

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

January 27, 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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION:

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mrs. Morris that the reading of the minutes of the January 13th Legislative 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	PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor thanked everyone who attended the groundbreaking at the Senior Center. The Mayor said that things are moving along in the interior and exterior of the Senior Center.

The Senior Center is also starting the “Poppy Project” thanks to Marianne Scherry, whose son passed away in Iraq several years ago along with Matt Previts. They brought the project of ceramic poppies to the Mayor which will be used on Memorial Day and other times to remember our fallen and those who have given so much to our country. It is great to see this project happening at the Senior Center.

The Mayor discussed sidewalks, plowing and clearing. The city will be sending out a ReadyNotify to residents regarding the clearing of sidewalks. It was rough when the temperatures plummeted and salt was not working. The walkability of the community is important. This issue will also be included in the Sidewalk Program so individuals understand what their responsibilities are for the sidewalk in front of their home. Mr. Snyder is also working with the Service Department to create a map or schedule of where the bombardier is used. It is used around the schools and in commercial areas as snow is plowed onto the sidewalk causing the sidewalks to be impassable. Please let the administration know if Council has been contacted by residents.

The Mayor discussed an application for a TREX that was received by the city. A TREX is a program that was started by the State Board of Liquor Control. It is an economic development tool whereby a business can move an available liquor permit from one jurisdiction to another, outside the city. Mr. Gutentag, the attorney that is representing Scramblers, has forwarded this TREX application to the city for confirmation and signature. This liquor permit resides currently in Perrysburg. On the first page it shows the request for a D2 and D3 to enable Scramblers to serve Mimosas and Bloody Mary's on Saturdays. Scramblers is only open for breakfast and lunch. The State Board of Liquor Control allocates to the city a number of liquor permits in various classifications, i.e. D1, D2, D3, C1, et cetera. It is based on population and the number of housing units. If those are maxed out or someone wants a liquor permit that is not available in a certain classification, they can petition to buy one from another jurisdiction and place it here. The first step for this process is for the city to sign the TREX request confirming the information on page 2 of 4 which shows the total investment. Unless there are objections from

Council, the Mayor will confirm that the city is aware of this investment. This paperwork will go back to Columbus to be submitted to the State Board of Liquor Control and will return to this body as a normal Liquor Permit Transfer. At that point, the city will go through the process of background checks.

The Mayor shared some good news regarding the Moody's Credit Analysis/Rating. A big thank you to Director Michael Thomas and his staff and Tim Reidy who was shoulder to shoulder during the Moody's meeting. There is a lot to these meetings with considerable information provided, but in the end the Mayor feels proud of the way the city manages finances. Moody's gave the city kudos and affirmed the Double AA2 with positive statements such as "we are in a strong financial position", "an affluent economic base" and "well managed operations", et cetera. This will be important when the city goes out for the Bonding for the Senior Center and again for the Fire Station. A big thank you to Director Thomas.

The Clifton/Lake Project representatives will present to Council next week with a 10-15 minute presentation. This will include the scope of the project, the financing and discussing two other projects. The one potential project is the multi-use trail that would extend all the way down Lake Road. Mixed feedback will be shared from the survey that was on the city's website at next Monday's meeting. The second project will be the parking across from Bradstreet's Landing that will be incorporated into that project.

The Mayor discussed the County support of the Consolidated Dispatch efforts. The Mayor wrote a grant that was funded by the County on behalf of the WestShore Council of Governments for Consolidated Dispatch. The Fire Department already uses a Consolidated Dispatch so the grant was for the police side of dispatch. Between the State and the County, they have asked to consolidate the primary access points for 911 calls. The WestShore Council went through a plan with three locations evaluated along with discussion on how this could be achieved, what the associated cost would be and what the governance would be. This work was completed and then North Olmsted decided to move forward by expanding their dispatch area along with Fairview Park and brought on Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township. Our County Councilman secured \$3 million out of the County General Fund to support a Westshore consolidation. Nothing was happening so an email was received saying the County will fund Westshore if four communities, both fire and police, have a Memorandum of Understanding by May 1st. If that cannot be accomplished, the \$3 million dollars will go back to the General Fund of the County. Some cities know where they want to go and some have different ideas. The Mayor spoke with Mayor Clough and Mayor Bobst asked the four chiefs that make up WestCom, both on the police and fire sides, which includes Bay Village, Westlake, Fairview Park and Rocky River, to be present for a WestCom meeting with a recommendation of what they would like to see based on the study and the plan that was made. This information is just an update as the Mayor does not know what will happen with North Olmsted going out on their own before it was discussed. It now rests with these four other communities to take this next step. With Fairview already with North Olmsted on the police side, this could be challenging. North Olmsted, the Community Center in Westlake (which could accommodate the WestShore Enforcement Bureau, along with safety force training) and Lakewood because they were doing some expansions, were all evaluated as possible sites.

