

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

April 1, 2024

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

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

Absent: Mr. Shipp

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

Law Director: Not in attendance

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Bobst provided information regarding a private tree planting program that is going on in West River Estates and Christenson Estates and encouraged residents of those areas to respond back to the City, as these are free tree plantings for locations in their yard other than the tree lawn. Safety Service Director Snyder indicated he will be sending additional correspondence to residents in those neighborhoods, and the information will be posted on the City's website.
- Mayor Bobst reported about the ODNR gas well capping project happening on Hilliard Boulevard. This is not a project that the City is directly involved with, although the Fire Department has been on the site and in communication with the ODNR and their contractor who is working on the well capping project. There are many wells in the city, several of them have already been capped through the ODNR sponsored orphan well program. The City works with them on various cappings. There was a lot of misinformation disseminated regarding this project, so Mayor Bobst set the record straight regarding some of the details.
 - The work is being performed by a contractor that is working on the project, but the contractor didn't "puncture" anything and it isn't the contractor that is building the apartment adjacent to the parcel. This was ODNR's contractor that is going through a series of wooden plugs installed many, many years ago. They are drilling through those plugs, not puncturing them, to remove them as a course of the project. This is ODNR's contractor doing exactly what they should do.
 - As the ODNR contractor got into the project, they determined it is a very, very large well. Today they were down 800' in depth; they believe that it is somewhere between 2,000 and 2,500' deep. They are making good progress.
 - They were in the shale and now they have reached oil which will be removed and treated. The smell has dissipated, which was accomplished on Thursday afternoon and Friday last week. They have been treating the odor as well.
 - The City has been working with the Hilroc regarding some ventilation issues that needed to be redirected. Fire Chief Lenart assisted them with that issue.
 - To reiterate, nothing was punctured, there are wells all over the City; however, this one is a particularly deep one. The well is being remediated and it will be capped in accordance with ODNR's standards. They are moving quickly and hope to be done by week's end. Hopefully, they will not run into anything additional on that project.
 - The City had been asking ODNR for a press release last week to communicate to residents. The City did not want to speak for the state because it is not our project. Response from ODNR in this regard was very slow, so Mayor Bobst contacted the

Governor's Office and requested assistance in getting press release information to share with our residents regarding the well capping project on Hilliard Boulevard. The City did receive the requested press release and the information is posted on our website. Any additional information provided by the state will be communicated to residents.

- In any event, the odor is unpleasant, but it is not toxic.
- Mayor Bobst thanked members of City Council for attending the Citizens Police Academy graduation last week. Their presence was much appreciated.
- On Thursday this week, the City will be sending additional information to the community regarding the April 8th solar eclipse. Two communications will be sent, one that will have a law enforcement focus and the second will have a general update similar to what was sent a few weeks ago. Auxiliaries, Police and Service Department personnel will be stationed at our parks. We are preparing for an influx of people at our lakefront parks, and we encourage residents to walk or bike to those locations if they plan to gather in the parks. Refuse pickup will be delayed one day next week, as the City crews will not be picking up household refuse on the day of the eclipse, and the Transfer Station will be closed that day. We will also provide some boating safety information. The Police Department Marine Patrol is ready to go and staffed and will be on the water the day of the eclipse.
- Consolidated Dispatch continues to move along with the consultant. We have the Current Conditions report finalized and complete. By mid-April, we will have the first draft of the Operational Plan, which will have information regarding locations, including detailed information about the prioritization of those locations, staffing, funding, needed construction at any of the locations to create a fully consolidated dispatch for the Westshore.
- April is jazz appreciation month and there will be four concerts at the Senior Center. The first one is on April 5.

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Furry indicated the administration was able to clarify the information regarding the liquor license for Toca Rocky River LLC and find no objections. He asked if anyone had any objections with regard to this license. There being none, he instructed that response be sent to the Ohio Division of Liquor Control that Council does not request a hearing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 51-23: Mrs. Gallagher said this amended ordinance is still on hold. At the next City Council meeting a public hearing date will be set.

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 7-24: Mr. O'Boyle said this ordinance is still on hold. It was referred to the Planning Commission and Council is waiting on the approval of those minutes.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-24: Mr. Sindelar said this ordinance has been discussed previously. This agreement allows for collaboration and cost savings for the member communities, but does not impact any city's autonomy. He looks forward to the second and third reads and further discussion.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-24: Mrs. Gallagher said this ordinance authorizes the Cisco phone system licensing for 5 years and upgrading it to the newest operating system. It will enable the City to continue receiving security and updates for the next 5 years. The cost is not to exceed \$87,256.37. She anticipates further discussion at the next meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-24: Mr. Furry indicated Councilman Shipp spoke about the new playground equipment for Tri-City Park. The lowest and best bid is DWA Recreation. The City has worked with this

company previously. This is a multi-jurisdictional purchase for the various cities who will be sharing the cost of it. Rocky River is the sponsoring entity and will collect the funds from the others prior to passage of this ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-24: Mr. Sindelar said this is an ordinance to enter into a contract with RMH Concrete and Foundation for the Wagar Road and Hilliard Boulevard intersection pavement improvement project at a cost not to exceed \$292,460.65. This is the only bid received, even though there was direct invitation to more than 20 contractors. He commends the Director of Safety Service for making the attempt to gather bids. RMH was more than \$22,000 less than the engineer's estimate, including a contingency amount of \$27,000. The City will offset the total cost of the project with a grant provided by Cuyahoga County as part of their county road preventative maintenance reimbursement grant in the amount of \$65,857. He commended the administration on their efforts at seeking out those funds to bring back to the City and go back to work for us. He thanked the administration.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

President Furry said there would not be a meeting held on Monday, April 8, 2024. The next City Council meeting will be a Special followed by a Committee of the Whole held on April 15th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Mary Ellen Umerley
Acting Clerk of Council