

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

April 15, 2024

The Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Furry, President of Council, immediately following the Special Meeting in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

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

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor shared good news with City Council. The city received confirmation from ODNR that the grant request in the amount of almost \$35,000 for the Marine Patrol was approved. Thank you to Council for their work on this grant by passing the necessary legislation.

The Mayor received a letter from Cleveland Water about their funding in the cycle of Spring 2024. There will be another cycle in the fall. Fifty-three projects were submitted, thirteen of those were funded for an award total of \$5.6 million. The Mayor is happy to report that the City of Rocky River received funding for water main replacement on Northview totaling \$945,495.00. In addition, Jameston Drive received funding in the amount of \$449,000.00 in project costs totaling about \$1.5 million. This is all thanks to Director Snyder and Engineer Kim Kerber. The additional good news is that Westmoor Road in the amount of a quarter of a million dollars was the number one scorer of those that were not funded this cycle, including Battersea Blvd. in the amount of \$493,000 and Lake Road in the amount of \$299,000 which will be resubmitted in the fall for possibly the maintenance grant.

Director Snyder submitted in November/December to our State Reps for the State Capital Budget. The Senate is considering the submissions that were due on April 8th. The first grant application submitted is for the Fire Station for a one-time grant that the state will release for a larger transformational project. The city asked for \$3.75 million, which is just a portion of the \$12 million, the anticipated cost of the fire station. These however, are very early numbers. The second grant application is for the Wooster/Rockcliff project in the amount of \$750,000.00 to go towards the \$4.7 million project.

The Mayor said that the U.S. Department of Transportation has a program called "Safe Streets for All" which is a funding application to develop a comprehensive safety action plan for a city-wide trail system. The grant request was submitted by Kathryn Kerber and Director Snyder for \$132,000 with a local match of \$33,000 totaling \$165,000 in project costs.

The Mayor also said that Director Snyder and Kathryn Kerber submitted a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife, the National Coastal Resilience Fund. This is for preliminary design work on the Rocky River Park Master Plan regarding erosion control, stormwater management and the park itself in the amount of \$175,000 and does not require a local match. It is so important that the city brings these dollars back to Rocky River, as all of those are funded by taxpayer dollars that either go to the State or the Federal Government.

The Mayor received the first draft last Friday regarding the Consolidated Dispatch Alternatives Analysis and Operational Plan. The Mayor sent it off to the Safety Director and Chiefs Lichman and Lenart. The Council of Governments will be meeting to discuss the findings over the next month and a half. The process of Consolidated Dispatch is moving along, but no decisions have been made yet.

The County 911 Program has made amendments to the County 911 Plan that the city has been working with. They are now asking the local communities in the County to adopt/agree the plan. The County adopted it on March 6th and just sent it last week. In addition, the County will be naming a representative from Mayors and Managers to the 911 Committee. This will be drafted and given to Council.

The Mayor distributed the handout from the 2024 Sexennial Reappraisal Overview that is required by the State of Ohio and is implemented by the County. In late June or early July, community residents will receive their new valuations in the mail. Residents will have an informal opportunity to walk through or challenge their valuations during August and September prior to being sent to the state. The city will share information with the community as it is received. Adjustments were made at the triennial reappraisal and now the sexennial reappraisal will be from the front of the house. They do collect all the building permits so any valuation that comes from improvements to the home will be calculated in the reappraisal. The Mayor anticipates that there will be some very significant increases. Other Counties are somewhere between 29-41%. It does not mean taxes will increase because most of the property tax bills are school taxes and are held because of HB 920. If residents have questions, the County has individuals that are prepared to answer. The meeting was attended by Mr. O'Boyle and Mrs. Gallagher. The County also shared other programs that the Mayor will share with the Senior Center including the Homestead Exemptions.

The Mayor said that the administration has been looking at Refuse and Recycling, which is a costly service to the community. On a regular basis, the city is looking for alternatives to the way the city picks up refuse and recycling today along with keeping the highly desirable aspect of the transfer station, picking up bulky waste at a moment's notice and yard waste. The city is at the very beginning of this process and will communicate with the union and employees when this will be looked at again. No one will lose their jobs; they can't lose their jobs as they are protected by their Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Teamsters. The city is a long way away from this. In the event the city would consider making a change, it would be placed on the ballot so that every resident will have a voice in that decision. The city does this with every aspect, every program and every service that is provided in the city. It needs to be evaluated so it is being done in the most cost-effective way to benefit our residents.

