CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

February 23, 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: Mr. 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.

SWEARING IN:

Chief Lichman thanked everyone for coming out this evening to show Detective Asbury their support as he is promoted to Sergeant. The Chief added that Sergeant is the most difficult job in the department since he will be transitioning from a peer to a supervisory role, but he knows that Detective Asbury will do a wonderful job.

Mayor Bobst noted that everyone's attendance this evening is a testament to the great job Detective Asbury does for the City of Rocky River.

Mayor Bobst swore Michael Asbury II in as a Sergeant for The Rocky River Police Department.

Sergeant Asbury thanked everyone for attending and expressed his excitement in his new role as Sergeant.

Following the swearing in ceremony, the Mayor advised that this is a wonderful opportunity to promote a deserving individual as well as an opportunity to thank Council publicly for their work every week to ensure the police department is supported with everything they need to do their jobs effectively.

MOTION:

Moved by President Shipp, seconded by Ms. Havemann, that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting of February 9, 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'S REPORT:

Mayor Bobst advised there were several construction updates that went out last week. They plan to update the website with links to make it easier for everyone to get the most up to date information for the ongoing projects. She advised that tomorrow at 6:30 pm. in Memorial Hall they will hold the Inflow and Infiltration

meeting for the Frasier and Kensington homeowners that tested positive. They've held these meetings in the past to provide residents with their individual results and information from those that evaluated their systems.

Mayor Bobst advised that Wednesday of last week she had a meeting with the Council of Community Organizations which includes 35 civic organizations active in the community including the Library, Schools, PTA's, Rotary, College Club, Green Team, League of Women Voters, Garden Club, etc. She advised that these organizations are the fabric of our community and the social infrastructure is so important. They had a great discussion, but she believes the most important thing to happen is the dialog after the meeting when various groups can get together to create synergy between the groups. These meetings allow leadership to take everything learned back to their individual organizations. They ended up needing to reschedule this meeting due to the cold weather and she appreciates everyone's flexibility noting that they had around 20 organizations that were able to make the meeting.

The Mayor shared that they received notification regarding the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) settlement with FirstEnergy to resolve the HB6 investigation. She advised that the typical Rocky River resident will receive $65.61 in credits paid out over a three-month period from February to April.

Mayor Bobst proceeded to provide a building department update that there have been 83 permits pulled for a total valuation of $7.7 million dollars. She noted that this starts the year off strong and is a little above last year's numbers which were $7.2 million. She noted that there are four significant projects currently underway. The first, University Hospital will be building new offices in the Planet Fitness space at the back of Beachcliff Market Square. The space will be 15,000 sq. ft. and the renovation is an estimated valuation of $5.4 million dollars. The new location will house Orthopedics and a Harrington Heart and Vascular Institute along with some other offices. Additionally, there are two transformational projects on Center Ridge. She advised that the Szabo Shoes building came down today but noted that the sign was saved prior to demolition. The location is to be turned into a University Hospitals Urgent Care facility. They have not yet applied for the permit so there is not a valuation available, but she will share that information once it is received. Also on Center Ridge, Akron Children's Hospital has purchased 20220 Center Ridge Rd which is a large office building across from Burger King. She added that they now own everything from AutoZone to the East and they will be renovating that whole area. Director Snyder and Director Reich are working with them on storm water management as there has been some flooding off their parking deck. She will be meeting with their leadership later this week and will continue to update Council as she learns more. The fourth project is the Roundstone Residences, which may not be their formal name, which is at the American Legion site off Lake and Linda near the tracks and close to Roundstone. They have a need for Residential Units for individuals who travel to Roundstone either for training or an extended period and the building will also include a fitness center. These are four very large developments in the City. She noted that Council has seen the work of the land use commission over many years. These are individuals that are committed to getting things right in our community. They spend hours on these plans, with applicants, impacted residents, and other businesses. They do some heavy lifting along with our building department and our community development department.

Mayor Bobst mentioned that they have 56 individuals signed up to take the firefighter exam and they haven't had numbers like that since before COVID and there are still two more weeks of registration which says something about our Fire Department, their contracts, and perhaps the new building.

