CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

March 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, Ms. Gallagher

Absent:

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 Ms. Morris, that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting of February 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**

Moved by President Shipp, seconded by Ms. Gallagher, that the reading of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of March 2, 2026, be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Moran – aye	Shipp – aye	Gallagher - aye
	Morris – Abstain	Havemann – aye	Furry - Abstain	
	5– ayes	2 – Abstain 0 – nays		**PASSED**

Chief Lichman joined Council to provide an update regarding the Swatting Incident that occurred at Rocky River High School on Wednesday March 4, 2026. He advised that on March 4, 2026, a man called in a tip to the police that he was in route to Rocky River High School in his vehicle, armed with guns, and intended to kill as many people as he could. The following bullet points were taken from the slide deck presented by the Chief to detail the incident:

- Call received by RRHS at 10:53 am
- RRHS put into Lock-down
- Multi-agency response
- Other schools were put into soft-lockdown and provided police presence until the threat was determined to be false
- School cleared and searched two times by about 12:10 pm.
- Driving students released at 12:30 pm
- Other students released at 1:00 pm
- Police continued to search the building for any additional threats, including bomb sniffing dogs.
- Detectives continue to investigate independently and in cooperation with other agencies to identify a suspect and will work to hold those responsible for this crime accountable.
- This incident appears to be one of a pattern of similar incidents across the State that day, affecting

at least a dozen schools.

- It resulted in a response of no fewer than forty-six (46) law enforcement officers from eight agencies
- RC 2917.321, Swatting, prohibits knowingly making a false report that causes an emergency response from law enforcement or emergency services.
    - It is a felony 4 in most cases
    - It is a felony 2 if the offense results in serious physical harm to any person
- Penalties
    - Felony 4 - 6-18 Months in Prison up to $5,000 fine
    - Felony 2 - 2-8 Years in Prison up to $15,000 fine
- Courts can require reimbursement for law enforcement and emergency service providers for the cost of emergency response
- Other criminal charges may apply, including:
    - RC 2917.31 Inducing Panic
    - RC 2917.32 Making False Alarms
- Both offenses are M1, upgraded to felonies depending on harm.
- There were 724 victims in this incident.
    - 636 students
    - 88 faculty & staff
    - Countless parents and family members of those victims and of first responders were also impacted
- Even though the report was false, this experience was frightening for students, staff and families. When young people believe they may be in danger, their emotional reaction is real and can cause anxiety and stress.
- Thank you to the many people involved in the incident that was resolved safely.
    - Law enforcement mutual aid, partners, school officials, students, and parents.

He summarized that he was grateful that no one was injured and people responded and reacted the way they are supposed to noting that they can count on their law enforcement partners in the region.

Mr. Furry inquired what constitutes a soft lockdown.

Chief advised that the building is locked down and no one, even scheduled deliveries, can come in or out, but the day can proceed as normal inside the building.

Mr. Hunt inquired if the radios, that have been discussed previously in Council, worked to aid the response among departments.

Chief advised that they have always been on the same radio frequencies as four of the five Westshore cities. They all have MARCS (Multi-Agency Radio Communication System) radios, so they have shared frequencies, and they were able to switch to a channel so that all six of the Westshore cities are able to communicate with each other and they worked well. There may have been dead spots with the old radios, but the MARCS radios all worked perfectly.

Ms. Gallagher inquired if there was any way to identify Swatting faster as this was likely very traumatic for all those involved.

Chief replied that he isn't aware of any way to identify an incoming spoof call any faster.

The Mayor noted that they did put together very quickly that multiple schools received calls from the

same number. The call came in at 10:53 and by 12:30 students were already being released although a lot happened during that short amount of time.

Chief noted that by around 11:15 or 11:20 they had a pretty good idea that it was swatting. It just takes some time to make those clearances and make sure that the building is safe before they take the step to clear the kids. They were doing back tracing on the number that made the call and were able to determine that several other agencies were attempting to do those same searches, which is how they started putting it together.