The Mayor announced that tomorrow is the I & I Presentation for Buckingham, Argyle Oval, Arundel, Westmoor, Glendale and Orchard Grove. City Council received information on this meeting including the Power Point presentation.

The Mayor mentioned that NOACA, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, our federal MPO, Metropolitan Planning Organization, are responsible for transportation, air and water quality. Every ten years, they do a household travel survey with randomly picked households. They ask households to record their travel and to complete that and every household member will receive \$10.00. These are real and the city encourages residents to participate. Some of the information translates into funding formulas for the MPO from the Federal Government and how the city receives funds from the MPO locally.

The Mayor reported that 250 cars came to the Shredding Event on Saturday. Thank you to Director Snyder, Mark Filipic and some of the members of the Community Emergency Response Team.

Opening Day for Little League will be held on May 4th, with the parade kicking off from City Hall at 9:30 a.m. People will begin to gather at 9:00 a.m.

- Mr. O’Boyle asked how the city counted the cars at the Shredding Event. The Mayor said that the workers counted the cars as they drove through. There are two boxes per car allotted. Director Snyder said there were about 5 tons of shredded material received during the event.
- Mr. Furry asked if the money being requested for the Fire Department is held onto until the needs assessment is completed. The Mayor said these funds may not flow through to the city until this time next year or even after. The city is applying for things, but it is for the next fiscal year. If necessary, extensions can be requested.
- Mr. Furry commented on the refuse and recycling. Not only does the administration and City Council be stewards of the earth, but also have to be stewards of the finances and at least take a look at costs. By taking it to the ballot, the voters will decide if they want it or not.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 51-23: Mrs. Gallagher said this amended ordinance is to change the zoning classifications of four parcels located on Ingersol Drive from their present classification of Service Manufacturing to OB-2 Office. A Public Hearing will be held on May 6th, 2024 for this amended ordinance.

Mr. Furry stated the criteria that Council needs to use is 1135.21 Amendment to Change Zoning Districts or Zoning Classifications of Properties. When a proposed amendment would result in a change of zoning classification for any property, the Planning Commission and the City Council should consider:

- Whether the change in classification would be consistent with the Master Plan of the City or other adopted plans and policies;
- Whether the change in classification would be consistent with the intent and purposes of this Development Code;
- Whether the proposed amendment is made necessary because of changed or changing conditions in the area affected, and if so, the nature of such changed or changing conditions;
- Whether the uses that would be permitted on the property, if it were reclassified, would be compatible with the uses permitted on other property in the immediate vicinity;
- Whether the uses that would be permitted on the property, if it were reclassified, would have an adverse environmental or health impact on the immediate surrounding area in terms of acceptable air, noise, light, or water quality standards;
- Whether adequate utility, sewer, and water facilities, and all other needed public services exist or can be provided to serve the uses that would be permitted on a property, if it were reclassified;
- Whether the amount of vacant land with the same zoning classification as proposed for the subject property, particularly in the vicinity of the subject property, and any special circumstances, if any, that make a substantial part of such vacant land unavailable for development; and,
- Whether the proposed amendment would correct an error in the application of this Development Code as applied to the subject property.

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 7-24: Mr. O’Boyle said this ordinance is amending the Development Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Rocky River, specifically Sections 1135.09 and 1135.13. This remains on hold as it was referred to the Planning Commission and the acceptance of the minutes from the March 19th meeting. The Planning Commission will meet tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. The

Mayor said that City Council will need to hold a Public Hearing also as it is a change to the Development Code.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-24: Mr. Sindelar said this has been discussed for several weeks with little or no discussion outside of the first week regarding some small discrepancies. This is more of a cleanup and reorganization of an the current agreement that was already established in a good organization. It allows the city to be more efficient and save dollars when doing certain things collaboratively but still maintain the autonomy of a city. It is a smart way to save money and be more efficient. This will be placed on a consent agenda for next week's Legislative Meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-24: Mrs. Gallagher said this ordinance is to authorize the city to renew the Cisco Phone System licensing for five years and upgrading it to the newest operating system of version 15, which would enable the city to continue receiving security and updates for the next five plus years. The cost is not to exceed \$87,256.37 which includes software licensing for the entire phone system and the labor for Logicalis to upgrade the operating system software to the newest available versions. The current licensing expires in May and June 2024 and since Cisco is ending the support for the current operating system, which is version 12.5, in 2025, it is time to renew and update. Logicalis was the original vendor and they are familiar with the systems and the current network infrastructure. Procurement is under the State Cooperative Purchasing Contract and there are no findings for recovery under the Auditor of State's Database. This will be placed on the Consent Agenda also.

