

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

May 26, 2020

The Legislative Meeting of Council was called to order by Mr. Moran, President of Council at 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

Council Members Present: Mr. Hunt, Mr. Shepherd, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Furry,
Mrs. Morris, Mr. Klym, Mr. Moran

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Director Snyder, Director Thomas

Assistant Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with a Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION:

Moved by Mr. Moran, seconded by Mr. Furry that the reading of the minutes of the Legislative Meeting of May 4th be waived and that the minutes be accepted as submitted.

Vote: Hunt – aye	Shepherd – aye	O'Donnell – aye	Furry – aye
Morris – aye	Klym – aye	Moran – aye	
7 ayes		0 nays	PASSED

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor updated Council on the Recreation Facilities and Programs. The Civic Center is opening on Monday, June 1st. There will be two-hour shifts with one hour off for cleaning and sanitizing in between. Showers and locker rooms will not be open. The equipment will be physically distanced by using every other piece of equipment. The next day the other equipment will be used. Residents will be able to sign up and register for a block of time to use the facility. The indoor pool will open in a few weeks as repairs to the pool are still underway. The outdoor pool will open on Monday, June 8th. The outdoor pool will have 3 three-hour sessions with an hour in between for cleaning and sanitizing. There will be limited pre-packaged concessions along with bottled water. Residents only will be allowed in the pool and must bring their own chair. There will be an online registration for reserved sessions and pool passes will not be sold. The staff is being trained and the amount of individuals attending will be limited to 220 per each session. The Mayor thanked President Moran and Councilman Klym and the Parks and Recreation Commission leadership for their help and guidance. This information will be sent out to residents in a ReadyNotify tomorrow.

The administration has also reached out to coaches and parents that are part of other programming including t-ball, baseball and softball. A decision has been made to cancel these programs for the summer.

Restrooms in the parks are opened with signage explaining good distancing, hand washing etc.

All camps are canceled this summer. This will be a disappointment for many residents but unfortunately, camps will not be provided this summer.

The Recreation staff along with Director Holub have done an amazing job reviewing all the requirements and getting the city on board in opening some of the facilities. If there are issues with people not abiding by the requirements put in place, the facilities will be shut down. The administration will continue to monitor the guidance from the state. There may be changes but it is doubtful that there will be changes to any of the larger programs.

The Mayor announced that a grant was received from the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association Foundation to do online marketing. This grant will enable a newsletter to be published to all the Recreation Center members. Congratulations to Mr. Holub and the rest of his staff for securing this grant.

Memorial Hall will be opened from Monday through Friday for small gatherings. Every person who had a reservation will be called to re-book if still needed.

There are no plans to open the Senior Center. Director Huff has been on several webinars and conference calls with the National Council on Aging and the guidance right now is to remain closed, possibly until there is a vaccine. The Senior Center vehicles are being outfitted so some transporting could be provided.

New curbs have been built in the new parking lot in front of City Hall. The first course of asphalt will be placed this week. Construction worker trucks will be allowed to park there along with parking at Magnificat. When construction is completed, the vehicles will be moved out for the final paving out front. Footers for the police station are also in.

The Rocky River Park Pavilion masonry has started. The grading and landscaping has also begun.

The Mayor discussed the Budget and Payroll. Almost all full time employees are back to work. A few part time employees have been called back. The mowing for three of the parks is being done by an outside landscaping company, which frees up the Service Department to complete more detailed work in the parks. John Lauer has been hired as the lead supervisor of Parks and has a great deal of experience from Cleveland Heights. The Mayor applauds Director Snyder and the Union for working with the administration and implementing this plan.

The Mayor shared with Council the May 8th payroll totaled \$534,000 for 222 employees. 209 were fulltime and 13 were part-time. No Council members, boards, commissions or severance were included. The May 22nd payroll was \$538,000 up less than \$4,000. There were 245 total employees, with 208 fulltime and up slightly up in part-time employees. The difference is the monthly payment for council, boards and commissions.

Delta Dental has provided an \$11,000 credit to help absorb health insurance costs. There is a Senate Bill that is focused on providing dollars back to local communities through the local

Government Fund in the amount of \$350,000,000. This is federal relief funding. They want to give an additional 110% of the local Government Fund allocation, which was set at \$378,600. That would be an additional \$416,000 for a total of \$795,000. There is some discussion to increase that amount.