Mayor Bobst advised that Rocky River has been asked by Cleveland Magazine to be the insert for the Rating the Suburb issue. The theme this year will be 'Come to Rocky River and enjoy our nightlife', not all restaurants and bars, but sunsets and some of the special things that we do in the City. The last one they did was focused on 'Starting your day in Rocky River' so they're switching it up a bit. This is targeted to visitors as opposed to the residence reference guide which is specifically for resident use.

Mayor Bobst advised that the USS Cleveland, a ship that is being built in Wisconsin, will make its way through the Great Lakes to Cleveland and Rocky River is going to be a part of the celebration that welcomes the USS Cleveland and their crew. She advised that she wants to make sure that the crew know we are proud of their service on the ship named after Cleveland. This will be the first time an Ohio ship has come to port and been christened in the City it's been named for before moving onto Florida.

Mayor Bobst advised that Matthew Previts, Dr. Previt's son, oversees the community engagement piece for the USS Cleveland and gave a wonderful presentation to the Historical Society that got everyone very excited for the upcoming celebration. Additionally, Matthew Previts joined her today at the Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at the Senior Center where they presented the ceramics group with the 2026 Volunteers of the Year Award for the poppies project they completed for the Memorial Day ceremony. It was a very touching ceremony where the poppies were labeled with the name of every fallen Service member from the City of Rocky River and they were so lovingly created. She was able to thank them, but most importantly so was Lieutenant Commander Matt Previts who chairs their Memorial Day Ceremony as well as the weekend's activities along with his committee. The idea for the poppy project came to her through Danny Scherry's Mother Mary Ann. Danny Scherry was a graduate of Rocky River High School in 2006 who enlisted in the marine's following graduation. He was deployed to Iraq and lost his life 13 days after being deployed. The entire community felt it and wrapped their arms around his family who had lost this beautiful young man. Mary Ann Scherry brought the Mayor a poppy that someone had made for her, and the idea was born to start this project in Rocky River. She brought the idea to Patty Tobin who runs the ceramic program, and she confirmed that they could do it without hesitation. Mayor Bobst proceeded to thank Mary Ann Scherry, the wonderful Memorial Day Committee, and the ceramics group.

- Councilwoman Havemann added that one of the special things about the USS Cleveland that she took from the meeting is that a lot of the materials they used on the ship were from Cleveland including the steel and coatings. Additionally, American Greetings is painting murals of Cleveland Locations inside the ship. She noted that if anyone is interested you can go to their website and adopt a sailor and help support them.

- The Mayor remarked that one of the electric companies in the area adopted one of the female sailors who is a welder. She has a master's in metallurgy and she not only welds above the ship, but welds in the water below the ship. Each of these individuals have great stories and they compel a lot of support from our business community.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PENDING BUSINESS:

<u>ORDINANCE NO. 50-25</u> **BY: HUNT**

An Emergency Ordinance Amending and Enacting New Section 521.14 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River to Prohibit Camping on Public Property and Within Rights-Of-Way, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (2nd Reading-On Hold)

Mr. Hunt noted that there has been some talk about taking ordinance 50-25 off the agenda indefinitely. He thinks it's prudent based on the conversations that they have had over the last couple weeks and while they await the Administrations diligent work on potential agreements that might address some of these issues that are addressed within 5-25.

Moved by Mr. Hunt, seconded by Ms. Morris, to postpone indefinitely Ordinance 50-25.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 51-25 **BY: HUNT**

An Emergency Ordinance Amending Section 557.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River, Ohio, to Prohibit Sleeping in Municipal Parks, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (2nd Reading-On Hold)

Mr. Hunt advised that his comments for the previous ordinance remain true for 51-25 as well.

Moved by Mr. Hunt, seconded by Mr. Furry, to postpone indefinitely Ordinance 51-25.

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

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)

Mr. Hunt advised that he'd like to leave 52-25 on the docket. They've considered discussing the issue of E-bikes and scooters in conjunction with this ordinance as they are both modes of transportation. He'd like to talk to Law Director O'Shea and get his thoughts, but he believes they should be kept separate.

President Shipp advised that he agrees and always envisioned two separate ordinances, but they are part of the same landscape of regulating our sidewalks and streets. He suggested the council members review their notes from previous years to be prepared for a discussion at a future meeting.

