

## CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

November 6, 2023

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

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mr. Shepherd, Mrs. Gallagher, Mr. Furry,  
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Moran

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

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Mayor announced that Bradstreet's Landing opened this weekend. Residents, visitors and guests enjoyed it this weekend. The restroom building will be built in 2024. A big thank you to Director Rich Snyder for a job well done.

The Mayor noted that Council received their copy of the 2024 Budget Books this evening along with the legislation that corresponds with the budget books. Council President will speak this evening regarding the order of business in considering the 2024 Budget. There was a lot of good work by each of the Directors and Director Thomas who put it all together along with feedback. The Mayor had the opportunity to meet with all the Directors in July to do mid-year budget reviews; in September drafting their budgets; and in October the Mayor meets with all the Directors to understand what is included and what their needs are. The Directors are looking forward to meeting with City Council to share some of their new requests and things that will continue in their budgets.

The Mayor shared some good news relating to the budget as it provides additional resources. This morning Director Snyder shared with the Mayor how much money was saved by projects coming under budget. These projects include Parklane, Hilliard, Center Ridge, Safety Town, Tri-City Park, Oak and Culver, Rocky River Park Overlook, Bradstreet's Landing, Beachcliff TLCI and Morewood that were completed this year and came in under budget. The approximate savings is \$1.28 million. With these savings, the city will pave more streets, work on sewers and do a number of other projects with the savings rolling over into the very aggressive capital projects.

The city received a formal communication from Congressman Miller's office. Director Snyder had applied for a Congressional Distribution for a high priority project for Rockcliff totaling \$1 million. This was passed by the House of Representatives and will go over to the Senate. The Mayor also mentioned that the Cities of Bay Village and Fairview Park are also set to receive Congressional Distributions which is meaningful because it will impact the WasteWater Treatment Plant and the collection systems of all three cities.

The Mayor asked Director Snyder to explain a new road treatment with titanium dioxide that will extend life of pavement and do some other things. This is a project on Wooster Road from Hilliard Blvd. to Detroit Road and will be paid for by Cuyahoga County Preventative Maintenance Program.

Mr. Snyder said the great thing is this 100% free thanks to the Cuyahoga County Preventative Maintenance Program for their streets. Wagar, Wooster, Spencer, Story and Hilliard are County streets. Every year the County does a preventative maintenance program so Director Snyder looks at different ways to extend the life or rehab the streets. A couple of years ago, Director Snyder implemented a program for a product called reclamite, a pavement rejuvenation that extends the life of asphalt by adding binding agents to the asphalt surface to help shed water and protect the life of the asphalt which gains 5-8 years in the life of asphalt. Mr. Snyder was approached by Pavement Technology last year regarding a new project/treatment called titanium dioxide. It is somewhat like sunscreen for the roads and serves a few different purposes. It is not something that should be used everywhere. The key component to this is it actually pulls volatile organic compounds and nitric oxide from the air, binds it with the surface and then oxidizes it and releases . It pulls the bad stuff out of the air where there is a lot of vehicle traffic, breaks it down and releases it into a non-greenhouse gas. It also increases the solar reflectivity of the street so there is less heat island affect. A typical asphalt road is heated in the afternoon sun and this product increases the reflectivity of the surface bouncing the sunlight off, cooling it down. It extends the life of the asphalt and helps reduce heat island affect which is a small, localized area where the temperature is higher than surrounding areas may be due to reduced urban canopy. When looking to see what streets to apply this product, he is looking at more of the major thorough fares such as Wooster Road or a street that does not have as much urban canopy. The reason this will not be used on all the streets is it is twice the cost of reclamite which is \$1.05 per square yard compared to \$2.05 for this new product. Next year Director Snyder plans on applying for this funding for Hilliard between Gasser and Wooster which was just resurfaced along with Spencer Road. This should be applied up to three years after the paving has taken place. When the binding agent is added, it helps shed off moisture. Streets dry faster with less likelihood of ice. The city used to invest a lot of money in crack sealing, but he sees this somewhat taking the place of most of the crack sealing. The only thing to do would be gutter sealing. The city is saving roughly \$40,000 on Wooster Road. This has many benefits environmentally, for maintenance and extends the longevity. The first reclamite treatment was on Middlepost three years ago and he is using Middlepost as a test.

