

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

March 24, 2025

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

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. O'Boyle, Mr. Shipp,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION:

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mrs. Morris that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting on March 10th be waived and that the minutes be accepted as presented.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	O'Boyle – aye	Shipp – aye
Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry - aye	
7 – ayes		0 - nays	PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor congratulated the city arborists and Director Snyder as the city was awarded the Tree City USA Award for the 41st year. The city also received the Growth Award for the last 8 years. The Tree City USA Award is in recognition and a testament to the community's unwavering commitment to the planning, care and celebration of trees by prioritizing tree stewardship. The city has not only helped enhance Rocky River's beauty and livability but also invested in a healthier and more sustainable future for our residents. The Growth Award is going above and beyond in the dedication to a sustainable urban forest and its management. Congratulations to Director Snyder who started in the Parks Department and has built it to what it is today, with four arborists and Rich's expertise as well.

The Mayor announced that the city received a check in the amount of \$134,000 from the Ohio Department of Public Safety which represents 75% of the eligible costs that were submitted for the work and response to the August 2024 tornadoes in the city. This requires documentation of everything that occurred including overtime, rental of equipment, use of materials, et cetera. Through very thorough record keeping and the assistance of Directors Thomas and Snyder, the city was reimbursed for more than \$134,000.00. A big thank you to both Directors Thomas and Snyder.

The Marian Ramp was shut down for a short time last week for major work being completed by the Parks and Service Department. The next phase of this will be additional plantings that are more appropriate for the ramp going forward. The Ohio Department of Transportation may be entertaining the removal of the Marian Ramp in 2033 so the city will be mindful of that with any planting investment.

The Mayor announced that Asphalt Plants are delayed in opening which means the city cannot secure asphalt. The city uses cold patch in the winter, but that has been hard to come by as well. As soon as the plants open in a couple of weeks, the city will have plenty of asphalt to repair the roads after the winter damage.

The Mayor also announced that the city received two new pieces of equipment. The first is a dump truck for the Streets Department and a packer for the Refuse Department. The dump truck was ordered and approved by City Council more than two years ago showing how long it has taken to receive this vehicle. All equipment takes a very long time to receive along with the materials. The Mayor reminded Council that the city received \$6,000 for Recycling Education, so the new packer will have magnetic signs regarding how to recycle appropriately. The packer should be on the road within the month after outfitting is completed.

The Mayor announced that the city went live with the new website today. There may be some glitches, but please let the city know if you discover any. The Mayor suggested scrolling down the homepage and see the many important things including Council Meetings, Council Corner and several other items. It has a very fresh look with a lot of drone footage.

The Mayor expressed her thanks to Council President and other Council members who sent letters regarding the Airbnb and VRBO short term rental legislation that the state is considering. It was very meaningful. The Mayor does not know the status of the legislation yet, but the Mayor thanks Council for making the effort and sending those letters to the committee right away.

The Bradstreet's Landing restrooms will be completed by the end of April.

The cement pad for the northern expansion of the Senior Center has been poured. The construction there is on schedule.

Fabrizi Construction will be mobilizing on Parklane after legislation is passed with temporary water hook ups shortly after that.

Gasser Blvd. had some watermain breaks last week. The work for that was completed, but they do need to go in and look at the waterline on Gasser along with some possible sewer work. The city will apply for Water Department Funds to rehabilitate the waterlines followed by the sewer work commencing.

The Mayor announced that she swore in a Firefighter this morning. This swearing-in was especially wonderful because the young man was actually a very talented mechanic that had worked for the city in the Service Garage for several years. During the time he worked for the city full time, he attended school to become a firefighter and continued to receive his paramedic certification. This morning, he was sworn in as Rocky River's newest firefighter. He took the competitive test and did everything he needed to do. Director Thomas noted that he did not even take a vacation. He left the Service Garage on Friday and began at the Fire Station this morning.