The Income Tax distribution in April 2020 was above the five-year average and above last year's total. The April collection that was distributed at the beginning of May, was \$1.164 million as compared to \$2.2 million in May 2019. The collection is down about \$1.1 from last year and down from the five year average. Part of this is due to the filing deadline being extended to July. It is projected however, that it will be a \$1.3-1.4 million dollar loss from R.I.T.A for the course of the year.

The Mayor shared the Building Department Stats:

- April 2020 - 321 permits have been pulled compared to 451 last April.
- The estimated valuation this year at the end of April is \$6.5 million and last year it was \$12.7 million.
- The city is about a million dollars ahead in commercial valuation. However, the downturn is about \$7 million in residential investment.

The census national response rate is 60.1% as of yesterday. The Ohio response rate is 65.3% and the City of Rocky River is at 76.8% response rate. The city will continue to send out reminders to residents.

The city continues to work with the Chamber of Commerce on the County Grants for small businesses. None of the small businesses were funded in the first round but were encouraged to resubmit, if eligible, for the second round.

The City of Rocky River ranked #5 among the 20 safest communities in Ohio. The Mayor is very pleased to have that recognition.

Friday, June 5th the high school graduation parade will begin at 7:00 p.m. along with the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame and Museum "Joyride Van" that will play music throughout the community. The parade will visit each of the schools in the district that students have attended.

Saturday, June 6th, the middle school parade will take place.

- Mr. Furry asked if there would be any policy change through Labor Day for the pool. The Mayor said that all of these could be subject to change as guidance changes from the state. Lifeguards are beginning to be hired. There will not be any swimming lessons this summer.
- Mr. O'Donnell asked about the pricing for the pool this summer. The Mayor said that the day price fees that Council set would be used since there is an increment of three hours for residents to stay. Pricing has been compared to other pools.

- Mr. Klym said that reservations could be made 24 hours in advance for one increment daily.
- Mr. Moran asked if the Transfer Station hours will change. The Mayor said that the hours will stay the same at this time as the work groups will continue so as to assure no spikes in the curve for COVID-19.

The Mayor asked Council to share with her any comments/suggestions from residents that they hear.

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR O'SHEA: Mr. O'Shea stated that the Charter Review Commission will meet this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. addressing their master list via ZOOM. The Mayor believes that all of Council has been invited to attend and participate in this meeting.

Mr. O'Shea stated that the first live docket in 2 months was held today in Judge Hagan's Courtroom. The pre-trial for today's docket was done through ZOOM.

- Mr. Moran asked if there have been any complaints using the ZOOM. Mr. O'Shea said he has not met a judge that has the exact same opinion on how things are moving along.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Parks, Recreation and Health Committee: Councilman Klym reported that there was a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on May 14th prior to the Governor's announcement of pools opening. Director Holub discussed the work being completed at the Civic Center. There has been a lot of painting, added shower stalls and locker room and completing a lot of cleaning. The kiddie slide is being replaced along with the pelican at the indoor pool. The track is on hold and will be added to next year's budget. New fitness equipment has been installed. The usual shut down in August probably will not be needed, since so much work has been accomplished during this shut down.

Elle's Enchanted Forest, a playground for disabled children, will be installed later this year. The Chamber will help with landscaping around the gazebo.

Mr. Moran thanked Mr. Klym for being available for the Charter Review meetings. There is an invitation for Council to be available this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. for the Charter Review meeting.

Finance Committee: Mr. O'Donnell said there will be a Finance Committee meeting possibly on June 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the city's finances.

Planning, Zoning and Economic Development Committee: Mrs. Morris said that the BZA met. Four applicants asked for variances. The requests were either granted or revised slightly. Mr. Moran thanked Mrs. Morris for attending all the BZA and Planning Meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 32-20

BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY-SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH GDP GROUP, FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 2018-2019 DETROIT ROAD / WOOSTER ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,310.00 AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

1st READING

Mr. Shepherd stated that the GDP Group is the construction manager on this project. During the course of the project, two things came up that were not within the scope of the original agreement with them. Thermal plastic markings will be used for the street markings as opposed to painting and there was a federal audit of the project. Because of this, the construction manager incurred more hours to cover these two areas. It is not a large amount of money, but traditionally the administration brings these changes back to Council. Mr. MacKay has reviewed and has determined that the work involved is outside the original scope and that the charges are reasonable. This will have a full three reads.

