

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

February 9, 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

Absent: Ms. Gallagher

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Lindow, Mr. Snyder, Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION:

Moved by President Shipp, seconded by Mr. Furry, that the reading of the minutes of the Combined Special Legislative Meeting of February 2, 2026, be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Moran – aye	Shipp – aye
	Morris – aye	Havemann – aye	Furry - aye
	6– ayes	0 – nays	PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor advised that around noon on Friday a watermain break was reported in the Northview neighborhood. Cleveland Water got out there and could not find the source and on Saturday morning another hole popped up over by the Deli. Cleveland Water sent their team out of the Crown Plant, and they were looking for the shutoff valve on Detroit for Northview, and they finally found it and made the first repair, but there was a second repair needed. Numerous crews came and went and couldn't find the source until Sunday morning, but in the meantime, the water had undermined the road and they damaged a couple storm sewers. She advised that it appears they are going to be using Fabrizi, the emergency sewer contract for the repairs, and thanked Council for passing the ordinance that allows them to do that. Our Service Department have been out and are working with Cleveland Water. These breaks are reported to the City almost immediately and we then contact Cleveland Water. She advised that she has a message out to the head of Cleveland Water, Alex Margevicius, regarding the communication that the City received from them. Sometimes the information that they give us can change and it ends up looking like we don't have all the information. In many respects they have been wonderful partners, but this isn't a perfect science. Earlier this morning, she met with Director Snyder to discuss what we can do better. The City sent out a lot of information, but there were still individuals that still wanted more information. The City can give information, but it is difficult to know how accurate it is because we don't have control over the project. We can advocate for our residents, but we don't have control of the repair. The Mayor and Director Snyder are hoping to put an emergency masthead across the top of the website which can be updated regularly throughout an incident like this in a timely fashion. Mr. Snyder is working with IT so that he and others will be able to remote in with our messaging and they will be able to tell residents, 'Go to the website'. That way they won't have to be on ReadyNotify nor will they have to scour Facebook – where there is often inaccurate information. They must do their best to control for that and the masthead would allow

them to provide the information timely and accurately. They're working on that system, and they will let everyone know once it's moving ahead. They've heard from Cleveland Water that they got it all fixed, but there are a few additional things they will need to go back into repair which will require the water to be shut off again. She requested that Cleveland Water let the City know as soon as they know this will happen so that they can alert the residents. She wishes they had a system where block by block they could notify the residents. They can do some of that if they're registered for ReadyNotify, but they would all have to be to reach every household. She always encourages people to register for ReadyNotify - they won't be too invasive with their texts or emails, but it's a good way to communicate. Following a question from Ms. Havemann, Mayor Bobst advised that believes that the last numbers she saw indicated that 5,000 households are registered for ReadyNotify. A lot of times when she asks residents if they're on ReadyNotify she's surprised to find out that residents aren't familiar with that system which is our main communication vehicle. It is her hope that using the website for specific messaging, in an emergency, will prove to be a far better tool. While some don't use computers or social media, we would just hope that neighbors would assist or they would call the police department. The Mayor thanked Director Snyder for his great work this weekend noting that it's hard to explain how dynamic this process is – they're all hearing different things and trying to manage a lot of information at once.

- Following the Mayor's full report, Mr. Moran inquired how many residents located on Northview were affected by the water.
- The Mayor advised that it was from Westway to Detroit – so all those homes. She noted that the previous Clerk of Council Sue Pease was very helpful as she lives in that neighborhood.
- Mr. Moran reiterated that ReadyNotify is a great and the best way to notify those affected, but as she mentioned there are residents that are not always internet bound nor do they have phones with them. He knows that about a decade ago they had to go door to door. In a situation where it's less widespread perhaps a quick leaflet might stop 100 phone calls. He's gotten a few emails from frustrated residents, and he hopes that perhaps they could consider this option.
- The Mayor noted that her and Director Snyder discussed that option. Their guys are out there so it's possible they could take something door to door if they were able to print out information. Especially when they're trying to alert people to check the website. She commented that residents are going to need to meet the City 30% of the way - the information is available, but you've got to access it somehow. She knows people frustrated – rightfully so. The senior center can also be helpful with this as they have individuals registered through their REACH program and their callback program. She hopes to be able to add them all up to create a better system. That is part of the reason she reached out to Cleveland Water to have their Community Information Officer give guidance. She would like to have one sheet with guidance they can put on the website and hand out with advice about what to do in these situations like running your lines for your water heater, boil alerts, etc. Their goal is to have many layers of communication.
- Mr. Moran advised that the Administration has done a great job of forming great relationships with water, electric, and gas which helps them to respond quickly, and this is the first time that we didn't get the response back as quickly as we'd like.
- Director Snyder offered that one of thing that he believes is important to understand is that Cleveland Division of Water manages service for 80 communities. With the prolonged cold weather that we've had they're managing water leaks in 79 communities other than ours. They're