- Councilwoman Gallagher asked the name of the firefighter. The Mayor said his name is Daniel P. Nurnberg, Jr.
- Councilwoman Gallagher also asked if the \$134,000 reimbursement is a 100% reimbursement. The Mayor reiterated that it is 75% of the total costs.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 10-25**BY: THOMAS J. HUNT****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RECEIVE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$132,000.00 AND ADMINISTER AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"****3rd READING**

Mr. Hunt said this has been discussed since February. This resolution, if passed upon motion this evening, would allow the city to receive grant funds in the amount of \$132,000.00 through the Federal Highway Administration for Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. To strategize for managing traffic flow, improving safety through education and traffic control measures, it would be inclusive for all road users by developing a Comprehensive Safety Plan aimed to formulate an Action Plan featuring well defined projects and strategies aimed at preventing roadway fatalities, serious injuries, et cetera. The Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant funding is established as part of an initiative supported by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The city of Rocky River is one of 1,400 communities to receive funding and Cuyahoga County also received an SS4A Grant to put in a Comprehensive Safety Plan for the County that the city will coordinate with and use as a model to interact with and for construction projects for multi-modal safety-based improvements. The city would receive \$132,000.00 and the project that would go out for bid would total \$165,000.00. The Comprehensive Safety Action Plan would include projects aimed at preventing roadway fatalities, serious injuries for motorists and pedestrians and those using non-motorized transportation such as bikes, strollers, wheelchairs, et cetera. This would be for a consultant to work in conjunction with a larger scale like the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan from the County, to look at the City of Rocky River and see recommendations to improve safety, traffic, pedestrian and bike safety. Mr. Hunt moved this resolution for passage, seconded by Mr. Furry.

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

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 11-25**BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR****AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH FABRIZI TRUCKING & PAVING COMPANY, INC., FOR THE PARKLANE DRIVE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT AND PAVEMENT RESURFACING PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$942,851.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"****3rd READING**

Mr. Sindelar said this has been discussed for several weeks with little or no discussion. Mr. Sindelar reiterated the agreement with the Cleveland Water Department stating that the Cleveland Water Department has reimbursed the city in the amount of more than \$400,000 for the total of this project. This program has done well and has paid off for the city. This agreement is a continual promise to the residents of infrastructure work and the foresight of adding catch basins and laying a smooth street over it so the city will not run into more problems and/or dig it up later. It becomes an all-encompassing project. Mr. Sindelar moved the amended ordinance for passage, seconded by Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Morris.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 12-25**BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH FABRIZI TRUCKING & PAVING COMPANY, INC. FOR THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF STORM AND SANITARY SEWERS WITHIN THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

2nd READING

Mr. Sindelar said this ordinance is for emergency use only. This is good foresight to set aside monies for emergency repairs. The recommendation is to go with Fabrizi Trucking. The above ordinance that was just passed, granting Fabrizi a contract is because Fabrizi Trucking has been one of the main bidders and sometimes the only bid received. They also have direct expertise and they are very familiar with the city and work well with the administration. Fabrizi is always responsive. This is a lower amount than the city has paid for in the past to be on emergency call.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-25**BY: DAVID W. 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 said this is an annual ordinance and dates back to 1956. This service is for approximately 102 homes east of Wooster. These residences are serviced by the City of Lakewood as it is less expensive to send to Lakewood than to build a pump station to send to the City of Rocky River's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Lakewood's sewer rates are higher than Rocky River so the city subsidizes these homeowners' rates, so everyone in Rocky River pays the same mcf. Mr. Furry is expecting one more read on this.

NEW BUSINESS:**ORDINANCE NO. 14-25****BY: DAVID W. FURRY**

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND TO AMEND AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 88-24

1st READING

President Furry said that on Exhibit A, all changes relate to wages and benefits. The first is appropriations for severance payments for the Mayor's Office and Judges. Secondly, to move budget for the Planning and Community Development Administration out of the Building Department budget to the Planning and Community Development Department. The offset between the two departments is not one-to-one as an additional adjustment for the Planning and Community Development Director was needed. Director Holub of Recreation and Finance Director Thomas looked at the Recreation Department original appropriations and found the projection for full-time staff to be insufficient. It does not relate to a new position. It was not properly budgeted. This will have three full reads.