- Mr. Shepherd asked Director Snyder about the longevity of the pollution capture and other beneficial aspects. Mr. Snyder is not sure there is enough research on it to know how long the pollution capture lasts. He will ask Pavement Technology if they recommend a retreatment after a period of time.
- Mrs. Morris asked if both products could be used together. Mr. Snyder said it is one or the other.
- Mr. Moran asked if there would be a time that both products are used in different sections of the same street. Director Snyder said he will ask Pavement Technology.

The Mayor discussed the officer involved shooting in North Olmsted over the weekend in the early morning hours of Saturday. A North Olmsted police officer was shot and the primary suspect was shot. The suspect has passed away. Rocky River officers were called out and two of Rocky River's officers apprehended the second suspect with no shots fired and no one was hurt during this altercation. The Mayor said that she cannot underscore enough how important the mutual aid protocols are with our neighbors, whether it is fire, EMS or police. They had a busy weekend with the Friday night football game and the issues surrounding that and then the shooting early Saturday morning. The City of North Olmsted was very pleased at Rocky River's efforts.

The Mayor announced the Building Department Statistics through the end of October:

- Residential permits were down 63 permits from this time last year. The total valuation investment is \$28.8 million which is down about \$2.5 million from last year.
- Commercial permits are up from 147 last year to 226 this year. The total valuation investment of \$66,510,000 as compared to the same time last year of \$9.8 million. The city is about equal with all permits, but the total valuation is almost \$95,500,000 of added valuation. The Mayor has never reported a number like this. It is up \$40,994,000 from this time last year. This does not include anything on Ingersol or Detroit Road.

The Mayor announced that Chase Bank is open on Center Ridge Road and Radiant Bride on Detroit Road is open. The beautiful Radiant Bride building changes the whole feel of Detroit Road in that section.

The Mayor is happy to announce that while the residents will miss Flip Side, there is a new restaurant opening called “Parkers Old School Pizza and Wings” at the end of this year.

The Senior Center entertained more than 1,800 attendees to the Quilt and Craft Show, along with a bake sale and entertainment this weekend. The Mayor said Alex Bevin played and it was a packed house. The entertainment was paid for by an arts grant that comes through the Musicians Union. It was a great event.

This Wednesday the Mayor and Mrs. Morris will be meeting with S.A.F.E. joined by officials from Cleveland Hopkins Airport to discuss noise, infrastructure projects and some of their Strategic Planning.

After the S.A.F.E. meeting, the Mayor will meet with the consultant who is developing the operational plan for the Dispatch Consolidation of Fire, Police and EMS. Both the Police and Fire Chief are already working on the documentation needed. The consultant will be back later in the month, November 30<sup>th</sup>, to start to understand the dispatch functions at WestCom and here at the Police Station. It is moving along very well.

On Friday, City Hall will be closed in observance of Veteran’s Day. The Mayor thanked the veterans for giving so much to our Country and many, if not all, contribute to this community and continue to contribute to our country. Many of the city’s employees have served in the military and continue to provide service. A huge thank you to the Veterans as we acknowledge Veteran’s Day later this week.