ORDINANCE NO. 19-24: Mr. Shipp said that this ordinance authorizes the Mayor and Director of Public Safety Service to enter into a contract with DWA Recreation for the Tri-City Park Playground Equipment. At the first read, Mr. Shipp passed around an illustration of the equipment. The current playground equipment is twenty years old. Director Holub prepared a memorandum that was shared with Council. DWA was decided by the Commission to be the lowest and best bid. Westlake and Fairview Park have been invoiced for a share of this as well. This will be placed on the Consent Agenda also. The Mayor asked if Council wants to confirm that payment has been received from Westlake and Fairview Park. Mr. Furry thinks it will be fine but will check the status of payment.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-24: Mr. Sindelar said this is an ordinance authorizing the administration to enter into a contract with RMH Concrete and Foundations for Wagar/Hilliard intersection. There was some work done in this area a few years back but Director Snyder said that this is the completion of a project that was started but not completed. It was broken up for different cost reasons at the time and now it will be completed. A point of fact is that requests were sent out to over 22 contractors looking for bids, but only one bid was received. However, it was \$22,000 less than the city's engineer's estimate. Additionally, the city will offset some of the cost with a \$65,000 grant from Cuyahoga County. This will be on the Consent Agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-24: Mr. Sindelar said this was read for this first time at the Special Meeting and is the gateway of the Center Ridge Project from Spencer Road to Wooster Road. This contract is for the engineering and design of this project. The two sections specifically are different in the scope of what will be done. From Spencer to Wooster it is general paving and ADA upgrades, but the area between Spencer and Pease Drive eventually will be an entrance way to the city at the southwest corridor of the city, tree boulevard. This will include median signage, and bigger buffers in the commercial district between Giant Eagle and Goldwood. Mr. Snyder said that this was one of the ideas proposed with the 2017 Center Ridge Road Complete Streets and Corridor Enhancement Plan between the City of Rocky River and Fairview Park and is in the Master Plan. It was a TLCI Grant that started this project. One of the things identified is that this will add some wayfinding and green infrastructure to help with the urban canopy and the stormwater mitigation in the center median area in front of Giant Eagle and Goldwood School. This will also build on the improvements that were made in 2021 between Glenbar and Linden.

At the completion of this project, the city will have synchronized signalization, with intersections that communicate between each other all the way from Spencer to Linden. It will also have audible preemption for emergency services. This will have two more reads.

- Mr. Furry asked if Fairview Park’s portion is the same per foot capital allocation? Mr. Snyder said that ODOT breaks it down because they have two lanes of Center Ridge for a small section in their corporation limit.
- Mrs. Morris presumes that part of the goal is to make things more walkable and safer for pedestrians. Mr. Snyder said that all of that is incorporated and are using funding from TLCI Pedestrian Improvements. That grant goes towards things such as wayfinding, ADA Compliant Curb Ramps, Pedestrian Crossing Improvements and the Congested Mitigation Air Quality Grant will focus on the signalization improvements. Both together tie into this project. If you improve the flow of traffic, it will make it safer for pedestrians. If the actual infrastructure is improved, it makes it safer for pedestrians. The Mayor added that during the TLCI Planning Study, it was determined that along this entire corridor, every fourth step for a pedestrian is in an apron. The feeling of being safe is hard with the traffic, cars leaving businesses and that is a different lift because you are working with the private sector on how to eliminate a curb cut on Center Ridge. Many businesses are dependent on the curb cuts. This has been a conversation along with the landscaping. Some of the new locations have taken some of the ideas from the Master Plan that were presented and created what is a better feel, but the curb cuts have not been eliminated.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Furry discussed the JTM Rocky River LLC Liquor Permit Request along with further due diligence from Chief Lichman showing everything was fine. The Liquor License request was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: NONE

COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Shipp reminded Council to attend “Bye-Bye Birdie” this weekend on April 18th, 19th and 20th. Mr. Shipp’s son is in it along with the Mr. Sindelar’s children.

President Furry said the next City Council meeting will be held on April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

David W. Furry
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council