Mr. Furry specifically mentioned a memo from October 7th, 2025, which may be of benefit to the new council members.

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

An Emergency Ordinance Amending Chapter 729.01 Definitions and Adding Section 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" (2nd Reading-On Hold)

Mr. Hunt noted that he believes they are getting close to getting this back on track, but it still on hold – the second reading is pending. He believes they did have a revised form that was prepared in November by the former Clerk and he thinks they may be ready to move this item ahead with some discussion.

President Shipp agreed noting that it's been an ongoing issue that has been discussed in their CAD reports and there have been steady complaints to the police department about solicitation whether it's people not complying with the local ordinances about what they can say or do at your door vs. folks in shopping plaza who are being approached. It's continued to be an issue. The Mayor showed him earlier that they did amend 54-25 previously under Councilman Hunt's leadership. President Shipp confirmed that he would like for this ordinance to come back starting with their Committee of the Whole next week so that they can move forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 10-26

An Emergency 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 Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027, as Further Described in Exhibit "A" (1st Reading)

Mr. Moran stated that they often talk about Cuyahoga Soil Water and Conservation District and they've had the good luck to hire one of their members, Coordinator Chris Vasco, who is now part of Rocky River's sewer program. It is great that he's there and able to look over some of the things, but he can't do it all. They have major projects that are over an acre, and the District comes out and helps review all the building permits and they keep everything in line. Rocky River simply doesn't have the personnel to handle all the inspections and all the things that they do. We are looking to invest, by way of this ordinance, for the next two years with a slight increase. There are multiple pages of information, but it is very important that we have the help that we need to handle the projects that are going on in the City. He added that there is going to be a meeting on March 13th and it would be positive if we could pass this Ordinance after a second reading. He suggested that they really review this in coming weeks so that they can suspend the rules and get it passed after the next reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 11-26

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and the Safety-Service Director to Purchase One (1) Ford F600 Trck for the Parks Division Under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract from Valley Truck Centers, at a Cost Not to Exceed $95,641.00, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A"

Ms. Gallagher advised that this is a request to purchase a new truck and shared photos of the vehicle with Council. She advised that this truck was already part of the planned vehicle purchases for the service department and is scheduled to replace a 2015 F550 which has 33,000 and 6,000 engine hours. It's utilized by the parks division for urban forestry and parks maintenance. The current truck has a wooden chip box that was built and installed by the park staff and supplements the urban forestry crew when performing tree work so that the aerial truck can continue to work while the chips are dumped. When not performing tree work the truck typically is used by a mowing crew or other maintenance functions. The F600 chassis is better suited for hauling more weight and was selected collectively by the parks division and our Lead Mechanic Frank Sinito. The aluminum dump truck bed holds twice the volume of wood chips, and it will last much longer. It may even be able to be placed on a new chassis at the end of the truck's useful life. It can also accommodate a snowplow, but one is not included in this purchase price. She added that the current truck will be retained in the service fleet and used as backup until it's no longer functional.

CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION NO. 4-26 **BY: SHIPP**

An Emergency Resolution to Appoint Christina Morris, Councilmember-at-Large, as a Member of The Parks and Recreation Commission of The City of Rocky River (3rd Reading)

President Shipp noted that this is just a formal resolution to appoint Councilwoman Morris to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-26 **BY: SHIPP**

An Emergency Resolution to Appoint James W. Moran, Ward 2 Councilman, as The Rocky River City Council Representative to S.A.F.E (Safe Air for the Environment) Council of Governments (3rd Reading)

President Shipp advised that this is a formal resolution to appoint Councilman Moran to the S.A.F.E Council of Governments.

ORDINANCE NO. 6-26 **BY: FURRY**

An Ordinance Authorizing the Director of Finance to Pay The City of Cleveland Division of Water a Reimbursement for the 2025 Water Main Replacement Project for Parklane Drive in the Amount of $4,662.17, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (3rd Reading)

Mr. Furry advised that Ordinance 6-26 is for the reimbursement to the City of Cleveland for the Parklane Drive water main replacement. We had received payments of $437,504.18 consisting of actual construction costs, design and construction admin. The amount that was actually due was $432,842.01 having a delta due back to CWD of $4,662.17.

