CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

April 13, 2026

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

Council Members Present: President Shipp, Mr. Furry, Ms. Havemann, Ms. Morris, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moran, Ms. Gallagher

Absent: Mr. O'Shea

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Chief Lenart thanked Council for the work they did 3-4 years ago to ensure they received the new Fire Engine and Ambulance that arrived at City Hall this evening. He could have never predicted that it would have taken this long, so he wanted to extend his sincere thanks to the Mayor, Safety Service Director, Council and the Citizen of Rocky River who helped ensure that they are able to bring their responses in the City to the next level. It not only serves Rocky River well, but it will serve the surrounding communities with how they operate with mutual aid and support to anywhere they need the response. They can now do it with more modern and safe equipment which will serve them well into the next decade. Chief Lenart explained the details of the final inspection including a couple minor repairs that their mechanic required prior to bringing the vehicles back home. Now that they're back in Rocky River there is some additional work and outfitting required and he hopes that they will be in service by June 1st.

MOTION:

Moved by President Shipp, seconded by Mr. Furry, that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting of March 23, 2026, be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Moran – aye	Shipp – aye	Gallagher - aye
	Morris – aye	Havemann – aye	Furry - aye	
	7– ayes	0 – nays		**PASSED**

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Bobst advised that the grant that they got from the Solid Waste District was used to create a magnet, which she shared, that depicts best recycling practices.

Mayor Bobst advised that residents have begun receiving their NOPEC Electricity opt-out letters. Residents will continue to be opted-in unless they choose to opt-out. This program, to have NOPEC as an aggregator, was voted on by Rocky River Residents. Residents wanted to see an aggregation program, but if they find a better rate they are welcome to opt-out. The administration does caution residents about the fees and penalties of changing, but does not offer any guidance or opinion about who they should go with. Apples to Apples is really the best place to look for current rates for both fixed and variable rates. This is

aggregate program is for electric, but they also have one for gas. Both are required, by the state, to send letters out to residents which often prompts questions from residents.

Mayor Bobst advised that the Finance Department were notified in early April that their Comprehensive Annual Report received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for excellence in financial reporting. The Mayor advised that they've been receiving this accolade for decades and shared that the Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in government accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. She expressed thanks to Director Thomas and Director Lindow and their finance department staff as well as City Council. The report is judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program which includes demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate its financial story and encourages potential users and user groups to read the report. It can be found on the website. She noted that this award is for 2024 and 2025 is being processed currently.

Mayor Bobst advised that a construction update went out recently, which can also be found on the website, which resulted in some chatter on Facebook about the coordination of projects. She advised that it's important to note that these aren't always Rocky River projects – they're the utilities projects, ODOT projects, County projects all in addition to our own projects. Many have dollars attached through grants or some revenue piece that comes through the State that the city must honor. She realizes that it does get frustrating and the best advice she can give is to give yourself a few more minutes to get through the city. Additionally, the construction taking place on I-90 can cause motorists to take surface roads to try to get around congestion on the highway which can often lead to more problems. Regarding the project on Clifton/Lake – Rocky River's portion is anticipated to be completed in one season, but Lakewood's work is expected to continue into 2027 for the roundabout. The Mayor advised of an upcoming change in traffic pattern on Detroit headed East that will be shut down and there will be a maintenance of traffic that takes people to West Clifton and then down to Clifton.

Mayor Bobst advised that recently the Chiefs came to her as a result of a meeting with ODOT to talk about I-90 and their building of an east bound Contra lane. This Contra lane would involve taking a westbound lane on 90 and making it an eastbound lane. This lane was supposed to be in place on the 15th, but that date has been pushed out closer to the 20th due to concerns raised by their safety forces. She, along with the Police and Fire Chiefs for both Lakewood and Rocky River along with herself and Safety Service Director and Mayor George or Lakewood as well as other interested parties, met today with the head of ODOT. The Contra lane will continue it will go away in November and then when it comes back in the Spring it will be an eastbound lane that is westbound – essentially flipped. What they have advised is that if there is an issue is that they will come from the westbound lanes and they will shut it down. This is about a 6-mile contra lane which is a fairly long distance. They had a very good discussion, and plan to send a follow up to reiterate the concerns that they have. Director Snyder suggested that if there are accidents, they do a full walk through to determine what went well and what didn't go well. ODOT advised that they don't have a lot of accidents in Contra lanes because all you do is stay in one lane. She advised that there is one portion that widens to two lanes.