- Mr. Snyder confirmed that thermal plastic is the best thing for the money for the markings. Thermal plastic markings are currently being placed on Hilliard Blvd. In addition, Mr. Snyder and Mr. Thomas had a separate audit regarding the federal funds received, to confirm that this audit that was sent to GDP, differed from the single audit they received and the city is not paying for the same thing twice.

RESOLUTION NO. 33-20

BY: JOHN B. SHEPHERD

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HER DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PERFORM CERTAIN PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES RELATED TO ROADWAYS WITHIN THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A"

1st READING

Mr. Shepherd said this will have three full reads. On February 24, 2020 a grant was received in the amount of \$5,872.50 from the County to pay for materials for certain maintenance projects on county roads. Director Snyder re-submitted the application and on May 7, 2020 was awarded a new grant for \$26,633.00, an increase of \$20,633 over the initial grant. This resolution authorizes that grant and the County will reimburse the city for materials used for the repair of county roads in particular: Hilliard Road striping from Lakewood to Westlake city limits; crack sealing on Hilliard from Gasser Blvd. to Wooster Rd.; crack sealing on Hilliard Blvd. from Gasser to Wooster; on Wagar crack sealing and striping from Lake Road to Center Ridge Road; on Wooster Road crack sealing and striping from Center Ridge Road to the

Fairview Park City Limit; and Spencer Road crack sealing, striping and catch basin repair from Center Ridge Road to the Fairview Park City Limit. The catch basins is part of a long-term repair program for Spencer determined by MacKay Engineering and the city plans to apply for a 50/50 grant program for Spencer in 2021. If the funds are received to repair catch basins, Mr. Snyder is hopeful that will open up other grant money for the underlying project for Spencer.

- Director Snyder stated that Spencer Road is an expensive project so by doing the catch basin ahead of time with city staff replacing the basins that were deemed necessary for replacement, it will allow the new curbs to be placed right up to these catch basins. Mr. Furry had asked Mr. Snyder to resubmit this grant for more money.

Mr. Shepherd added that this will all be city labor other than the crack sealing that is subbed out on another ordinance.

RESOLUTION NO. 34-20

BY: DAVID W. FURRY

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE CITY OF ROCKY RIVER APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND PROGRAM FOR THE FUNDING OF THE ROCKY RIVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FINAL CLARIFIER REHABILITATION PROJECT

1st READING

Mr. Furry said this is for a low interest funding through the water pollution control loan fund program for the completion of the final clarifier rehab project. This project came out of the critical needs assessment performed in 2018. This loan is requested at \$986,000, which is for design and engineering. The total project with hard and soft cost is approximately \$7,446,000. Superintendent McConnell anticipates applying for this in 2021. The WWTP had applied for funding from OPWC but was denied. This is a low interest loan. The current interest rates are currently 1.12%. Assuming this loan is approved, each city is responsible for their portion based on the current flow and strength study in place. Rocky River would be responsible for approximately \$237,724 assuming approval of the design and engineering loan. Assuming the construction loan is approved, both loans can be rolled into one and each city's pro-rata portion of repayment will be based on the current flow and strength study in process. Mr. Furry is anticipating three full reads but since this is an application for money, there may be a rule suspension to get this resolution going.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: Mrs. Morris announced that this Thursday there will be a Giving Tree Project launched at the Senior Center for residents to take up to two facemasks if needed or to donate masks.

There is also an "Adopt a Senior" page on Facebook to help the RRHS seniors have a better final few weeks.

- The Mayor explained that the Giving Tree Project began with Attorney Kira

Krivosh, State Senator Nikkie Antonio and COO Kay Spatafore from “Because I said I Would” who have all been making masks, along with the Rocky River Senior Center.

Mr. Moran wished Councilman Klym a happy belated birthday!

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Bill Welsh, asked about signage at Story and Lorain that the road is closed miles ahead. He asks because he was driving eastbound on Story as someone was coming westbound close to being hit in the construction area. Director Snyder said that there were signs approaching the construction area facing westbound, but the City of Fairview Park asked to remove the signs as they did not want people to detour through residential streets. There are signs on Lorain Road that Story Road is closed.

Mr. Shepherd asked if it is necessary to have the water running all the time as it is always leaking onto Story Road. Mr. Snyder said the temporary lines are feeding all the houses. He will discuss this issue with MacKay Engineering.

Mr. Moran stated that the next meeting will be held on June 8th and possibly held in Civic Center.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council