

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

February 5, 2024

The Special Meeting of Council 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. Shipp,
Mr. O’Boyle, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Furry

Absent: Mrs. Morris

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. O’Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION:

Moved by Mr. Furry seconded by Mr. Hunt that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting of January 22nd be waived and that the minutes be accepted as submitted.

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

MAYOR’S REPORT:

The Mayor received notification from NOPEC that the City of Rocky River will receive one of their Energizing Communities Grant in the amount of \$57,159.00 which will be added to a balance received in 2023 in the amount of \$53,892.00 totaling about \$111,000.00. These grants are for projects that have an energy efficiency component. The city may use these funds for the Dectron Unit that may need an upgrade and a replacement.

The city submitted six projects to the 2024 County Road Maintenance Reimbursement Program and all six projects were accepted for an approximate total of \$117,000. Thank you to Director Snyder. The County roads included are Hilliard (various locations) with pavement, striping; Wooster to Gasser with asphalt rejuvenation; Wagar intersection that includes pavement resurfacing, full depth repairs and rebuild of some utilities, catch basins and manholes; Spencer/Center Ridge to the line with asphalt rejuvenation; Wagar from Center Ridge Road to Avalon Drive including striping; and crack sealing on Wooster from Westover to Caroline. The County Executive said that they appreciate that the city takes a close look at County roads and maintains them making them willing to partner with us in the amount of \$117,000.00. The Mayor thanked him for submitting these projects and congratulated him on their acceptance.

The Westshore Council of Governments is purchasing an armored vehicle for the Westshore Enforcement Bureau. All the communities in the Westshore Council of Governments including

Lakewood, Rocky River, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Westlake and Bay Village will share in the cost to purchase a BearCat. This is a piece of equipment that is about \$380,000 and Rocky River's portion of that will be approximately \$50,000. The city will be using the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. The current BearCat will not be sold but held onto for redundancy purposes.

Chief Lichman has been reappointed to the Advisory Board of the Certified Law Enforcement Executive Program in the state. Chief Lichman is CLEE certified and received the top award from CLEE at graduation and served on the Board for a short time and then appointed to a three-year term and is now being appointed to a second three-year term. A huge congratulations to Chief Lichman. The Mayor talks about how the city's Directors serve the Rocky River Community but they also serve their professions and are "Leaders Among Leaders". Thank you to Chief Lichman for participating at that level and representing Law Enforcement and our community so well.

The city took delivery of the three new Explorers for the Police Department. Thank you to Council for understanding the importance of these vehicles. They are not outfitted yet but have been delivered.

Director Snyder has been asked to serve as a panelist on the Community Conservation Panel of the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District. There will be a meeting in a couple of weeks and Director Snyder has been selected to serve on the panel which is a very significant honor. The panelists are individuals who are leading in the charge of adopting and elevating conservation practices in their communities. The Mayor is thrilled that Director Snyder has been chosen as one of the panelists. That is how highly he is thought of throughout the county.

The Mayor said that this is water leak season due to low and high temperatures. There have been several in the community and throughout the region. The water leaks are the responsibility of Cleveland Water, although the city is there to help in every way they can. The most important thing residents can do is to let the city know when there is a water leak, especially when it is flowing in the street or bubbling up on the street. The city will then notify Cleveland Water to put it on their list.

The Mayor discussed the Fire Department stats:

- For 2023 there were 3,799 calls. The call volume increased by 217 calls or 6% over 2022 and a 759-run increase from 2021. 2020 and 2021 we were still in COVID. That ends up with 2023 being the busiest year on record.
- The breakdown is about 75% EMS and 25% fire. Nationally, that split is generally about 80% to 20%. The city is running a few more fire calls this year. In terms of fire calls, there were 934 responses, an increase of 73 responses over 2022. 16 of the calls were building fires, 12 of those occurred in Rocky River the others were mutual aid which is a decrease of 5 fires over 2022. A breakdown of the fires includes 5-cooking related, 1 chimney, 6 vehicle, a couple of brush fires, an outside rubbish fire, 2 special outside fires, 1 outside equipment fire and the remainder of the calls were fire systems that were activated, carbon monoxide investigations, lock outs, gas leaks and forty other categories.
- In terms of EMS there were 2,693 responses, a decrease of 28 over 2022, responded to several incidences including heart attacks, strokes, diabetic emergencies, alter level of consciousness, mental illness being significant and many other issues.
- There were 122 motor vehicle accidents resulting in 57 injuries.
- Mutual Aid calls tend to balance out. All this information will be included in the annual report.