- Mrs. Gallagher asked if these were properly budgeted. Mr. Furry said that appropriations are being shifted for retirement severance for Mrs. Umerley. Mrs. Gallagher is curious about the judges as she presented their budget. Mr. Thomas said he thinks there were two retirement that they were not expecting. The Mayor added that when it comes to severance, employees are asked

to give plenty of notice along with an incentive of receiving their severance right after the separation. Some do not do that. Severance includes sick leave and vacation pay.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-25

BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RMH CONCRETE AND FOUNDATIONS, INC. FOR THE ROCKY RIVER PARK STORM SEWER AND SIDEWALK PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$82,545.95, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

1st READING

Mr. Sindelar said that there has been work done at Rocky River Park including the look-out deck. The city and the Parks Department are working together enhancing the experience for the residents and this is a continuation of that for erosion control. Nine bids were received and the lowest bid was incomplete. The second lowest bid was RMH Concrete and Foundations, Inc. This bid was also lower than the Engineer's Estimate by \$17,000. RMH has familiarity with the city along with having the equipment and know how to complete a project such as this. They have performed similar work on Sunnyhill Street with a replacement and the Wagar and Hilliard Roads intersection project in 2024. This project entails installing a catch basin and new curb on the west side of the parking lot to aid in protecting the hillside from water infiltration off the parking lot between the pavement and curb. The catch basin will drain under the parking lot to the bioretention basin in the center of the parking lot for infiltration. There will be new curbs installed that will be ADA compliant. In 2023 a study was done and this looked to be a potential issue. Director Snyder noticed that the stepped hillside overlooking the playground was starting to heave and the city hired a geotechnical firm to inspect it. New sidewalks and an ADA compliant curb ramp will be added. The Recreation Department has further planned to install new fencing consistent with the new stairs to replace the current fencing. The Mayor added that the new stairs were built by Shook Construction as a gift to the city. The Mayor said that this project is an integral part of the Master Plan for Rocky River Park. This had to be addressed immediately and thankfully Director Snyder recognized that it had to be evaluated in the correct way by having a geotechnical expert give the city guidance. Director Snyder said that they secured the hillside in 2023 by using high density polyurethane grout through pipes to compact and stabilize loose fill materials and fill any voids.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Furry announced that August 3rd will be City Council's Dog Days at the Gazebo.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. David Nash said he represents the Rocky River Green Team and Bike Rocky River. He appreciates the attention on March 10th to listen and educate regarding the status of the Clifton/Lake Road Project. Mr. Nash stated that they stand ready to address questions, concerns and needs for fact finding. Mr. Nash asked if there has been any status update or progress on the project or the legislation.

- Mr. Furry said that Council is not taking questions now, but at the next Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on April 7th, this will be an agenda item so Council will discuss it then. At the Committee-of-the-Whole Meetings, residents are welcome to listen but there is no public comment. This will help get a plan of action on where this is going along with expectations. The

Mayor said there may be additional information regarding parking in the section from the Bay Village line to Parklawn.

Mr. Nash said that in informal communications throughout the community, they continue to experience favorable community and neighbor comments for this project. They also understand that there are practical concerns about maintenance and costs, et cetera. They still think it is a good investment for the long-term future of Rocky River. The County Planning Commission has invited them along with the administration and City Council to participate and celebrate “Trails Day” on April 26th. This is a great opportunity for everyone in Rocky River to participate with other city and county leaders including Chris Ronayne, Mayor Bibb and other officials in suburbs around the City of Cleveland, to learn about the significant investments that various governments and communities have made in trails themselves, to make them connected to other communities, which is the long-term goal. Elaine Price, who works in the County Planning Commission, is enthusiastic about this program and Mr. Nash urges Council to participate if possible.

Mr. Sandy Stiassni, resides in Lakewood for 12 weeks a year and Irvine, CA for 40 weeks a year and is a very happy River property owner. He gave City Council five adjectives that describes what he has heard this evening. He said this Council is fundamentally localists, patient, disciplined, determined and the net effect of that is that it is successful. He wishes to observe the Council in those endeavors.

Mr. Furry said that next Monday is the fifth Monday of the month and there will not be a City Council Meeting. The next meeting will be a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on April 7th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council