

## CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

September 15, 2025

The Special Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Hunt, President Pro Tem 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

Council Members Absent: Mr. Furry

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

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### MOTION:

Moved by President Pro Tem Hunt seconded by Mr. Sindelar and Mr. O'Boyle that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting of September 8<sup>th</sup> be waived and that the minutes be accepted as is.

|       |             |                  |                |               |
|-------|-------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Vote: | Hunt – aye  | Gallagher – aye  | O'Boyle – aye  |               |
|       | Shipp – aye | Morris – abstain | Sindelar – aye |               |
|       | 5 – ayes    | 1 - abstain      | 0 - nays       | <b>PASSED</b> |

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dr. Alan Davis, 55 Kensington Oval, is questioning the logic and reasoning for the ban on the golf carts. He is wondering what the stimulus was to put that on for possible legislation and how it will be differentiated as presented for the city workers that are driving around in their carts to pick up garbage. How does the city plan to differentiate it from ebikes, throttle ebikes, scooters (which are much more dangerous than golf carts) and bicyclists going speeds lower than 25 mph. These are the points he would like to bring up. He would also like to know, as these have already been licensed, people have spent money on them, what is the thought process on possible reimbursement if this goes through. What will people do with their golf carts now that Council is considering outlawing them. These are his comments respectfully.

Mr. Brian Hansal, 19351 Beach Cliff Blvd., seconds Alan Davis's questions about the low speed vehicle golf cart and potential prohibition of them on the street. He agrees that for what the city is doing today putting speed bumps up to slow down traffic, he does not understand why the city would penalize a limited amount of folks that are actually going the speed limit on most streets or under the speed limits. They all have seat belts, ODOT windshield wipers and windshields that are glass, blinkers, turn signals, same thing as a car, but cars can go 35, 40, 60, 80 mph down residential streets, where the low-speed vehicles do not. As the city is making investments to slow down traffic, he thinks it is counterproductive to penalize people that are going the speed limit and mainly going on secondary roads and not primary streets that would disrupt the flow of traffic. He agrees with the ebikes and scooters as those are clearly more dangerous and are not licensed where the low speed vehicles are licensed under the State of Ohio and insured by insurance agencies as well. They are a national insurance agency too. He would love to understand what the logic is and he agrees a lot of residents have spent a lot of money on these vehicles and would love to understand what the compensation would be if this goes through. Thank you.

**Mr. Sandy Stiassoni, 19277, 19287 Dorothy Ave.,** wanted to draw Council's attention to Ordinance No. 51-25 as he is sure everyone here knows there was an op-ed in the Plain Dealer today talking about the issue of homelessness and citing the City of Rocky River and the City of Lorain as two municipalities that are doing, in their judgement, something about it. He would look at this in terms of raw numbers statistically and he would like to see what percentage of public safety budget and actual police time is devoted to this issue. Alternatively, he would like to see some analysis of what percent of capacity and quality has the city aided and abetted in adding low-income housing to the housing stock. He would recommend for two reasons that this issue be continued for more discussion aversely just to discuss some of these issues strictly from a non-judgmental quantitatively standpoint and secondly a continuance so that if this is indeed what Council wants to do the vote would be by consensus. There is one key member who is absent right now. Thank you very much.

**Mr. John Salisbury, 255 Yacht Club Drive,** recently moved into Rocky River within the last 45 days so he is a new permanent resident to the area. He is here to express his concern with the proposed low speed vehicle definition. At 255 Yacht Club Drive the street does not have public access to a sidewalk and moving to the bottom of the basin to the basin risks himself and his family. As a response to that, they have used a low-speed vehicle including a cart that would technically be illegal if this were to move forward. He encourages Council to pause and reconsider this proposal. These types of vehicles are not going away, a broad definition will only cause problems down the road. He encourages Council to take a moment, pause and engage with the community and really understand and define these speed vehicles so there can be a productive rule forward. Thank you.

