

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

January 8, 2024

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

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

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

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICER THOMAS SCHNEID

President Pro Tem Hunt asked Police Chief Lichman to come forward to do the honors along with Mayor Bobst. Chief Lichman thanked everyone for coming. The Police Department works hard to find good candidates to become Police Officers. The Chief has found one that he is ready to swear in tonight. Thomas Schneid is coming to the city directly out of the air force after serving in the security forces for several years. He has a bachelor's degree in law enforcement and currently lives in Avon. Mr. Schneid will be sworn in tonight and be with the department until he heads to Columbus to attend the Ohio State Patrol Basic Police Officer Training Academy. Mr. Schneid will be back in Rocky River sometime in late June or early July.

Chief Lichman also introduced Officer Tyler Shirkey who was sworn in two weeks ago and began field training today after a two-week orientation. Thanks also to all the members of the department who are here this evening in support of Mr. Schneid.

The Mayor then administered the Oath of Office to Police Officer Thomas Schneid. The Mayor said the city is very fortunate to have an individual who has served our country and wants to continue to serve this community.

Officer Schneid said he is very grateful to be working for such a great city. He has had tremendous support from the department, family members and his wife. Officer Schneid introduced his family present this evening: Officer Schneid's uncle, sister, mom and dad who is a Lieutenant for the Westlake Fire Department and his beautiful wife who is in active duty with the air force and still serving, along with his friend who is a Euclid police officer.

Officer Schneid's father pinned his badge on. Officer Schneid's mom announced it was his birthday today and everyone sang Happy Birthday to Officer Schneid.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. Hunt said that the leadership roles for City Council will need to be established. Mr. Hunt called for nominations for President of Council. Mr. Sindelar nominated Councilman David Furry as President of Council for the next two years. Mr. Hunt seconded the nomination.

Mr. Hunt asked for any other nominations. Councilman O'Boyle would like to nominate someone who he thinks is a very devoted candidate, someone who has worked very hard her entire life, and someone who has great devotion to her constituents, Mrs. Christina Morris for President of Council, seconded by Mrs. Gallagher.

Mr. Hunt took a vote on the nomination for Mr. Furry.

Vote:	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – aye	O’Boyle – nay	Morris – aye
	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	Hunt – aye	
	6 – ayes	1 – nay		PASSED

Mr. Hunt took a vote on the nomination for Mrs. Morris.

Vote:	Gallagher – nay	Shipp – nay	O’Boyle – aye	Morris – nay
	Sindelar – nay	Furry – nay	Hunt – nay	
	1 – aye	6 – nay		FAILED

Mr. Furry accepted and was congratulated by President Pro-Tem Hunt.

President Pro-Tem Hunt then called for nominations for President Pro-Tem of Council. Mr. Sindelar nominated Mr. Thomas Hunt as President Pro-Tem of Council for the next two years. Mr. Furry seconded the nomination. Mr. Hunt accepted and as there were no further nominations, the vote was taken.

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

President Pro-Tem Hunt turned the meeting over to President Elect Mr. Furry.

MOTION:

Moved by President Furry seconded by Mr. Hunt that the reading of the minutes of the Public Hearing, Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting and the Special Meeting of December 18th be waived and that the minutes be accepted as submitted.

Vote:	Hunt – aye	Gallagher – aye	Shipp – abstain	O’Boyle – abstain
	Morris – aye	Sindelar – aye	Furry – aye	
	5 – ayes	2 – abstain	0 – nay	PASSED

MAYOR’S REPORT:

The Mayor announced that Mrs. Sue Butler, a former Council member, passed away on Christmas Day. Mrs. Butler was a Councilwoman-at-Large for several years, served on the Board of Education, the Rocky River Public Library Board of Trustees and the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. The Mayor was fortunate to serve with Mrs. Butler in her first couple of terms on City Council. Mrs. Butler was very dedicated to the city and became an employee of the city to run several special programs for the community through the Recreation Department. Her Memorial Service will be held on March 22nd at Rocky River United Methodist Church where she was a very active member.