The Mayor discussed that there have been individuals going around the city saying they are from Enbridge Gas, which is the new Dominion Gas, asking to review residents' bills. They are not Enbridge employees. These individuals want to convince residents to select an alternative energy provider. The city does not recommend residents to allow any strangers to come into their home.

- Mrs. Gallagher asked if a ReadyNotify should go out to at least the senior residents. The Mayor said that yes there can be and it will include what to look for regarding solicitors. The Mayor explained that the city has a permitting process where they need to register along with guidelines. They should never request to go in someone's home.

The Mayor announced two grants that are being submitted by Kathryn Kerber along with Director Snyder. There was a meeting last week to define the scope. One grant is to the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission for Lake, Linda and Detroit Roads to unify this commercial area. There has been signage placed along with pedestrian grants

and this would leverage all of that and take it to the next level. The Master Plan has plans for how the city can create pedestrian safety along Linda Street and with the development going on, this is the perfect time. The other grant is an ODNR Clean Ohio Trails Fund to extend the trail that is behind the Civic Center to the Senior Center to Wagar and by the Community Garden. This would happen after the Senior Center construction is completed.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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”
3rd READING

Mr. Hunt said this yearly ordinance has been passed for as long as he has been on Council. This is to accept funds from ODNR to help with the operation of the Marine Patrol. The Marine Patrol covers anywhere from Avon Point to East 55th and north to the Canadian border, however most of the time is spent within a couple of miles within shore of the WestShore Communities and the boat inspections in the river. The city is required to match at least 25% of the program cost. The Marine Patrol will serve to protect the lives and property of people participating in recreational boating in the waters of the state. The Marine Patrol provides such service to the boating community. Monies allocated through the grant will be used for the purchase of maintenance operation of vessels and marine equipment, educational materials and personnel salaries that are necessary for the enforcement of the code and the rules adopted for boating safety. As in years past, the program will require that inspections and patrols go from Memorial Day through Labor Day and other busy weekends with 80% of the hours on the boat and the remainder of the Marine Patrol hours at ramps, docks and marinas conducting safety inspections. Mr. Hunt moved 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	PASSED

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”
3rd 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 initial 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. 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.

- Mr. Furry asked Mr. Thomas, if technically when they roll off after 2028 and it is awarded to another firm for five years, could Zupka & Associates come back in after that. Mr. Thomas said that is correct. The Auditor of State will do two years of audits by the state agency and then they will look at it again to offer the city to be contracted out again or not.

Mr. Furry said the Memorandum of Agreement was attached. Mr. Furry moved for passage of 101-24, seconded by Mr. Sindelar.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O’Boyle – aye	Shipp - aye
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry - aye	

RESOLUTION 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”

2nd READING

Mr. Sindelar said that as the title states a culvert is in desperate need of repair as it is caved in and blocked and cannot free flow anymore. The culvert will also be updated to newer materials and the pricing is based upon essentially which city has more of the culvert. The cost will be split based upon the percentage.

NEW 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”

1st READING

Mr. Shipp said that the various locations of the vending machines are the Recreation Center and Ice Rink. This is a company that Mr. Holub stated he has been using since 2015. They have been a great partner and any time there is problem or issue, they are out quickly and handle everything well. These are there for client amenity. The Recreation Center does not make much money from it with the income being between \$3,500 to \$4,000 in the past three years. The ice rink goes up and down based on the season, but it is there for the community to use. The contract states that 28% of gross sales on food goes to the Recreation Center and 30% on coffee and ice cream. This is the only company that submitted a bid. Metropolitan Vending Company also services Medina Recreation, Winterhurst, Shaker Heights, Broadview Heights, Westlake Recreation and Fairview Park Recreation.

- Mrs. Morris asked how much 28% and 30% is. Mr. Shipp said last year it was \$3,732.00; in 2023 it was \$4,055.00 and 2022 it was \$3,587.00.

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”

1st READING

This is to renew an agreement with NOPEC for providing the city with grant funding or reimbursements for energy efficiency and energy infrastructure updates. Previous examples of this include in 2022 the Civic Center generator for \$193,000, electric service upgrades that allowed for the EV Charging Stations for \$25,000. Currently the city has \$111,051.50 in escrow and the disbursement in 2025 is \$59,499 which totals \$170,550.50. The Mayor explained that NOPEC tells the city what the amount of money is in the Energized Community Grant Program. It depends on how many individuals use the service and that decides how much is put in that account. The city can leave it there and when there is a project that qualifies, the city draws on that money. It must have an energy-efficiency component to it. Mr. Snyder said there is a limited period to use the money, for instance the 2025 disbursement must be used by the end of the year 2027. The city did not draw on it in 2024 so will use the \$111,000 to pay for part of the Civic Center boiler work that was completed in 2024 and the escrow from 2025 to help pay for a generator for the Senior Center. All the money is always used. Mr. Snyder said the amount changes annually. The more residents who use NOPEC, the more the city receives.

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

COMMUNICATIONS: President Furry said that the next City Council Meeting will be February 3rd and will be a Committee-of-the-Whole 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 7:34 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council