**Mr. Mark Szabo, 18501 Hilliard Blvd.,** is speaking about Ordinance No. 50-25, the criminalization of homelessness. Last year the Supreme Court said that it is legal to criminalize homelessness no matter if there are beds in the shelters around, but he wants to talk about who is homeless. 50% of homeless folks come from the Foster Care System, have once in their lives been in foster care meaning they do not have the social background to help them catch them when they come into situations which would cause them to be homeless. 9-10% of homeless folks in Cuyahoga County are veterans, like himself, whereas the population of veterans in Cuyahoga County is 5%. This ordinance does the exact opposite of what we are supposedly attending to do. 50% of landlords refuse to rent to people who have misdemeanors. This ordinance would give somebody a misdemeanor. This is doing the wrong thing. It would make it harder for people who are homeless to get a home which is strange because there are also landlords that refuse to rent to people with felonies, but that is only 30%. People who have drug addictions, around 40% of landlords refuse to rent to them, no matter when in their life from 1 year to 30 years. That is here in Cuyahoga County. We should be doing things like making it easier for people to access affordable housing. Landlords are looking for a certain income, they are looking for people to make 20-30% of their income go towards rent. Housing has increased exponentially within the last couple of years and it is not slowing down. Housing includes renting. We need to make it easier for people to obtain housing, not make it harder. This ordinance will make it harder because landlords have said they will not rent to people with misdemeanors. He urges Council to reconsider this ordinance and consider things that will benefit people who are homeless.

**Mr. Jack Salisbury, 19581 Argyle Oval,** has been a resident since 1962 technically. He just caught wind of this half an hour before that there was a meeting on low-speed vehicle golf carts. He has a six-man golf cart in the family and uses it from an environmental standpoint because they are running around town just on 25 mph roads only especially in season during the summertime. It saves bringing a big car around, saves on parking and it is good for him to throw gear in and out of it. If there is further consideration, we are not taking it out on I 90, Lake Road or any place that is 35 mph. If it could stay at 25 mph, he would appreciate that. Thank you.

Mrs. Lisa Havemann, 180 Buckingham Rd., received texts today about the ordinances related to the unhoused and she read the article that was written today because somebody forwarded it to her. She said they have shown that charging the unhoused with a crime does create another obstacle for them because of court fees and Cleveland has a program called “A Home for Every Neighbor”. Maybe the city could somehow tap into their resources and partner with them. The Mayor asked Mrs. Havemann to read the first article that was from the reporter last Friday. She thought it was interesting that Cleveland had this program and thought she would throw it out there in case the city did not know about it.

**PENDING BUSINESS:**

President Pro Tem Hunt placed the following five ordinances on hold until next week’s Legislative Meeting but these items will be discussed at the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, immediately following the Special Meeting.

**ORDINANCE NO. 49-25**

**BY: THOMAS J. HUNT**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER, SECTION 351.03 (a) (2), ENTITLED “PROHIBITED STANDING OR PARKING PLACES”, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT 6A”  
ON HOLD**

**ORDINANCE NO. 50-25**

**BY: THOMAS J. 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-OFWAY, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"  
ON HOLD**

**ORDINANCE NO. 51-25**

**BY: THOMAS J. 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"  
ON HOLD**

**ORDINANCE NO. 52-25**

**BY: THOMAS J. 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 THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"  
ON HOLD**

**ORDINANCE NO. 54-25**

**BY: THOMAS J. 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”  
ON HOLD**

**ORDINANCE NO. 55-25**

**BY: JEANNE GALLAGHER**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO PURCHASE ONE (1) ELGIN PELICAN STREET SWEEPER FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT UNDER A SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING CONTRACT FROM A & H EQUIPMENT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$312,011.20, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"**

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mrs. Gallagher said this will be discussed further at the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting this evening.

Mr. Hunt added that discussion for the items on the Special Meeting Agenda will be held for comment until the following meeting this evening.

**ORDINANCE NO. 56-25**

**BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY-SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE EXISTING UNDERGROUND FUEL TANKS AT THE SERVICE GARAGE WITH COLLINS EQUIPMENT CORPORATION, UNDER THE STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING ACT, AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$56,318.67, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"**

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mr. Sindelar said this will be discussed further at the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting this evening.

**ORDINANCE NO. 58-25**

**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**

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mr. Hunt said this will be discussed further at the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting this evening.

**ORDINANCE NO. 59-25**

**BY: THOMAS J. HUNT**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH PERSPECTUS ARCHITECTURE, FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE FIRE STATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$317,500.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"**

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mr. Hunt said this will be discussed further at the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting this evening.

**ORDINANCE NO. 60-25**

**BY: PAUL SHIPP**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH SMITHGROUP, FOR THE BRADSTREET'S LANDING SPENCER CREEK STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$142,850.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"**

**2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Mr. Shipp said this will be discussed further at the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting this evening.

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

President Pro Tem Hunt adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

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Thomas J. Hunt  
President Pro-Tem of Council

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Susan G. Pease  
Clerk of Council