The Mayor introduced Kathryn Kerber who the Mayor already shared a Notice of Employment with Council. Ms. Kerber is the city’s new Director of Planning and Community Development. She is highly skilled and highly credentialed. Additionally, she has a law degree and speaks fluent German. Kathryn most recently worked for the City of Bay Village. She is a tremendous grant writer and every year is highly successful in securing outside dollars for the City of Bay Village. She will be working with Director Snyder and others on grantsmanship and community development with the Chamber of Commerce. Please give a warm welcome to the city’s newest Director. The Mayor said the city is thrilled to have her and all her expertise to work with all of us. Ms. Kerber said she looks forward to getting to know all of us and getting to know city government officers better and looks forward to working with the residents and the businesses to make Rocky River an even greater place to live and work.

The Mayor announced that the city received a \$5,000 grant from the Giant Eagle Corporation for Senior Transportation. They have been funding this level of support for about 16 years. The Mayor extends the city's thanks to them. Senior Transportation is one of the things that make the City of Rocky River a distinctive community and one that has a high level of services especially for the seniors. Thank you again for your support.

The Mayor also received formal notification from NOACA, the metropolitan planning organization, which stands for Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency. They are the transportation organization for the 5-county area region. The city submits several highly competitive grant applications and Director Snyder is happy to have the Mayor report that the Center Ridge Project received \$450,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant dollars for signalization. This is the quadfecta of outside funding projects. Thank you to Director Snyder for his work on this grant.

The Mayor stated that Saturday was a wonderful day - Councilwoman Gallagher was at the library as was the Mayor to cut the ribbon and dedicate the new mural for the Children's Library at the Rocky River Public Library. It is the most amazing mural. The Mayor has never seen anything like it. This young man, who attended Lutheran West High School and lives in Lakewood spent about six weeks in the MetroParks thinking about what this mural should look like. The mural gives a wonderful nod and respect to the MetroParks, to children with some whimsy in it and the Detroit Road bridge. A big thank you to the library staff, especially Jessica Breslin, the new Executive Director of the Library who made sure this project came to fruition.

The Mayor announced that the MetroParks Deer culling will commence on January 16, 2024 and run through March 14, 2024 from noon until 6:00 a.m. the following morning. This will be in the Rocky River Reservation. Safety is the number one goal of the Natural Resources Management Team and have highly skilled and trained marksmen. The police department will be notified and notification will be posted along with the abutting residents receiving notice well in advance. There should not be a direct disturbance. Information will be sent to all the residents that are directly impacted. If there are any questions, please contact the MetroParks or the Rocky River Reservation and Nature Center.

The Mayor thanked a resident who wanted to thank the Service Department for all their good work and made a very generous donation to the Rocky River Assistance Program. The Mayor said that during the holidays, there is so much generosity extended to so many in the community. The Mayor thanked all the residents for all the donations that happen throughout the community whether it is the Senior Center, the Assistance Program or to the churches.

The Mayor, the Law Director along with their assistant Mary Ellen Umerley will be working on expanding the way of public meeting notices, specifically rezoning meetings, public hearings and also updates or revisions to the Development Code as is currently before Council. They will be working on that to utilize the communications platform in the city to alert residents. These are two salient matters that residents need to be aware of.

On behalf of the City of Rocky River, the City of Lakewood, the MetroParks and the Cleveland Yacht Club, the Mayor submitted an application to the Water Resources Development Act Grant Program. It is submitted to the Federal Government through Congressional Representatives for the dredging of the Rocky River. The Army Corps of Engineers has been in the area and discovered a lot of debris that has settled in the basin itself as well as the mouth of the Rocky River. Normally there is 6-8 feet of clearance but currently there is only 1-2 feet in many locations. The Army Corps of Engineers cannot apply for this grant, but the city can apply for it with their data. This was submitted last Thursday. The Mayor appreciates all the letters of support and looks forward to the funding. The city has received four responses that were very favorable to move that project forward.