ORDINANCE NO. 7-26 **BY: FURRY**

An Ordinance Authorizing the Adjustment of Sewer Rates Paid to the City of Lakewood for Wastewater Treatment Services for the Valleyview Sewer District (3rd Reading)

Mr. Furry advised that Ordinance 7-26 is for the 102 homes in the Valley View Sewer district, which is basically east of Wooster north of I-90 and apparently dates back to 1956 where it is still less expensive to send to Lakewood's Waste Water Treatment Plant as opposed to ours. That being said, we have to pay Lakewood's rate and in effect subsidize these homeowners to pay Rocky River sewer rates. Rocky River rates are significantly less than Lakewood.

ORDINANCE NO. 8-26 **BY: MORRIS**

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety Service to Purchase Playground Equipment for Linden Park from DWA Recreation Inc. at a Cost Not to Exceed $224,324.12, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (3rd Reading)

Ms. Morris noted that they have talked about this for a couple weeks. This project will replace the existing playground structure which was installed 20 years ago. The current removal will be done by the City Service Department and DWA will install early to mid-fall. One thing that they have talked about a lot was

the information that they will be given about the visitors to this playground, which will be super interesting, but they haven't really talked about how cool this playground looks.

RESOLUTION NO. 9-26 **BY: MORAN**

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Renew our Agreement with Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) for the NOPEC 2026 Energized Community Grant as Further Described in Exhibit "A" (3rd Reading)

Mr. Moran advised they've discussed this item, and no one is yet to object to the city receiving $60,033 in funds. The hope that these funds will be used for a generator at the Senior Center.

Moved by Mr. Shipp, seconded by Mr. Furry, to pass all the items on the consent agenda.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

President Shipp advised that every six years, per the Charter, they appoint a Charter Review Commission. This Commission takes a fine-toothed comb to the Charter. Council needs to get this commission appointed and to work as soon as they can in March. The deadline is technically in September for the Board of Election, but because eventually this Charter produces revisions that are put into ordinances which are eventually sent to BOE to be put on a ballot he suggests they get moving on this.

Mayor Bobst advised that Council seats nine members of the Charter Review Commission and Council chooses how they seat those individuals either by soliciting the committee or appointments. All nine are Council's appointments and the Commission will select their own Chairperson. It's a very methodical process – they start with the beginning articles of the Charter, and they work their way through. Our HR Director Greco has stepped up and will serve as the Secretary for the Charter Review Commission keeping track of all the articles and they will keep a master list of potential things they may want to look back on. They will ask, from time to time, individuals to join them. For example, when they look at the Council section, they may want Councilmembers to weigh in if they are any changes that you have or what them to consider. They may or may not come up with Charter Amendments. Several years ago, we had many changes that cleared up a lot of issues. The last time there were four or five that all passed. Our residents take their time to understand these issues, to look at them and review them and vote in a way consistent with their thoughts and perspectives. It's a pretty simple process, but it does need to move along. They will meet once a week for several weeks. Typically, by May they are submitting their recommendations to Council, and you have a ministerial role that will send those right to the Board of Elections. Council can't really change the recommendations, but you can add your own charter changes. In fact, Council can add Charter amendments to be voted on at any time. The ones that come from the Charter Review commission will be forwarded just as they recommend them, but they do pass through Council and legislative action is taken on them. While the BOE doesn't need them until September there is a lot of work that goes into crafting the ballot language, converting information to different languages, they also must prepare absentee ballots, overseas ballots – they do request the information as early as possible in June or July.

President Shipp encouraged Councilmembers to think about folks they know that may be interested. He's been told that people that have served in the past can be good to mix in so they can lead and guide as opposed to all rookies. Think about folks and get them lined up for consideration so Council can move forward as soon as possible.

Mr. Moran suggested they get the list of previous members. He believes it was usually about 1/3 of the people on there were preexisting committee people, but he recalls that each Council person brought one person so a lot were new, but his suggestion, as mentioned, would be to find one or two people that had previously served. He suggested that President Shipp interview a few of those people. He noted that it's quite a commitment, but they did a great job.

Mr. Furry noted that the time is short, but intense. They're done in a few months, but it's a commitment.