Mayor Bobst remarked that every time Council reviews a budget and there is lots of money in training, education, equipment, support of the Westshore Enforcement Bureau and the Westshore Council of Governments which were all things that were meaningful that morning and continue to be meaningful. They will continue to review every detail of this including feedback from the schools, faculty, students, parents, but it was remarkable how this was resolved so quickly and thank goodness it was not the threat that was anticipated. She thanked everyone for their assistance and thanked the Chief specifically for his compassion. Noting how proud they all were to see him stand up and talk about this experience from the perspective of a student and parent and how they were impacted says a lot. She reiterated that if any residents express concerns or have questions, to please have them reach out directly to the Chief, Safety Service Director, or herself.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Bobst advised that the county appraisal field visits have commenced for 2026 and they will go on through August 2026. The appraisers will have badges identifying themselves along with yellow vests. Primarily they will be viewing homes from the Right of Way, and they are looking to ensure what is on the county record is accurate. If there are any questions they can be forwarded to the Building Department or the County Appraisal Division. She proceeded to provide an update about building permits advising that there are 157 permits that have been issued for a total estimated added valuation of 11.8 million dollars. She added that the majority of that valuation is primarily on the commercial side noting that residential projects are holding the same pace as last year.

Mayor Bobst advised that March 23rd is the projected start date for Center Ridge.

Mayor Bobst advised that the City received six bids for Wager Rd project with a high of $912,000 and a low of $714,000 and those are being evaluated by the City engineers, but they were all pleased to see that low bid came in $311,000 under the engineer's estimate.

Mayor Bobst advised from March 30th-April 3rd the City will have one last pass for leaf collection and yard waste from the tree lawn. They don't traditionally do spring pick up, but this year residents can put loose yard waste and leaves on the tree lawn within this window, and it will get picked up.

Mayor Bobst noted that were 86 firefighters that took the entrance exam, which is the highest number they've had since the current HR Director has been in his position, and they all passed. She added that they have 8 lateral applications, adding that everyone is really pleased to see that there is a lot of interest in serving the Fire Department.

Mayor Bobst remarked that some of Council may have noticed the big blue box outside of Memorial Hall from the Cleveland Kids Book Bank. It's been here for about 10 years as they were one of the first communities to participate in the program. This initiative has collected, and disseminated, more than 5 million books to children to foster literacy and love of reading. She added that if Council has any children's book to share to please use the blue box at Memorial Hall.

Lastly, the Mayor advised that they need to waive the 72-hour rule for Ordinances 15-26 and 16-26 that just came in today.

President Shipp noted that 16-26 will be amending the previously passed Ordinance 8-26 which was for the Linden Park Playground equipment and Ordinance 15-26 is regarding Police Force allocations.

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)

Mr. Hunt advised that 52-25 remains 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" (2nd Reading)

Mr. Hunt noted that they had an opportunity to discuss this last week and they will have another Committee of the Whole prior to their 3rd read. This was the latest revised version of 54-25 with the prohibition of aggressive solicitation that was discussed last week in their committee meeting.

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" (2nd Reading)

Mr. Moran noted that this will be used to assist Rocky River with their storm water pollution. It will provide technical assistance to the City, especially on properties of one acre or more. We will use their expertise and support at a cost of $16,100 for this year and $17,750 for next year. They have an opportunity to move forward and cancel this agreement within 30 days if needed. There is a meeting with CSWCD coming up March 13 and he would like to have this passed prior to that meeting.

Mr. Moran moved to suspend the three-read rule for Ordinance No. 10-26, seconded by Mr. Furry.

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

Mr. Moran moved for passage of Ordinance No. 10-26, seconded by Mr. Furry.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 11-26

An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and the Safety-Service Director to Purchase One (1) Ford F600 Truck 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" (2nd Reading)

Ms. Gallagher advised that this is a request to purchase a new truck with an aluminum back. She advised that this truck is 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. She added that the current truck will be retained in the service fleet and used as backup until it's no longer functional.

NEW BUSINESS:

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" (1st 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. Our Service Director will serve as the liaison this ordinance which replaces Ordinance 1-21, which was done 5 years ago. This will be good for the next 5 years at a cost of about $6,600 a year.

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" (1st Reading)

Ms. Havemann advised that this ordinance would modify the existing property maintenance ordinance to require periodic structural inspections of commercial buildings. This was prompted by a few incidents. In June 2021, there was a collapse of a 12-story residential tower in Florida which brought attention to the degradation of concrete and steel structures. In December of 2021, there was also a pancake type collapse in Lakewood at the Tower west Apartments. In the Florida incident 98 people died thankfully in the Lakewood incident no one died, but someone did say they drove out seconds before the collapse. It's important to have these structures inspected. She shared an image with Council of a parking structure on Linden Rd that has some crumbling. She advised that this amendment would require inspections starting at five years. The Building Director explained that his department would start a database of buildings that it

would apply to and all the buildings would be notified of the inspections needed.

