

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

May 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, Mr. O'Boyle, Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

Council Members Absent: Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Shipp

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Thomas

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 May 19th Special Meeting and the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	O'Boyle – aye	Morris – aye
	Sindelar – aye	Furry - aye	
	5 – ayes	0 – nays	

PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor thanked everyone who participated in the various events over the past weekend. 4,000 flags were placed on the graves of our veterans at Lakewood Park Cemetery. It is a beautiful sight to see all the flags. They will remain in the cemetery for some time. The Mayor is thankful for the families that came to help with the flag placing including Councilman Sindelar and his two sons who had big smiles on their faces the entire time. They were happy to be there. It was great to see everyone. A big thank you to the Committee of Veterans, led by Matt Previts, Dr. Previts' son, that helps the city with Memorial Day. The Auxiliary to the American Legion served donuts and Starbucks coffee so a big thank you to Giant Eagle for the donuts and Starbucks for the coffee. The Mayor mentioned the Fire Department and Police Department along with the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni who passed out the programs and a big help getting people to their places. The Mayor also thanked her assistant, Michelle Root, who is someone behind the scenes for all the work that goes in to supporting the veterans by putting the program together and the details including parking signs and ReadyNotify notices. Michelle hit the ground running with so much initiative and is such a big help. Michelle is very involved with veteran issues. She is a daughter of a Vietnam Veteran and holds veterans dearly to her heart. She was very proud and happy to be a part of Memorial Day and she did a great job. The Mayor also talked about the poppies that were made representing each of the fallen that served from the City of Rocky River. The poppies were created by the Ceramics Class at the Senior Center and were tagged with individual names that created a beautiful display that looked like a poppy field. So many people came up afterwards to look at them, looking for a loved one or someone that they knew. The names were all included in the program. It was a beautiful sight to behold. A big thank you to Patty Tobin who is the instructor for the ceramics class. This idea came from Marianne Scherry, the mother of Danny Scherry, our most recent fallen. Marianne received a ceramic poppy after last year's Memorial Day Service in Avon or Avon Lake. The Senior Center quickly agreed to do this project and they will be used again for future events. Thank you also to the Rocky River High School Marching Band and Director Mike Komperda who were in attendance on Memorial Day. They did a great job and had people singing along with them.

Today after the nice, cool weather weekend for yard work, the Service Department picked up somewhere between 25-30 tons of yard waste in the city. People were working hard over the weekend while remembering and honoring the fallen.

The Mayor shared a Crack Sealing Report from the Streets Department. It was mentioned earlier in the year that the Streets Department wanted to take over some of the crack sealing. The city will still be going out to bid for longer distances like Detroit Road, which is a much larger project and can be completed at night if done by a contractor. Twenty-four streets totaling five miles were completed already by the Streets Department. The total project has cost \$4,200. As Council recalls, some of the bids in previous years far exceeded \$4,200. The Mayor shared a list of some of the roads that were done: Kingsmill Run, Martin's Way, Mitchell, Kramer, Morewood Alley, Chatham, Morewood Parkway, Riverdale, Lake Road, Oak, Culver, and Buckingham. Some of this included water holes, catch basins and parking lots including Linden parking lot, South Island and that parking lot. The Streets Department hit it hard this spring and did a wonderful job which saved the community a great deal of money. It is extremely important to do crack sealing at the right time as it prolongs the life of the roadway surface. The process and the re-enforcement of the roads will save the city money.

The Mayor discussed that last week was National Public Works Week. A message was sent out to the community and the Mayor thanked the community for all the kind words sent to the Service Department. On Friday, the Mayor and Director Snyder attended a luncheon for the workers along with some treats to thank them and to recognize one of the Refuse Department Employees, Austin Hilpert. About two months ago, Austin was working his route on Gasser Blvd. and he noticed two shoes sticking out of the bushes. Austin investigated and found a woman had fallen between the bushes. She had her phone but lost her phone in the fall. This was a dire situation and Austin immediately called 911. Austin is also an EMT and he knew exactly what to do to comfort her and to make sure there were no further injuries. This Saturday, this woman celebrated her 90th birthday at home. The Mayor, Council and those in attendance gave Austin a round of applause. Austin was given a letter of commendation and presented it to him in front of his peers at the Service Garage last Friday. Austin did a great, great job.

The Fire Department completed Near Shore Fire Rescue Training last week, which is extremely important as Rocky River is located on a river and one of the Great Lakes. The Mayor is very pleased that they went through this training. There will be additional training including training for the trainer work with the rest of the firefighters.

The Recreation Department has hired more than 100 lifeguards. Council recalls how difficult it was to find lifeguards in the past years. The city has two pools during the summer season, so having enough lifeguards to cover all the opening hours is very important. The Recreation Department is hoping for a warm hot summer to keep the lifeguards very busy.

The Bradstreet's Landing restrooms are open and ready for use. The drinking fountains are not operational yet but should be ready by the end of the week.

The Mayor announced that the "Rating of the Suburbs" edition of Cleveland Magazine, which rates all the suburbs in and around Cleveland is in circulation. There are 59 suburbs in Cuyahoga County plus a few extras in the outlying area and the City of Rocky River received the number two ranking this year. Last year the City of Rocky River was rated number one so we will try harder for next year. This year the number one ranked city was Chagrin Falls. The Mayor said that anyone who lives in the top twenty communities loves their community and they know what is special about their city, just like our residents know what is special about Rocky River. The Mayor is proud of the city's statistics including the city's safety ranking that received a twelve and the education ranking that received a three. Residents will be pleased with the city's ranking in the various categories. The City of Bay Village is also in the top twenty and is the only other WestShore Community in the top twenty. Congratulations to everyone including our wonderful residents, who are a large part of the ranking because of their engagement.

