city has a very limited bicycling network and walking paths. The community survey at the time highlighted improvements to the walking and biking network as the highest transportation priority among residents. The 2018 City of Rocky River Master Plan further identified our city as a car-dependent community. This is closely related to the fact that there are currently zero bike lanes within the city. The city needs to step positively forward and address the issues which directly impact on its residents' quality of life. There are currently three projects the city is contemplating that will dramatically improve the city's multi-modal infrastructure. The Lake Road Clifton Blvd. Project is a significant opportunity to improve our city's multi-modal infrastructure. One of the key benefits of this project would provide a safer route for all non-vehicular users, including walkers, runners, students, and cyclists. By reducing traffic speeds, implementing traffic calming measures and a dedicated multi-modal lane cut off from the road, a safer environment will be created for all residents and the Bradstreet Landing Parking & Lake Road Multi-Modal Project. He has included these two projects together because of the dramatic changes they will bring to those who travel down Lake Road, including slowing down vehicle speed, improving the experience for walkers, runners, students, and cyclists and others traveling down this road and the city's visibility in the WestShore area. The Senior Center Trail Project is designed to connect the Rocky River Senior Center to the city's recreation center and seems to be becoming a reality. In conclusion, these projects are a simple but significant step forward for Rocky River's multi-modal infrastructure. By supporting these initiatives, we can create a safer, more connected and more pedestrian and bike friendly community. Additionally, these projects will help the city keep up with our neighbors, the cities of Lakewood and Bay Village are light years ahead of Rocky River in terms of infrastructure for multi-modal use. Both Lakewood and Bay

Village have put in significant amounts of bike trails, bike lanes, pedestrian lanes throughout their entire city. The City of Lakewood just announced on Bunts Road a major change going north and south in the city. The above projects will help keep Rocky River competitive with our neighbors. Thank you for your time and consideration and hope in the future these projects will be supported.

Liz Harmath, 2133 Valley View Drive, began by saying she is really excited about the Lake Road-Clifton Boulevard Improvements project. The bikers in her family are at Community Band right now or away at college. Her son Gabe has been an avid biker since he was 4 years old, much earlier than she would have liked and eventually he spent summer evenings learning to race at the Cleveland Velodrome. My husband Dave is out on his bike in the early morning, riding miles to get exercise. And then there's Mel. At 19 years old, she uses her bike for all her local transportation to include wanting to ride from our house on Valley View across town to Christensen Estates at 11 o'clock on a snowy Saturday night, right before she went back to school in January. Dave and I dissuaded her, but the point of the story is that she considers that typical. Her bike is her independence and she's not afraid of the weather. I would advocate for bike lanes and paths all over River to keep her safe, but I'll keep these comments on the project at hand. We want our families to thrive and be happy. Once our kids graduate, the world is their oyster. Where will they want to land? Where will they and their former classmates find the jobs and amenities that they want and need? I cross my fingers for amazing job opportunities but there's not a lot I can do to influence that. I'm hoping I can influence this multi-use trail. This is something that could get young adults to stay or lure them back to River. They are the ones who will keep River vibrant over the next 30-50 years. I am positive that if Mel found a job downtown, she'd hop on her bike every morning and use the trail to get there. We could both be happy because she'd be safer and healthier, for squeezing in some exercise. I know you balance a lot of factors when you are looking at the ledger. I understand that River's portion of the project is roughly \$540,000 because portions of the project are underwritten by federal and regional grants. If we let this opportunity pass us by and then later undertake the project our expense will be significantly greater because we won't have access to those underwriting funds. I encourage you to be forward-thinking and approve funding for River's portion of this project. Hopefully it will bring a few kids back to River and make some moms like me very happy. Thank you!

Patrick O'Connor, 19001 East Shoreland Ave., began by saying he is a member of the Rocky River Green Team. Some of my colleagues are here tonight. We want to urge you to give serious consideration to solar as an energy source for city buildings. Since the last review by the city, solar technology has improved dramatically and costs have come down considerably. For example, from a provision of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, local governments can now benefit directly from the tax credit. Through a provision of the act, local governments can now receive the equivalent amount of the tax credit (30%) in the form of a direct payment from the IRS. This provision is called Elective Pay, or Direct Pay. What's more, given the stress on the grid and the uncertainties caused by extreme weather, by deploying a solar solution the city will have a more secure, resilient, and reliable energy system. Also in attendance tonight is David Zelasko, Solar Consultant with Kokosing Solar, an Ohio based company. David lives in River, and he's available to offer advice. Thank you for the opportunity to make our ask. We look forward to following these developments.

Mr. Furry adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council