- Director Snyder advised that ODOT has proven over time that it's best to keep more lanes open if possible. If they shut it down to two lanes, they predict a backup of about 10 miles and that's when you see more accidents from stopped traffic and people being rear ended. These contra lanes will be set up eastbound, and they hope to be done this winter and next direction will be westbound.
- Mayor Bobst summarized that they will continue to work with ODOT throughout this process.

Mayor Bobst advised that the Detroit Bridge on I-90 is going to be rebuilt and refurbished. Director

Snyder has been working with them on a more decorative gateway similar to what is in Westlake or Independence. She advised that she does not know when the Hilliard Bridge will be done, but she does know that, in addition to the project being about 40 million dollars short, it can't be completed until all the work on I-90 is completed. She added that the Hilliard Bridge is a full removal.

- Director Snyder offered that he hasn't seen any Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) for the Detroit Bridge project over I-90, so he's not sure if it will be a full closure.

Mayor Bobst advised that there will be the first public meeting for the Westway/Hilliard/Gasser/I-90 intersection improvement will be Tuesday April 21st at 6:30 pm at City Hall. Beachcliff Cornwall public meeting will be the following week on Tuesday April 28th at 6:30 pm at Memorial Hall. They alert the residents by letter that are most directly impacted, but they also share with the entire community.

Mayor Bobst remarked that Rocky River put in a request with the State Capitol Budget for a little over $2.5 million dollars to realize some of the things they want to do down at Rocky River Park. They felt it was a good environmental project which included erosion control, stormwater management, and handicap accessibility. They had a meeting with Rep. Bride Sweeney and one of her staff members and they responded to some inquiries from Sen. Nicki Antonio.

Mayor Bobst shared the March Building Department Statistics noting that they are ahead on both residential on commercial permits. Last year, at this time, there were 318 permits and this year 357 have been granted. The valuation of those 357 permits is $19 million dollars as opposed to 13 million the previous year. Additionally, they are getting in some of the preliminary plans and estimates for Akron Children's Hospital and that looks like about $30 million dollars and The University Hospitals Harrington Heart and Vascular Institute is about $15 million of investment.

Mayor Bobst reminded Council of the upcoming AI Training which is sponsored by McGowen Insurance and IT Director Ricky Bycoski.

Mayor Bobst advised that the service department has been busy seeding tree lawns. They've completed 106 workorders and they have about 70 more to do.

Mayor Bobst advised that Detective Craig Witalis is retiring at the end of this week and will be replaced by Ashley Knippen. She has worked with Rocky River for about a year but has 6 years as an investigator in the Hardin County Prosecutor's Office. She is a seasoned detective and has several credentials and they are excited to welcome her to that role. She thanked Detective Witalis for his work, noting that he was a part of some of the most complex fraud investigations whether they were scams or identity theft and changed a lot of how things are done. She wishes him well on his retirement and new ventures.

Mayor Bobst advised that the outdoor fitness equipment behind the civic center which they plan to expand has been installed. She noted that they got a sizable contribution from a former council member's estate who served on the Rec Commission and Council John Corry. He was a great guy and was involved in a lot of improvements in Rocky River.

Mayor Bobst advised that the Arbor Day Planting is 10:00 am April 28th. May 2nd is the Little League parade which starts at 9:30 am at City hall. May 9th is the date that the USS Cleveland makes it way to port in Cleveland and it will be coming as close to shore as possible. They will encourage residents to gather at Rocky River Park and Bradstreet's Landing, and they will have about 1,000 honor flags to give to encourage an enthusiastic and warm welcome. The city plans to open the park restrooms this week. Lastly the outdoor pool will be opening early, and the hours will be longer to accommodate swimmers

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because of the closure of the indoor pool while they put in the new dehumidification system.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PENDING BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 52-25 **BY: HUNT**