- Mr. Furry thanked Director Snyder for the informative post on Bradstreet’s Landing. It is magnificent.
- The Mayor added that when the city is doing a project, the engineering for a project happens two years or more in advance in the background. In this case, there were no inspection records on the pier, which was then added to the scope for the consultant, SmithGroup, JJR, very well known around the Great Lakes. The divers went in and came back up quickly and said the pier needed to be shut down right away. There were a lot of structural issues with alarming photographs. Immediately engineering started at that point, followed by COVID, followed by issues with contractors. The Mayor thanked Director Snyder for all the details in his post. The Mayor hopes today that Bradstreet’s Landing is an immense source of pride for the entire community and region. There are plans for additional parking, if needed. The Mayor extends a huge thank you to the residents who have been immensely patient. It has been frustrating for them and very frustrating for the administration as well.
- Mr. Snyder thanked Council and the residents for their patience. When he posted last Friday, he felt it was important to get the information out there. In a way it is very easy to look at a pier

and say this was closed for six years. Many people made that statement without understanding facts that went into the process. The city did not have a permit to do anything on that project until September 30, 2020. At that point, the city had been working, issued and awarded a contract to begin in October in 2020. Thank you for all the support from City Council on this project.

- Mr. Moran said this is not only a Rocky River gem but is something more than even residents of the county utilize. Mr. Moran received a phone call from a friend that lives in Fairview Park and he was excited to see the pier open and was impressed. There are a lot of people who will utilize this park. It is going to be busy and feels that the administration should think about parking now.
- Mr. Snyder said the great thing about the design and implementation of the project is that it allows room for growth and the city can look and feel where everything should go.
- The Mayor said this is a park for multiple uses and the uses coexist at the same time from fishermen, paddleboarders, kayakers, beach glass hunters, photographers, birders and historians and all these things happen in this beautiful space. It was built to honor all of that. When the project started there were a lot of comments regarding too much asphalt, concern about storm water management which was addressed, and too much parking. It will be used and the city needs to let it settle in to see what needs to be done.
- Director Snyder said the sculpture at the pier is to educate people regarding recycling and awareness of plastics in the Great Lakes. There will be a day in the spring that the sculpture will be filled with clean plastic bottles to demonstrate the problem with plastics in the water of Lake Erie. The sculpture was made by a local artist and there is still a tail that is coming. Part of the cost of the sculpture was paid for by a grant.
- Mr. Shepherd said it is tremendous and pointed out that Director Snyder inherited this project. He was with this project for the entire Phase II which was just completed. Phase II had to be put out to bid four times during COVID, but once it was bid it came in on time and under budget. Thank you, Rich. Mr. Snyder said the official completion date for Phase II is May 2024.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Finance Committee:** Mr. Moran distributed an outline for reviewing the 2024 Budget. Step 1: November 6<sup>th</sup> - Books received, thank you to the Mayor and Director Thomas for your preparation for our review. This process is being done with the opportunity to complete this task before the start of the 2024 spending begins. When Mr. Moran and Mr. Hunt first came to Council, this was a process done during March and April of the budget year. Since Mayor Bobst has taken over, this is completed before the start of the new year.

Council's responsibility is as follows:

- Finance – Councilman Moran with Director Thomas
- Fire and Police - Councilman Hunt with Chief Lichman and Chief Lenart
- Service Department - Councilman Shepherd with Director Snyder
- Recreation Department - Councilman Furry with Director Holub
- Environmental - Councilwoman Morris with Superintendent Barille
- Senior Center - Councilwoman Gallagher with Director Huff
- Courts - Councilman Sindelar with Judges Hagan/Fitzsimmons and Clerk Comery

Step 2: Arrange for a personal meeting with your director over the next couple of weeks while

reviewing the outline.

Step 3: Complete the outline and send to Council to be ready for the review with your director.

Next meetings:

- November 13<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Read
- November 20<sup>th</sup> - Review
- November 27<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Read
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> – 8:00 a.m. -12:00 Noon - Reviews with Council and Directors
- December 4<sup>th</sup> – Last review and meet with any Director unable to make it on December 1<sup>st</sup>
- December 11<sup>th</sup> - Public Hearing - Possible 3<sup>rd</sup> Read of the 2024 Budget

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL:** Mrs. Gallagher has been fielding phone calls, emails and met with residents regarding blighted rental properties. Mrs. Gallagher reviewed the Master Plan and Goal 6 discusses incentivizing the beautification and rehabilitation of residential properties. Mrs. Gallagher has been in touch with the Building Department and has received good communication from them and she is planning on meeting with Commissioner Reich, John Peters and Aaron Hare to discuss items that can be changed or addressed as far as properties not being kept up and neighbors not being happy with that, trailers parking in driveways, etc. She has encouraged the residents to reach out to all of Council and the Administration.