- Mr. Furry inquired if this is both residential and commercial noting that the ordinances states 'all occupiable'.
- Ms. Havemann replied that she believes it to be commercial, but it would include residential buildings that were four stories or more.
- Mayor Bobst advised that apartment buildings are considered commercial even though they are residential.
- Mr. Furry inquired specifically about The Westlake.
- Mayor Bobst advised that she will follow up with the Building Director, but she believes it would fall under this code.
- President Shipp added that he believes this is a good proactive measure.

RESOLUTION NO. 14-26

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Receive Funds in the Amount of $132,000 and Administer an Agreement with the Federal Highway Administration for a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (1st Reading)

Mr. Hunt advised that this is a redo of an ordinance that Council passed this time last year Resolution 10-25. He advised that there were some changes in the language in the attachment from the Federal Government regarding receiving these funds.

Mayor Bobst noted that in the title of this ordinance it will need an amendment that will read 'A Resolution Replacing Resolution 10-25'.

Mr. Furry moved for the amendment that will read 'A Resolution Replacing Resolution 10-25', seconded by Ms. Havemann.

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

Mr. Hunt advised that originally Council reviewed the Resolution last year for funds to be received for safe streets and roads for the SS4A Grant funding from the US Department of Transportation for a comprehensive plan to be created by a consulting firm to collect information within the city to provide evidence-based infrastructure recommendations to address safety. This would be advertised and would be implemented to adopt a comprehensive safety action plan. Rocky River would be one of over 1,400 communities participating, the award amount would be $132,000, and they would pay the estimated balance of that which is projected to be $33,000 for a total project cost of $165,000. The plan would be used to prevent roadway fatalities, serious injuries to motorist pedestrians and those using non-motorized modes of transportation. This is to ensure our walkable community is safe for all.

Mayor Bobst confirmed that Council has already passed this legislation and after it was passed it was sitting with the Department of Transportation. Rocky River received our grant, the county received their grant, and we will be doing this collaboratively with the county. The Department of Transportation changed some of the language in the agreement. It doesn't mean more or less money and the project remains the same. We will be working with the consultants through the county. The scope of the project is the same.

Mayor Bobst advised that she doesn't believe three readings to be necessary, but if Council would like

Director Kerber to come in and speak to the specific changes made they could arrange that.

Mr. Hunt moved to suspend the three-read rule for Resolution No. 14-26, seconded by Mr. Furry.

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

Mr. Hunt moved Resolution No. 14-26 for passage, seconded by Ms. Morris.

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

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" (1st Reading)

Mr. Hunt advised that they've had ordinances like this in the past, but he has not yet had an opportunity to fully review this new ordinance.

Mayor Bobst advised that this ordinance provides for the explanation of the composition in a very flexible way. What is important for Council and the Administration is that this is controlled by appropriations depending on the needs of the department. For example, if the Police Department gets a grant and the grant allows them to hire a coordinator then they will not need to come back to Council to hire that person. It will have to be in the wage ordinance, will have to be presented to Council, and the appropriations must be there. It describes everything in the red lined version. She apologized for the late nature of the addition of this ordinance, but the Administration wanted to get this to Council as soon as possible to start the three full reads. Prior to this there were maximums. She added that this is not in collective bargaining this is a management right – it doesn't have anything to do with the contract as the Chief explains in his document.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-26

An Ordinance Replacing Ordinance 8-26 Authorizing the Mayor and the Director of Public Safety Service to Purchase Playground Equipment for Linden Park From Gametime at a Cost Not to Exceed $224,324.12, as Further Described in the Attached Exhibit "A" (1st Reading)

Ms. Morris advised that this is a clerical difference from the previous ordinance 8-26 in that the City is paying Gametime and not DWA Recreation and that is the only difference.

President Shipp clarified that the only reason for this change was because the park was a demonstration site which required the City to pay the manufacturer rather than the typical vendor who was included in the previous Ordinance.