out there trying to do triage on the most important leaks at any given time with limited crews. He believes he saw that they manage over 5,000 miles of water line so that's a lot of leaks to happen and lot to keep up on. They're human just like us and they try to send people out as needed, but it may not be the same priorities that we have. Patience and grace go a long way too, but we can learn from this. Being on a weekend we can make it a teaching moment and try to improve for the future.

- The Mayor concurred and advised that she's spoken to other Mayors who are dealing with similar water break issues. She noted that if it warms up quickly, they will continue to have breaks throughout the City which is why they're trying to be proactive with their sewer projects.
- Ms. Havemann noted that the banner is a great idea. The Mayor and Council continued to discuss the benefits of the banner and the benefits of signing up for ReadyNotify.

The Mayor advised that February 24th at 6:30 in Memorial Hall there will be a sharing of the inflow and infiltration study on Kensington and Frasier. During this meeting residents will find out if they are providing any water to the system that needs to be taken out. On Kensington they had a high rate – almost all the houses tested positive. It can be shocking at first, but our hope is the information is helpful and instructive as residents work with plumbers on the repairs. They will be sending out a construction update later this week. She added the Shoreland Park site work may start next week with the weather breaking.

The Mayor shared a story that she saw in last week's sun newspaper. Avon Lake bought salt at \$217 a ton and Avon bought salt \$320 a ton and they were only able to get 400-500 tons which barely gets the city through a decent snowstorm. Storms that last numerous days are tough on the salt supplies. Through the state cooperative purchasing program, which the City does in the spring for orders that they won't place until the fall, Rocky River is paying \$64 a ton. She thanked Director Snyder for his work on that program. They are just about at their maximum at that rate at 110% of that order. This morning she inquired of Director Snyder and Samuel Rosario what will be the next steps with ODOT if we've ordered our maximum – what do we do next and what will be the cost? Adding that they're not there yet as they have a barn pretty full.

- Director Snyder offered that they still have 1200 tons of salt.
- Mr. Furry inquired how much, of the 110% procured, salt we've received.
- Director Snyder clarified that they've ordered and had delivered at nearly 110%. Midweek last week they were at 700 tons of it delivered and they were still actively delivering. Now we're about there. The City will still continue to manage their salt usage hills, intersections, curbs for the remainder of this year because they do have to plan on using some of this salt if we get any early season snow in the fall.
- President Shipp thanked the City for the job they're doing managing the salt.

Regarding property taxes, the City was told that the bills were going out a month ago and they didn't, but they're finally out. The bills are still due on February 19th, but there will be about a 10-day grace period. The 10% late payment penalty will not be added to any of those that reach them before the 2nd of March.

The Mayor advised that the 2025 Audit has commenced. She thanked Director Lindow and noted that she thinks it's the earliest that we've engaged them and had materials ready for them. She knows Director

Lindow was working hard to close out the year and she thanked him for doing a great job.

The Mayor advised that pickleball will resume next week on Wednesday and Friday. The following Monday afternoon will be the first instructional class for people who want to learn how to play pickleball. She noted that they did all of this with the cooperation of three individuals that are the ambassadors for pickleball at the Civic Center and all parties are really pleased.

Mr. Hunt inquired if the Mayor could share the details of the gas leak that happened earlier this week at City Hall.