The Mayor announced that Habitat for Humanity will be here on Saturday, June 21st, in the Senior Center parking lot from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. They will take furniture, small appliances, building materials, tools and whatever else anyone would like to donate. They use these materials in their Restore to raise money for building homes for Habitat for Humanity. Typically, they do not use the donated items to build the houses.

The Mayor also announced that the city will have a short Flag Day Ceremony on June 14th in front of City Hall at 9:00 a.m. There will be a student from Rocky River singing the National Anthem along with Scouts that will lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor invited the scouts in attendance this evening to join in. There will be a little bit of history and interesting facts about the flag. Leading up to that day, the city has received hundreds of flags from Lakewood Park Cemetery. These are flags that have been removed from veterans' graves after the allotted amount of time. A flag cannot be re-placed on a veteran's grave. It must always be a new flag for veterans' placement. The cemetery receives enough flags from the government to cover the more than 4,000 graves at the cemetery each year. They have been collecting the flags and now there are so many that the city will be offering these flags to residents. They will be in various locations around the city. Residents can take as many as they need. The city is excited to see these put to good use. If the end of the stick looks dirty, that flag had the honor of being on a veteran's grave.

- President Furry claimed personal responsibility that as his tenure as Council President we have plummeted from first to second, but he will work to get it back. The Mayor said that last year the city was number one and President Furry was Council President then as well.

LAW DEPARTMENT: Mr. O'Shea was absent this evening due to illness.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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"
2nd READING

President Furry said that Councilwoman Gallagher discussed this in detail at the previous meeting. This is being purchased under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Agreement as we phase out the dinkmar leaf machines.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-25 **BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS**
A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2nd READING

Mrs. Morris said that the development of the solid waste plan is a requirement of Ohio Law. Every solid waste management district in Ohio must periodically update their solid waste management plan and submit it to each subdivision to be ratified. Ratification occurs when each city and village vote to approve the plan. This plan update complies with an Ohio EPA format and contains six chapters, 23 appendices, describes the waste management plan methods to be used in the upcoming planning period and details the ten-waste reduction and recycling goals established in the state's solid waste management plan and how it will be achieved. It also describes how the plan will be implemented by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. Mrs. Morris has had no questions and elaborated on this last week.

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"

2nd READING

President Furry stated that Councilwoman Gallagher discussed this extensively at previous meetings. This is also being purchased through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract. This is something that has been subbed out before and believes the payback is a little over five years on what it would cost. Safety Service Director Snyder said that not only will this extract stumps but will also help plant trees.

ORDINANCE NO. 28-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, CODIFIED ORDINANCES, SECTIONS 914.15(a) AND 914.18 CONCERNING SEWER USE AND RATES, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

2nd READING

President Furry said that 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 as we know what the city pays for the area east of Wooster in the Shoreland area. This increase is due to EPA mandates and capital-intensive upgrades at the plant and costs continue to increase which are being passed on to the residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 29-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF COUNCILMEMBERS OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER FOR THE YEARS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027

1st READING

President Furry explained that every new term, the current Council needs to set the compensation for the newly elected Council. Filing deadlines have not been reached yet, so some may be sitting in the same seats and some may not. The previous two cycles have had a cost-of-living adjustment and President Furry did not think any further adjustments were necessary. Mr. Furry is expecting three full reads on this.

ORDINANCE NO. 30-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER FOR THE YEARS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027

1st READING

President Furry said that like Ordinance No. 29-25, every new term the current Council needs to set the compensation for the Council President who is elected by the newly elected Council. As in Ordinance No. 29-25, the previous two cycles had a cost-of-living adjustment and he did not think any further adjustments were necessary. As someone who has experienced serving Council and Council President, the extra \$1,500 is a pittance for the extra duties as it is more than just running the meeting. Mr. Furry is expecting three full reads on this.

ORDINANCE NO. 31-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW FOR THE YEARS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027

1st READING

President Furry said this ordinance provides for the compensation for the Director of Law commencing January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027. Again, Council sets this. This position had a good bump last cycle and will remain the same. This also has an additional compensation component of \$100.00 an hour up to \$50,000 annually

for the term. This might be tweaked some as President Furry has had some discussion with Director O'Shea and is getting input on that.

ORDINANCE NO. 32-25

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER FOR THE YEARS COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027

1st READING

President Furry said like all the previous ordinances, this ordinance is providing for the compensation of the Mayor of the City of Rocky River term commencing January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027. Again, Council sets this. This had a slight bump last year with the longevity piece and no further increase for the cycle was added from the previous term.

RESOLUTION NO. 33-25

BY: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THAT ROCKY RIVER CITY COUNCIL SHALL RECESS DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST IN 2025

1st READING

President Furry said that this is a resolution establishing that Rocky River City Council shall recess during the month of August 2025. This has been a practice for a long time but during President Furry's tenure, there have been times that Council did have to meet for emergency situations during the month of August. The goal is to not meet and spend more time with constituents, a.k.a. their family.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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"

3rd READING

President Furry said that Councilman Shipp has discussed this several times. This is recommissioning another elevator in the Civic Center and the agreement is through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract.

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

3rd READING

Mr. Furry said we are amending the amended ordinance 20-25 and who knows, later this year we may amend the amended amendment again. This is 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 and is retroactive to January 1st, 2025. The second change was 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 its supervisory duties.

MOTION:

President Furry moved to pass Ordinance No. 22-25 and 24-25 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Sindelar and Mr. Hunt.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

The next meeting will be a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on June 2, 2025. The Legislative Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council