- The Mayor said that in the budget, John Peters is retiring and is part time in property maintenance and rental. There is a proposal to make that a full-time position. The Mayor said it takes far too long to get people to do what is needed. There are a variety of reasons why owners cannot get to these issues. Mr. Hunt spoke with Mrs. Gallagher and he pulled legislation for habitual offenders. The Mayor said the Building Commissioner would welcome that as well.

Mr. Moran had a training session this evening on the new AED at Tri-City Park with Chief Lenart along with staff from the Cleveland Clinic. The new AED is on the side of the restroom building. The training session showed how the AED works along with CPR training. There may be AEDs added at Elmwood and Linden Parks. The training went well and Mr. Moran would like to have more people utilize this training.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 51-23:** Mrs. Gallagher said this ordinance is to change the zoning classification of certain real properties is on hold.

**AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 80-23:** Mrs. Gallagher stated that this is amending various sections of the Codified Ordinance Chapter 1163 and has been referred to Planning. There will be a Public Meeting in December for this ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. 81-23:** Mrs. Gallagher said this has been referred to Planning and they will have a Public Hearing on November 14<sup>th</sup> for the Jan Dell property.

**RESOLUTION NO. 82-23:** Mrs. Gallagher said that this resolution supports the placement of a proposed shore structure. ODNR Division of Real Estate and Management requires the city to pass this resolution. This will be read for a third time next week.

**ORDINANCE NO. 83-23:** Mrs. Morris said this is to authorize the city to enter a contract with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for illicit discharge detection and monitoring for 2024 and 2025 not to

exceed \$2,685 per year. Last year, they detected 24 outfall locations with dry weather flow and 10 outfalls had sample results that exceeded the minimum which is the threshold for action of 1,030 E. coli bacteria per MPN (most probable number). With the inspection, the source will be detected.

**ORDINANCE NO. 84-23:** Mr. Sindelar said this is for the purchase of an Avant compact loader potentially replacing a 1992 bombardier. The biggest thing is this equipment will assist with snow removal of the sidewalks and the city will not need to outsource. There is a current showroom model available for purchased this year. If the city waits until next year, the cost will increase \$10,000. This will be versatile with use on the pier with attachments for cleaning, a blade for picking up and sweeping away snow and very maneuverable. This will have two more reads.

**ORDINANCE NO. 85-23:** Mr. Sindelar said this is to enter a contract with G & B Electric Company for a fire detection system for the Service Garage. Council discussed concerns about not using the lowest bid, but this price is the lowest of the all-encompassing work needing to be done.

**ORDINANCE NO. 86-23:** Mr. Furry stated that Ordinance 86-23 is an ordinance amending the codified ordinances of the city of Rocky River specifically 951.01 entitled “Fees” pertaining to the municipal swimming pool. The recreation department has established the need to continue a bi-annual increase in outdoor pool fees. The rate increases are basically around 10% for all membership categories and a flat \$1.00-\$2.00 increase on daily admissions. The 10% is a little higher than previous increases but was precipitated by higher wages for lifeguards, supplies and chemicals. The recreation department also tweaked the family max cost which was formerly 6 plus to now 5 plus max. They also changed the pricing for large private parties from a flat rate to the daily admission rate. Director Holub feels that although questions will arise about the new rates, he does not foresee any attrition of people renewing their memberships. Mr. Furry is expecting three full reads.