- The Mayor advised that when they were doing the site prep at the fire station demolition site, they hit a gas line which had to be repaired, and they did end up closing City Hall. They were advised that there wasn't any imminent danger, but the fumes were strong in the building, and the people were starting to get headaches. At about 2:30 that day, Director Snyder and herself stayed, but they sent everyone else home. The fire department checked it all out and determined it was safe.
- Director Snyder added that the line that was hit was supposed to have been closed prior to demolition, but Enbridge didn't have it closed down. It is now abandoned for the remainder of the demolition.
- The Mayor advised that there has been a lot they've had waterlines hit as well as an I-beam that came through the far hallway, but luckily not one has been hurt and there has been minimal damage.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PENDING BUSINESS:

Mr. Hunt advised that there is no new information regarding Ordinance Nos. 50-25, 51-25, 52-25 and 54-25 and they remain on hold.

ORDINANCE NO. 50-25

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)

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)

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 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)

President Shipp advised that he was just considering these items which have been on their agenda for almost six months. Perhaps they could send these items to the Safety Committee while they are paused, amended, reworked as necessary, and while they wait for Council of Governments to determine if they want to buy into a program which may affect these ordinances. He inquired if the Safety Committee is then required to hold a public hearing to send them back to the legislative body.

Mayor Bobst advised that the committees are recommending bodies to City Council so you could refer it to them, but it would remain on the legislative agenda. They can convene and ask anyone to participate and they would have a recommendation back to City Council with any amendments or recommendations for passage.

Mr. Shipp advised that one of the concerns he had was members of the public not being aware that it’s ‘on hold’, as happened this evening when a cameraman showed up interested in these ordinances, since it is still listed on the agenda.

The Mayor advised that the ordinances could be removed from the agenda if they were postponed indefinitely. They could be removed with the understanding that they are drafting new legislation considering what they’ve learned if you anticipate doing a substantial re-write. That would remove them from the agenda and you can still direct the safety committee to work with others to come up with a new draft.

Mr. Furry added that they finally just got something back from NEOCH and the Mayor is working on a possible funding source. They are also working on a consistent regional approach of all the cities to have a consortium addressing the issue. He thinks perhaps postponing until they tweak it is a good idea.

Mr. Shipp advised that his preference would be to not have them on the agenda until they are ready to be read and discussed.

Council and the Mayor continued to discuss the potential postponement of these items, noting that perhaps the legislation won’t even come back for formal legislation. They also clarified that all four ordinances have only been read one time.

Mr. Hunt concurred that the low-speed vehicle ordinance does warrant postponement, but he doesn’t know what they would change on the other ordinances regardless of what NEOCH says, but he may be in the minority.

Ms. Havemann noted that she likes the idea of postponing these ordinances because she likes the Mayors’ ideas that if they institute the NEOCH proposal they may not even be necessary or at least not in this form. Regarding the low speed and under speed vehicles she understands some other cities had recently passed some legislation so she thinks it would be worthwhile to look at what other communities are doing and also consider if they would be incorporating scooters or e-bikes so it’s possible that legislation would be

totally different. She agrees with Mr. Moran that the community would likely want to comment on all of these ordinances and have some time to give feedback. With regard to the solicitation she doesn't believe it would be changed too much, but she did have one question – the example from Police Chief in his summary mentioned Hill v. Colorado as the basis for our ordinance being the way it was and that case includes healthcare facilities, but we didn't include that in our list. She was curious if perhaps that could be considered if it's reviewed.

Mr. Shipp suggested they wait another week to postpone allowing everyone time to consider any thoughts or concerns. Next meeting will clear a lot of items from the agenda so it may be time to clean house of the agenda as a matter of course.

Mayor Bobst suggested they reach out to the Police Chief if there is anything they'd like him to clarify.