Ms. Morris moved to suspend the three-read rule for Ordinance No. 16-26, 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. Morris moved Ordinance No. 16-26 for passage, seconded by Mr. Furry.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

President Shipp advised that they are a little behind schedule on their Charter Review Commission. He has received nominations from himself, Mr. Morris, Mr. Furry, Ms. Gallagher, and Mr. Havemann. He understands that Mr. Moran and Mr. Hunt are close to finalizing their own selections for a total of 7 and they need a total of 9 for the commission. He is open to suggestions regarding how to grab the last two members – perhaps veterans who have served before which is fine with him.

- Ms. Morris advised that she has a couple women from The League of Women Voters who are interested.

- President Shipp requested that they circle those names within the group so that they can finalize the list next week at their committee meeting such that they can vote on their appointments at their upcoming Legislative meeting 3/23/25.

Ms. Morris advised that she had a call from a resident this week who lives by Tri-City Park and she is seeing a lot of dirt bikes jumping mounds. The resident is going to start calling the police when they're there, which is likely the best thing for her to do, but leads to her question – how do they decide what signs go up? There was a child with his dad and a motorized vehicle, so perhaps they legitimately do not know the rules.

- Mayor Bobst advised that no motorized bikes are permitted there.
- Director Snyder advised that he needs to look at the rules of that particular park as he doesn't recall off the top of his head. They try to balance signs everywhere vs. trying to keep things looking aesthetically pleasing. They don't necessarily want to list out every rule for every park. He advised that this resident could always reach out to the non-emergency line for the police and that way they can go through and have that teachable moment with the parents.
- Mr. Furry inquired how they typically handle policing in that area since it's tri-city park.
- Mayor Bobst advised that it depends on who calls. There are a lot of rules around the parks, but it's important to make sure that they're noticeable. They went through this last summer, and they thought that it had been addressed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Moran advised that there is a meeting scheduled in North Royalton April 8th from 8am-5pm on 'Understanding Urban Deer Situations and Methods to Reduce Damage and Conflicts' for Public Officials that he plans to attend.

- Director Snyder advised that he went to that meeting last year and it is beneficial. He advised there are various speakers and if Mr. Moran cannot make it all day that it's still very beneficial to attend.
- Mr. Moran advised that he spent time today with a resident who is frustrated with the deer situation at her property. He advised her that the City is trying to gather as much information as possible. He advised that he would report back to both the resident and Council with what he learns at the meeting.

that he plans to attend.

- Director Snyder advised that he went to that meeting last year and it is beneficial. He advised there are various speakers and if Mr. Moran cannot make it all day that it's still very beneficial to attend.
- Mr. Moran advised that he spent time today with a resident who is frustrated with the deer situation at her property. He advised her that the City is trying to gather as much information as possible. He advised that he would report back to both the resident and Council with what he learns at the meeting.

Ms. Morris advised that the next City Council Chat at the Library is a week from Wednesday March 18th at 6 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Louise Vertal introduced herself and advised that she lives at the Heritage House Condominiums. Her issue deals with Ordinance 13-26 – she is curious if that will cover the garage at the Heritage House at 2885 Pease Drive.

- Mayor Bobst advised that she imagines it does, but she can ask the Building Commissioner. She advised that if Council were to pass this ordinance they can't have everyone renewing their five years at the same time so they will have a strategy for that process. It will likely be any multiple dwelling.
- Ms. Vertal advised that she is very concerned about the collapse of their garage.
- Mayor Bobst advised that she can report that to the Building Department.
- Ms. Vertal advised that the windows on both the North and South side constantly leak when there is a lot of rain or snow and it's coming into their building. She doesn't know how long bricks can get wet for years. She's in parking spot number 2 and there is a crack that is slowly moving towards her car.
- Mayor Bobst inquired if she's spoken to the HOA about it.
- Ms. Vertal advised that she has, and they advised that they choose what they fix.
- Mayor Bobst advised that she will pass all this information onto the Building Director.
- Ms. Vertal added that she'd like to warn Council about Nyman Construction Company. She advised that they contract their business elsewhere and they may hire somebody that does inferior work because Heritage House was rebuilt by Nyman Construction Company and people are still having problems especially with the furnaces which freeze up.
- Mayor Bobst reiterated that she will speak to the Building Commissioner as it's important to keep them in the loop on these issues.

President Shipp advised that their next meeting will be a Committee of the Whole meeting Monday March 16, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Paul Shipp
President of Council

Lauren Oley
Clerk of Council