**ORDINANCE NO. 87-23:** Mr. Furry stated Ordinance 87-23 is an ordinance amending the codified ordinances of the city of Rocky River specifically 954.01 entitled fees pertaining to the Civic Center Recreation Facilities. This is for an increase effective 1/1/24 for all admission and membership rates and is a rounded 10% for all membership categories and a flat \$2.00 increase on daily rates. The outdoor pool increase is also due to higher staff wages, chemicals, utilities, supplies, etc., like the outdoor pool, the revised family max is for a family of 5 as opposed to a family of 6. These rates were last increased three years ago effective January 1, 2021. The attached fee structure was submitted, reviewed and approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission on Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This will have three full reads.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**ORDINANCE NO 88-23:** Mrs. Morris said this is to renew for one year the agreement with Ruple Trucking for the removal of digested sludge cake for the winter season at \$56.99 per ton, which is the same price as last year.

**ORDINANCE NO. 89-23:** This is for the renewal of the agreement with James Diaz Farm for the removal of digested sludge cake for the summer season at \$46.00 per ton, which is the same price as last year.

**ORDINANCE NO. 90-23:** This is for the renewal for one year with PVS Technologies for the purchase and supply of Ferric Chloride for the WWTP at a cost of \$11.73 per dry ton. This is the same price as last year.

**ORDINANCE NO. 91-23:** This is for the renewal for one year with PVS Chemical Solutions for the purchase and supply of Sodium Bisulfite for the WWTP at \$1.87 per gallon. This is the same price as last

year. The one item not being renewed is Sodium Hypochlorite as this is the second year of the two-year contract.

**ORDINANCE NO. 92-23:** Mr. Moran said this is to amend Chapter 171 of the Municipal Income Tax Sections 171.2803, 2805 and 2828 and 2827. This is to align the City's income tax code with certain municipal income tax provisions passed as part of the State of Ohio budget bill (House Bill 33). The Mayor added that this is being reviewed by R.I.T.A.

**ORDINANCE NO. 93-23:** Mr. Moran said this to make the supplemental appropriations for the current expenses for this year's budget and to amend amended ordinances 77-22, 17-23, 54-23 and 77-23 to spend an additional \$125,000 to cover electricity and other expenses for the remainder of this fiscal year. Mr. Snyder added that there were increases in the generation costs for the streetlights that were not on the same plan as the other accounts, making total costs higher than planned. This was throughout the year and this ordinance will cover the expenses for the remainder of the year. Mr. Snyder evaluated the different accounts and has reduced the generation cost by half and locked it in at a lower rate through 2026.

**ORDINANCE NO. 94-23:** Mr. Furry said that this is to purchase playground equipment for Martin's Park at a cost not to exceed \$125,000. Three bids were received and although Snider was not the lowest, they were the best as vetted by the Parks and Recreation Commission and Foundation as well Rec Department staff. One bidder, DWA was \$4.37 less but the equipment was limited to older users and the play value was subpar for what they wanted to accomplish at Martin Park. DWA did the Rocky River Park playground a few years ago. Another bidder at a low under \$9900, less than Snider but had limited equipment included in the bid and when the ad on equipment was added, it exceeded the budgeted amount. Snider has no relation to Director Snyder and did Morley Park. There are no unresolved findings in the Auditor's Database and this will have three full reads.

**ORDINANCE NO. 95-23:** Mr. Moran said this is to make appropriations for the current expenses of the City of Rocky River during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. Councilmen Moran, Furry, Hunt and Shepherd are members of the Finance Committee, but all of Council are members of the Finance Committee. It is all of Council's responsibility to review the proposed budget. This will have a full three reads.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:** Mr. Sindelar said the Rocky River High School Girl's Soccer Team will play Bay Village at 7:00 p.m. at the Mark Wahlberg Stadium in Avon tomorrow evening. The winner of this game goes to the State Final in Columbus, Friday at 1:00 p.m. at the Crew Historic Stadium.

The Rocky River High School Football Team had a great year but their season came to an end last Friday evening.

Mr. Hunt wished President Moran a happy birthday this Friday. President Moran wished Director Thomas a happy birthday yesterday.

The next meeting will be November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and Council will stand adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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James W. Moran  
President of Council

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Susan G. Pease  
Clerk of Council