Police received five new AEDs. All police vehicles have AEDs in them along with the Marine Patrol and the building is outfitted. The five new AEDs were through an ARPA Grant through the County. A big thank you to our County Councilman and County Executive for these.

Martin Park's playground equipment will be demolished this week with the new equipment being installed in the spring as weather permits.

Director Snyder met with residents in Christiansen Estates and will be meeting with residents from West River Estates regarding grants to plant trees on private property, a unique grant and part of the Urban Tree Canopy Program and the County's Program. They are very supportive of Director Snyder's efforts. He's been meeting to discuss the program so when a request is sent for tree plantings, residents are already interested in that endeavor.

February 16th will be the Family Valentine's Dance. There are already over 100 attendees but everyone is invited.

The Mayor congratulated Sophie Sindelar, the 2023 Female High School Athlete of the Year!

- Mrs. Gallagher asked how residents request a tree. Mr. Snyder said that when he secured this grant, it was specifically for Christiansen and West River Estates. Residents will receive a letter in the mail stating that the city's arborists have designated their front yard as being able to accommodate a tree. They will be able to choose from eight different species and contact the city giving the approval to be enrolled in that program. A letter is going out this week to residents in that area with a second letter going to the properties that can accommodate a tree. The Mayor added that this is through the tree inventory that Director Snyder did identifying both on public and private land.
- Mr. O'Boyle asked where the Valentine's Day Dance is and the Mayor responded at the Recreation Center.
- Mr. Furry asked how long it will take to receive the BearCat. The Mayor said at least a year or more.
- Mr. Sindelar asked where the BearCat would be stored. The Mayor said it rotates but the current one is in Westlake, but Rocky River can accommodate it too. They operate out of Bay Village.

LAW DEPARTMENT: NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 8-24

BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER AND ADS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$380,875.00
1st READING

Mr. Furry explained that this is for the Strength and Flow Study that is done basically every four years. It is in the budget and sets who pays for what. The reason this is on the Special Agenda is so monitors can be installed by April for good data. There were three bids received and Hazen and Sawyer critiqued all of them and recommended ADS Environmental Services, Inc. There is some supplemental money for optional/additional monitoring by respective cities that the respective cities will pay for. Councilwoman Morris will elaborate more on this at next week's meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 9-24 **BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS**
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR SYSTEMS GROUP TECHNOLOGY, LLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$175,000.00, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"
1st READING

Mr. Furry stated that this is replacing hardware and software that helps run the plant. Councilwoman Morris will elaborate more on this at next week's meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 13-24 **BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS**
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICE TO PURCHASE ELECTRICAL SERVICES AS NEEDED FROM HERBST ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR THE ROCKY RIVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$115,000.00 AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"
1st READING

Mr. Furry stated that this is literally an emergency ordinance as last week one of the transformers blew out. The WWTP was able to obtain a quote and normally it would take about six months to secure, but there is one that they can get within 30 days. With the EPA Permit, the Ohio and Feds, WWTP needs secondary backup power sources. The quote is for \$107,862 from Herbst Electric Company but Superintendent Barille added more funds in case of the need for generators in the next thirty days to secure power at the plant. Mr. Furry sent an email to Council that he would ask for a rule suspension. Director Snyder said the city does not utilize emergency situations with a rule suspension unless it is imperative at the moment.

Mr. Furry moved to suspend rules for Ordinance No. 13-24, seconded by Mrs. Gallagher.

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

Mr. Furry moved for passage of Ordinance 13-24, seconded by Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Gallagher.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye
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O'Boyle – aye
6 ayes

Sindelar – aye

Furry - aye
0 nays

PASSED

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

Mr. Furry adjourned the Special Meeting at 7:26 p.m., seconded by Mr. Sindelar.

Vote: Hunt – aye

Gallagher – aye

Shipp – aye

O'Boyle – aye

Sindelar – aye

Furry - aye

6 ayes

0 nays

PASSED

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council