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 (2nd Reading)

Mr. 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 (2nd Reading)

Mr. 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" (2nd 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 (2nd 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” (2nd Reading)

Ms. Morris noted that she’s sent along all the pictures and information for this park. The City will do the excavation and DWA will install the new equipment with a timeline of early to mid-fall. She’s discovered a bit more about the national demonstration site details. If we decide we want to be a part of the national demonstration site what they will do is give us information that they have access to from GIS Data, of a certain area around the park. It’s past data and it’s related to cell phones, so they know where the cell phone is from and the age of the person. She doesn’t know what other data they gather or will give us, but they will give us the information above as part of the baseline report and monitor and continue to give us that data. She noted that this seems a bit ‘big brother,’ but this is information that they already have, and they are going to be gathering. She acknowledged that it is beneficial to know if the people that are going to your park are local or are coming from other places – it’s exciting information to have.

The Mayor clarified that we are not collecting the data but rather are being given the information.

Ms. Morris summarized that she thinks it’s an interesting service. The demonstration sites are also working with universities and other legitimate people that are trying to maintain health in a population that could be healthier.

Mr. Shipp confirmed that this service is a part of the bid package pricing.

Mayor Bobst suggested that perhaps if they were considering a park for senior citizens, it would provide different information than a park for children. She added that it’s not unlike the information they’re able to obtain regarding traffic counts and patterns.

Director Snyder commented that everything is about data. The data justifies our means and the means justify our ends. The City can get the data from a year prior to this installation of this park and then they can have data for the usage of Linden Park from August ’25 and they can compare it to the demographic moving forward. By us being able to keep track of that usage we can also see which features work well, what brings the most people which helps DWA, but it also helps us show that the investment is being used by these many people.

Lastly, Ms. Morris noted that she doesn’t believe there is a bike rack at Linden Park – she believes that there was one and it was taken down.

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” (2nd Reading)

Mr. Moran advised that this is an opportunity for the City to receive money and this is an opportunity to apply for grants that we have been able to take advantage of in the past. He advised that they have \$60,033 ear marked for a generator for a Senior Center.

Consent Agenda

ORDINANCE NO. 1-26

BY: HUNT

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety-Service to Enter into a Contract with Perram Electric, Inc., for the CUY-US20 Goldwood School Traffic Signal Program for \$283,929.18 with Additional Authorization for Contingency Items of \$15,000 For a Total Not to Exceed Amount of \$298,929.18, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit “A” (3rd Reading)

Mr. Hunt offered that this is for the new traffic signal in front of Goldwood School on Center Ridge Rd not to exceed \$298,929 which includes a \$15,000 contingency all of which is substantially under the engineers estimate. As mentioned previously, this came about as a result of studies done on Center Ridge running parallel with the gateway project to enhance pedestrian and motorist safety along the corridor. This traffic signal did receive warrant after a study and it’s an appropriate place at that intersection. Adding that the light would be green on Center Ridge, but for any activation of the signal.

ORDINANCE NO. 3-26

BY: MORAN

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and the City of Rocky River for Phase II Stormwater Services for 2026 and 2027, as Further Described in Exhibit “A” (3rd Reading)

Mr. Moran advised that this is an outline to spend \$2,685 which is up a small increase from the last two years and what this does is gives us an opportunity to have the Cuyahoga County Board of Health identify some of these stations that have E.coli. There have been 24 opportunities to identify these things in the past and they want to make sure they continue to do that. This provides this permit for the NPDES (National Polution Discharge Elimination System).

Mr. Shipp moved for passage of Ordinance No. 1-26 and Ordinance No. 3-26 seconded by Mr. Furry.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Moran – aye	Shipp – aye	
	Morris – aye	Havemann – aye	Furry - aye	
	6– ayes	0 – nays		PASSED

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

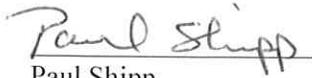
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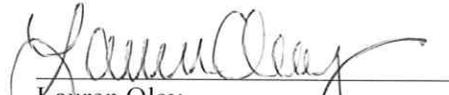
Ms. Morris noted that tomorrow is their Parks and Rec meeting and the location is upstairs in the fitness area meeting room and advised that their next council chat at the library is on the 18th at 5:30 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

President Shipp advised that their next meeting will be a Legislative Meeting Monday February 23, 2026. Next Monday the 16th is President's Day and a government holiday so they will not hold a Committee of the Whole meeting that day.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.


Paul Shipp
President of Council


Lauren Oley
Clerk of Council