An Emergency Ordinance Amending Part Three - Traffic Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River to Prohibit the Operation of Low-Speed and Under-Speed Vehicles, as Further Described in Exhibit "A" (2nd Reading-On Hold)

ORDINANCE NO. 54-25 **BY: HUNT**

An Ordinance Amending Section 729.01 in Order to Add Definitions to Chapter 729 and Enacting 729.021 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River to Prohibit Certain Solicitation Practices in Order to Promote Public Safety, Commercial Security, and Traffic Safety, as Further Described in Exhibits "A" and "B" (3rd Reading-On Hold)

Mr. Hunt advised that Ordinance 52-25 remains on hold and Ordinance 54-25 is going to be put on hold this evening. They were not able to finalize the language revisions for 54-25 from Law Director O'Shea, but they will get it cleaned up and ready for a third reading at the next Legislative Meeting April 27, 2026.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-26

An Ordinance Amending the Property Maintenance Code Within the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River, Specifically Section 1370.04 Maintenance and Responsibilities, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (3rd Reading)

Ms. Havemann advised that this ordinance adds a requirement for structural inspection in the maintenance section of the code and it applies to buildings 30 years and older, four stories or more in height, underground parking structures, retaining walls, and walls containing class 1,2, or 3A liquids. She advised that Exhibit "A" was revised by herself and Director Reich. She had requested that they add a little more detail that the architect needs to be licensed and specializing in structural design to complete those inspections and asked that they add the standards to the inspections that they should comply with. Lastly, she added a little language that they are to notify the city upon discovery of a hazardous situation.

Ms. Havemann moved to amend Ordinance No.13-26 by substitution of Exhibit "A," seconded by Mr. Furry.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Moran – aye	Shipp – aye
	Morris – aye	Havemann – aye	Furry - aye	
	7– ayes	0 – nays		**PASSED**

Ms. Havemann moved for passage of Ordinance No. 13-26, seconded by Ms. Gallagher.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Moran – aye	Shipp – aye
	Morris – aye	Havemann – aye	Furry - aye	

7– ayes 0 – nays **PASSED**

ORDINANCE NO. 17-26

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety-Service to Enter into a Contract with Crossroads Asphalt Recycling, Inc. for the Wagar Road Resurfacing Project at a Cost Not to Exceed $714,525.05 as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A." (2nd Reading)

President Shipp reiterated what Director Snyder advised at their last meeting. This project will include portions of Wager Rd between Hillard Blvd and Detroit and it will also include Westway between Wagar and the Bridge as you head westbound. There will be full-deep concrete repairs, curb repairs, ADA Compliant curb ramps and crosswalk improvements. He noted that $250,000 of this project will be paid for by Cuyahoga County Public works 50/50 program. He advised that there were six bids received. The estimate was $1,026,000 and all six of the bids came in under that estimate with Crossroads Asphalt Recycling being the lowest bid and the one recommended by Ms. Kerber. Crossroads has done work in Rocky River in '22, '24, '25 as part of the Street Repair Program and they completed similar projects in the cities of Oberlin, Olmsted Falls and Berea. They've received favorable recommendations from other cities and Crossroads has no unresolved findings in the Auditor of State database.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-26

An Ordinance Amending Rocky River Codified Ordinance Section 731.04 and Adding New Section 731.05 as Further Described in Attached Exhibits "A" and "B." (2nd Reading)

Ms. Havemann acknowledged Council was given a new copy of the Ordinance with the only change being the word section as opposed to chapter noting that they read it correctly the first time. This ordinance is to help streamline the process for temporary outdoor sales lasting 3 days or less. The previous language will still apply to outdoor sales associated with businesses.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-26

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Director of Public Safety-Service to Purchase One (1) 2024 Ford F550 Utility Body Truck from Mike Bass Ford for the Sewer Division at a Cost not to Exceed $85,200.00, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A." (2nd Reading)

Ms. Gallagher advised that this ordinance is for the purchase of a new 2024 Ford F550. This will be replacing a 2008 Ford Van with 81,000 miles. It's the most cost effective and practical choice according to Director Snyder. This vehicle is still under warranty coverage consisting of 3 years or 36,000 miles, bumper to bumper, 5 years or 60,000 miles on the powertrain and safety restraint systems, 5 years of corrosion protection, and 5 years or 100,000 miles on the engine. Lastly the truck is available now whereas there would be a delay for the 2026 model.