- Mr. Sindelar asked when the dredging would begin, if approved. The Mayor said there is a potential that it could be in early summer.

LAW DEPARTMENT: Mr. O’Shea requested an Executive Session immediately following this Legislative Meeting to discuss Article X, Section VI, Subsection III for conferences with an attorney concerning disputes pending or eminent court action.

MOTION:

President Furry moved for an Executive Session immediately following the Legislative Meeting to discuss Article X, Section VI, Subsection III, seconded by Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Morris.

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

Mr. Furry thanked his fellow Council members for entrusting him to serve as Council President. It is an honor and a privilege. Mr. Furry said he has some big shoes to fill following President Moran’s leadership over the past 16 years. President Furry also welcomed Councilmen Shipp and O’Boyle to Council and asked that all the incumbents help them as all of us had a learning curve when elected to serve. One of President Furry’s initiatives is to set up a social media page for City Council as a one way form of communication by posting agendas and grants similar to the \$5,000 grant, similar to the \$35,000 ODNR grant and similar to the \$450,000 NOACA grant, so the community can see some of the good things City Council and the administration are doing.

President Furry then presented the Standing Committees for 2024:

Mr. Furry thanked Mrs. Gallagher for her past service to Planning, Zoning and Economic Development and would like her to get the two pending ordinances across the finish line but then chair Buildings, Equipment & Technology for 2024.

Buildings, Equipment & Technology

Jeanne Gallagher-Chair
Christina Morris
David W. Furry
Paul Shipp

Mr. Furry thanked Councilman Sindelar for his service to Buildings, Equipment & Technology and asks that he Chair Contracts-Government and Judicial formerly chaired by Councilman Shepherd. Mr. Sindelar’s background and past experiences as an attorney will help with this committee.

Contracts-Government and Judicial

Brian Sindelar-Chair
Thomas Hunt
Jeanne Gallagher
Christina Morris

Mr. Furry said to Councilwoman Morris that her passion for the environment was evident this past term, of course not to overshadow the previous chair, but he would like her to continue her stewardship.

Environmental

Christina Morris-Chair
Michael O’Boyle
David W. Furry
Jeanne Gallagher

Mr. Furry will serve as Chair of Finance.

Finance

David W. Furry-Chair
Thomas Hunt
Brian Sindelar
Paul Shipp

Mr. Furry welcomed and congratulated newly elected Councilman Shipp to Chair Parks, Recreation & Health. Mr. Furry believes the Mayor may need to swear Mr. Shipp in as part of the Parks and Rec Commission.

Parks, Recreation & Health

Paul Shipp-Chair
Michael O’Boyle
Thomas Hunt
Brian Sindelar

Mr. Furry welcomed and congratulated newly elected Councilman O’Boyle to chair Planning, Zoning & Economic Development. Mr. Furry did request former Chair Gallagher to finish what she has currently on the agenda.

Planning, Zoning & Economic Development

Michael O’Boyle-Chair
Christina Morris
Jeanne Gallagher
Brian Sindelar

Mr. Furry said Councilman Hunt will continue his leadership as Chair of Safety.

Safety

Thomas Hunt-Chair
David W. Furry
Paul Shipp
Michael O’Boyle

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: Mr. Furry said that all Council should have received the 2023 Financial Disclosure Statement via email about a week ago. Council needs to fill this out, however it is not due until May 15th, 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 51-23 **BY: JEANNE GALLAGHER**
CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTIES KNOWN AS AUDITOR’S PERMANENT
PARCEL NOS. 301-17-082, 301-17-083, 301-15-048, AND 301-17-084, FROM THEIR PRESENT
CLASSIFICATION OF SM-SERVICE MANUFACTURING TO OB-2-OFFICE, AS FURTHER
DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”
ON HOLD

Mrs. Gallagher said this ordinance is to change the zoning classification of certain real properties from Service Manufacturing to OB Office and is currently on hold.