Mayor Bobst noted how interesting it is and that she believes they all enjoy it.

President Shipp noted that Director Greco sent him some information and he can forward that onto Council.

Mayor Bobst advised that that their selections will need to be sworn in by herself or Council President.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ms. Morris advised that a couple weeks ago Parks and Rec met and she finds it fascinating how they use data consistently. For example, she received a January Monthly Report and in it not only are they tracking sales and attendance, but they are tracking their engagement on social media. They are really using a lot of data points to track all their things.

Mayor Bobst added that the Senior Center does the very same thing. The Software they have tracks every person that comes in and what they're there for.

Ms. Gallagher noted that she's very impressed by the service people that adopt pets that are found in our community. She advised that she's read on the reports that they find these pets and end up bringing them home and it makes her very happy – they've got good people.

Ms. Havemann provided clarification that the project on Linda that the Mayor referenced earlier is called 'The Lofts of Linda' and it is an extended stay on the second floor and on the first floor is a membership only Paragon gym. There are two other upcoming projects which include a Cooking School in the Giant Eagle shopping center and there is another fitness center.

Mr. Moran provided an update from the Environmental Committee. He received a phone call from a resident who was complaining about the deer population. He provided her with information about the actions coming up in the Metroparks. She lives on Wager, which is not one of the areas he would have thought would be as well traveled as some of the other developments. She would like him to come over to her home to see the damage to her bushes. He advised her that he would make Council aware, will go over and visit with her, and he will do his best to keep her up to date about what the Metroparks is doing.

Director Synder advised that they are working to make things more accessible and easier to find on the City Website. If you go to the police department page, then to specials services animal control he has added a lot of information about deer management within the city. There is also a survey available that was sent to Rocky River by Ohio Department of Natural Resources which helps them collect data to realize the impact that deer are having on residents and get some of their feelings. This survey will help them plan their management processes going forward. In addition to the survey there are multiple different resources that talk about means and methods to keep deer away.

Mr. Moran stated that he didn't think there were any Westshore communities that do anything within the city limits.

Director Synder replied that there are multiple cities around us that are actively involved in deer management in different ways. There are four main methods to deer management: Education, permitted archery hunting by residents or someone who obtains a permitted to archery hunt on private property, culling programs that utilize sharp shooters, and the third is sterilization. Different municipalities across northeast Ohio and across the state and country utilize different methods. What Rocky River is doing right now is obtaining information to determine the level of impact on our residents which will help them create a plan moving forward.

Ms. Havemann noted that the same resident contacted her and in her response to the resident she provided the link to the survey for the deer, linked the tips, and advised that the City is working with ODNR.

Council discussed various methods of deer repellent that they've used successfully on their own properties.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident Rolan Straub, of 22564 Sunnyhill Drive, addressed Council and advised that his home, which he has lived in for 40 years, is right behind the ongoing Kruger development project. They started with the first half and developed an apartment building and promised residents that they would get a good buffer of plant material and he heard that the budget was cut by $30,000. He shared a photo of the fence that was erected and advised that it was his understanding that the 'good side' of the fence was supposed to face their neighborhood. He noted that it looks pretty bad and advised that he believes something needs to be done with that. Additionally, the second phase of the project went forward, and they changed the homes to townhouses. He was shown a picture of a two-story townhouse with a roof on it and now they are three stories with a large roof on it instead of a flat roof which he had seen earlier. He noted that he was under the impression that there would be a buffer, but as it is built there is no room for a buffer. He showed another image of the parking lot right up against the fence. He requested that the parking back there should be turned into a buffer zone where they can plant some trees to provide a buffer, not only to his backyard, but to the entire neighborhood which are all in agreement. The parking exists because it's required, but if that parking cannot be changed there should be a few trees put in his backyard as a buffer – he's willing to let that happen. Something needs to occur.

Mayor Bobst advised that she will meet with the building commissioner in the morning to discuss his concerns.

Mr. Staub remarked that whatever was agreed upon should be completed prior to the granting of their occupancy permit.

Mayor Bobst agreed and thanked Mr. Staub for his comments.

President Shipp advised that their next meeting will be a Committee of the Whole meeting Monday March 2, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Paul Shipp
President of Council

Lauren Oley
Clerk of Council