- Mr. Moran inquired if the City test drove this vehicle.
- Director Snyder advised that he doesn't believe it was test driven, but it is new and it was reviewed by the city mechanic.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-26

An Emergency Ordinance Amending Chapter 133 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River, Ohio, For Enactment of Section 133.09 "Returned Payment Fees" as Described in the Attached Exhibit "A." (2nd Reading)

Mr. Furry advised that Ordinance 21-26 is amending Chapter 133 of the Codified Ordinances which pertains to the Finance Department. 133.09 is a new section as our code previously only went to 133.08. This allows the city to collect $25 to any payment made to the City of Rocky River that is returned or dishonored for any reason including, but not limited to, non-sufficient funds, stop payment or closed accounts. He added that the City is charged for these, so we are just trying to recoup some of those funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-26

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and the Recreation Director to Enter into a Contract with BerryDunn, for the Development of The Rocky River Recreation Strategic Plan in an Amount Not to Exceed $249,597.00, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A." (1st Reading)

Ms. Morris read from the memo from Director Holub:

The City conducted a competitive proposal and interview process with four firms: BerryDunn, MSA, Designing Local, and OHM. The evaluation team included Recreation staff, Director Snyder, and Director Balla, ensuring a comprehensive review of qualifications, methodology, and alignment with City goals. BerryDunn was selected. Proven expertise in municipal recreation planning (recreation centers, aquatics, ice facilities)

- Strong emphasis on operational efficiency, financial sustainability, and cost recovery
- Familiarity with regional markets through Northeast Ohio-based subcontractors
- Highest overall evaluation scoring and most tailored approach to Rocky River

The Master Plan will include:

- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Facility and operational assessments
- Financial analysis and cost recovery strategies
- Development of a prioritized implementation roadmap

No unresolved findings were identified through the Ohio Auditor of State's Findings for Recovery database

- Mr. Furry inquired about what other cities, similar to Rocky River, have BerryDunn done work in.
- Similarly, Mr. Shipp inquired if Director Holub has talked to any of his peers who have undergone similar projects and what their experience was like.
- Mayor Bobst advised that there were several references which could be given to Council if they want to review who BerryDunn has worked with in the past. She noted that while this started out a master plan, but it is not a master plan in the way the city has a Master Plan. This is a Strategic Plan for the Recreation Center. Part of that is because there will be a facilities component, but also a programming and operational component.
- Ms. Morris advised that she has her meeting with Rec Department tomorrow she she'll be happy to get additional information from him and share with the group.

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- Director Snyder added that he sat in on all the interviews and BerryDunn was unanimously the best. One of the biggest advantages that they had were that their two principals on the project are former Recreation Directors and they've been working in the field for decades. They really have an understanding for what Director Holub and the Recreation Department are hoping to pull out of it. One of the greatest things they offered was that they would come in for a period of time and observe the facility and see what is working now and what's not working and they were the only ones to offer to get a firm understanding of what we have and where we are trying to go.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-26

An Emergency Ordinance Amending Section 141.01 of the Codified Ordinances of The City of Rocky River, Ohio, to Update the Authorized Staffing Composition of the Division of Fire, as Further Described in Exhibit "A." (1st Reading)

Mr. Hunt advised that this is essentially a companion piece to the pending Ordinance 15-26 which is on the Consent Agenda for this evening. Ordinance 15-26 deals with the police department staffing and composition this is a revision to 141.01 of the code which refers to the fire department composition. Most importantly we look to add some bodies to the fire division. He referred to the redline version of the ordinance advising that most importantly in subsection E they are going to change the 18 regular fireman to read 'such number of regular firefighters as assigned and authorized by appropriation' which is the key point. They will still have to appropriate funds to hire these folks. It's fitting the Chief was here tonight with the delivery of the two new apparatus and his comments both in the cover letter and at the budget hearing with regards to the increased number of runs and the city expanding and adding various apartments and businesses we want to make sure we can cover emergency responses which might necessitate adding some bodies to the department.