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 80-23 **BY: JEANNE GALLAGHER**
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF ROCKY RIVER CODIFIED ORDINANCES
CHAPTER 1163 ENTITLED “OFFICE BUILDING DISTRICT REGULATIONS”, AS FURTHER
DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT “A”
REFERRED TO PLANNING

Mrs. Gallagher stated that this amending ordinance is amending various sections of the Rocky River Codified Ordinance Chapter 1163.09 entitled Office Building District Regulations. This has been discussed and Mrs. Gallagher attended the Planning Commission Meeting on December 19th where a Public Hearing date was set for Thursday, January 18th at 6:00 p.m. This is a Public Hearing for everyone to be involved in the changing of this specific code Chapter 1163.09. Mrs. Gallagher was told by the Planning and Zoning Coordinator that this meeting date was published in the WestLife the week of January 3, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 1-24 **BY: THOMAS J. HUNT**
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY-SERVICE
TO PURCHASE THREE (3) FORD EXPLORER INTERCEPTORS FROM MONTROSE FORD FOR
THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$136,086.39, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED
IN EXHIBIT “A”
1st READING

Mr. Hunt anticipates three full reads. This is the maintenance of the patrol fleet vehicles for the police department. This is done every year by moving cars into the fleet and moving other cars to other services or purposes within the city. This will be discussed next week at the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting.

President Furry said that due to Council being on recess over the holidays, the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting and a Special Meeting will be held next Tuesday, January 16th at 7:00 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 2-24 **BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
SAFETY-SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH REPUBLIC FIRST NATIONAL
CORPORATION FOR A RAPID VIEW IBAK CAMERA SYSTEM AND TRUCK CHASSIS AT AN
ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$99,111.92 FOR THE PERIOD OF 2024 THROUGH 2028, AS
FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”
1st READING

Mr. Sindelar said this is for the lease of a sewer camera and includes training and service. This is an innovative way to have the equipment instead of finding contractors to do the work with a quicker response time. This will have three full reads.

ORDINANCE NO 3-24 **BY: BRIAN J. SINDELAR**
AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
SAFETY SERVICE TO EXTEND A CONTRACT FOR ONE (1) YEAR FOR FULL-SERVICE VENDING
WITH METROPOLITAN VENDING COMPANY FOR THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER RECREATION
DEPARTMENT, AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT “A”
1st READING

Mr. Sindelar said this company has been used in the past. They have held the price for an additional year. Per the contract Metropolitan agrees to pay a commission of 28% of the gross sales, 30% from regular snacks and food and

30% on ice cream and coffee. The commissions are paid monthly. It is a good program. This will have three full reads.

ORDINANCE NO. 4-24

BY: CHRISTINA MORRIS

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER REGARDING STORM WATER POLLUTION EDUCATION FOR A TWELVE (12) MONTH TERM, ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A
1st READING**

Mrs. Morris said this is a yearly ordinance. She expects this will need to be expedited because the city will not get an agreement without it.

ORDINANCE NO. 5-24

BY: THOMAS J. HUNT

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF OHIO TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT UP TO \$35,000.00 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE MARINE PATROL FOR THE YEAR 2024 AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"
1st READING**

Mr. Hunt said this is an annual ordinance and funds the Rocky River Police Boat. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources provides a grant for most of the operation of the Marine Patrol for the summer months. Mr. Snyder said there is an extension in place and they will send the agreement once they have received the legislation.

- Mr. Sindelar said replacing the old boat, the city received a Federal Grant for the new boat and the city continually receives grants to keep the program going. It is a benefit to the city with the safety on the lake and the river. Mr. Sindelar wants to emphasize the job the administration does. These are all dollars that come out of the taxes and the city continually goes after the grants to return the resident's money back to the city.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

President Furry stated that Council will move into Executive Session before he adjourns the meeting to discuss the legal matter. Council moved into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council