- Mr. Furry noted that, similar to 15-26, this is also a management right and not a CBA issue.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-26

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Director of Public Safety-Service to Purchase One (1) 240VT Four Ton Split Drum Vibratory Roller from Basic Equipment, at a Cost Not to Exceed $91,580.00, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A."(1st Reading)

Ms. Gallagher advised that this ordinance is for the purchase of 240VT Four Ton Split Drum Vibratory Roller and the procurement is through sole source. The vendor is receiving a discount consistent with the typical Sourcewell cooperative purchasing rate and will be purchased by the equipment purchase fund. This will be used daily by the street crews for pothole repairs, utility cut restoration, and asphalt patching. The 240VT has a built-in tow package which will enable the unit to be transported behind a truck, eliminating the need for a separate trailer. It also provides increased mobility in confined spaces, allowing the operators to make sharp turns without damaging fresh asphalt. The 240VT is similar to our current Leeboy 4T roller previously used by the street department for over 20 years which will mean minimal operator training and a smooth transition.

- Mr. Furry requested photographs of the new roller.
- Director Snyder advised that they were having trouble getting parts for the older machine and having trouble keeping it operational. He advised that their street division has been doing a lot more work – they're helping in the intermediate terms. They are beyond cracked ceiling but not quite to a resurfacing project they have picked up a grinder to do some milling on their own and

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their roller and they started taking a part of the cracked ceiling inhouse. Through some really good leadership in the streets division, they are bringing a lot of these smaller projects in-house which gives us a little more control and buys us more time for our road resurfacing.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-26

An Ordinance Authorizing the Director of Finance to Pay The City of Cleveland, Division of Water in the Amount of $35,079.60, for Water Meter Readings, for the Period From March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026, Needed by The City of Rocky River, as Further Described in Exhibit "A."(1st Reading)

Mr. Furry advised that the City of Rocky River gets the bills from the Cleveland Division of Water once a year, but they do quarterly sewer bills. This it the annual true up on it – it's been the same price for three years. Technically this does not need councilmanic action, but they will probably have some water line replacements.

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CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCE NO. 12-26

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 Fiscal Years 2026 Through 2030 as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (3rd Reading)

Mr. Moran advised that this ordinance is for Cuyahoga Soil and Water District providing background and purpose for public education to support our MC1 and MC2. This ordinance replaces Ordinance 1-21, which was done 5 years ago. Our Service Director will serve as the liaison and this program is good for the next years at a cost of about $6,600 a year.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-26

An Emergency Ordinance Amending Section 139.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River, Ohio, to Update the Authorized Staffing Composition of the Division of Police, as Further Described in Exhibit "A" (3rd Reading)

Mr. Hunt advised that this ordinance would allow the administration, through Council, to control depending on the needs of the police department and adding staff to the composition and, as Councilman Furry noted with regard to the fire department, this is also not controlled by the CBA and would have to be in the wage ordinance and presented to Council for any appropriations to be allowed. This gives some flexibility to add some people to the police department.

President Shipp moved for passage of Ordinances No. 12-26 and No. 15-26, seconded by Mr. Hunt.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Moran – aye	Shipp – aye
	Morris – aye	Havemann – aye	Furry - aye	

7– ayes 0 – nays **PASSED**

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Ms. Morris referenced an email that she sent to Council earlier today regarding the carts that are found at Scramblers which a resident finds to be unsightly. She assumes this has been addressed or complained about previously.

- Mayor Bobst confirmed that to be correct.
- Director Snyder inquired if he could get back to her tomorrow. It was previously being handled by the Building Department. It's technically the responsibility of the store to come and get them, but they would also like the City's help in taking care of it.
- Mayor Bobst advised that the administration will continue to work on the issue, but that it is also beneficial for residents to use their voice with local businesses.

Ms. Morris advised that their next Council Chat is Wednesday at 6:00.

President Shipp advised that he will be swearing in the Charter Review Commission at their first meeting that same day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

President Shipp advised that their next meeting will be a Committee of the Whole Meeting Monday April 20, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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Paul Shipp
President of Council

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Lauren Oley
Clerk of Council