

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

February 7, 2022

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 Civic Center Community Room.

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

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Snyder

Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor discussed the snow removal last week. The City of Rocky River had 14 plus inches of snow that fell over two days. A huge challenge has been the clearing of sidewalks. A ReadyNotify message was released to commercial areas and residential along with building inspectors being mobilized to provide warnings. The 30-year-old bombardier's transmission broke down over the weekend so the two ventrac machines were used to help clear the sidewalks. The city will be renting a piece of equipment prior to purchasing to test it out. The bridges and the sidewalks around the schools were completely cleared for school to resume today. Another issue is the individual snow plow services that are hired by individuals for driveways and parking lots. Snow ends up in areas where the city has already plowed and on sidewalks. The city is working diligently to try to make sure that does not happen. Safety-Service Director Snyder along with Commissioner Dave Arendec will be meeting with the Service Department staff to debrief how the storm was handled. This storm started with rain, sleet then snow all day through the night and into the next day, so pre-salting the streets was not an option. Intersections and hills were salted quickly. The Service Department did a great job.

The Mayor shared COVID-19 stats thanking County Councilwoman Nan Baker for gathering the stats from the County Health Department as well as the State Health Department. The City of Rocky River was down to 26 cases of COVID last week. That is less than 10% of some of the numbers shared a few weeks ago. Numbers are declining significantly along with hospitalizations that are down 65% across the hospital systems in Cuyahoga County. There is a definite downturn in numbers. The Mayor is evaluating the masking and distancing policy and has reached out to Terry Allen, the head of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and is waiting for a response.

Building stats this month are even with the permit stats at the same time last year. There are 78 total permits, mostly in residential areas but includes some commercial areas. Total valuation last year was \$760,000 and this year it is \$1.6 million which is more than double of last year's valuation.

The Mayor announced that Director Snyder applied for two grants. Both grants are through the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District. The first is the Community Recycling Awareness Grant for a piece of public interpretive art. If awarded, this will be for Bradstreet's Landing. The sculpture will be a large fish that can be filled with plastics and cans which will bring attention to the amount of garbage found along the beach and in the lake. This will draw attention to recycling, especially along the lake side. The other grant is the Special Project Grant to be used for a paper compactor at transfer station which will help in the recycling of paper.

- Councilwoman Morris asked if the compactor could be used for cardboard too. Mr. Snyder explained that the grant he submitted is for two separate compactors; one for mixed paper and the other for cardboard. Compacting both of these would increase the city's revenue for recycling paper and cardboard.

The City of Rocky River was involved in a large drug-bust in the amount of \$2.6 million. Rocky River detectives were a part of the operation. Law enforcement agencies that work these types of cases receive a percentage of what was seized. The city is also reimbursed for overtime as well.

The Mayor announced the retirement of Sergeant Kenneth Thompson. Sergeant Thompson was on the force since 1990, worked for four mayors and four chiefs. He was a patrolman, a detective, a sergeant and commander of the web hazardous devices unit. Sergeant Thompson secured the grant for the bomb robot and operated the robot and performed many demonstrations. Sergeant Thompson was on the Marine Patrol, ran the polygraph machine along with a number of other things. The Mayor extends, along with City Council, gratitude for Sergeant Thompson's service to the community. The Mayor presented Sergeant Thompson a certificate of special recognition on behalf of City Council and the Administration and most importantly the residents of the City of Rocky River.

Patrol Officer Stephanie Troha was sworn in last Monday as the first female Sergeant for the City of Rocky River. Sergeant Troha has been with the city for several years and the Mayor appreciates the Council members who were present at her swearing in. The Mayor also noted that also in attendance were fellow officers from Highland Heights along with the Chief of Kirkland who came to witness her swearing-in. This says something about Sergeant Troha that so many individuals wanted to be part of her swearing in.

The Mayor also announced that Diego, the Rocky River Canine Officer, has retired. Apollo is still serving the community along with his handler, Officer Gonzalez. Apollo is very energetic and is always hard working. Diego has earned his retirement. Diego was a great canine officer and an exceptional dog.

The Senior Center Volunteer Event will be this Thursday at the Senior Center. The list of volunteers with a variety of jobs is extensive. The Mayor also commends the staff in all the ways they engage the residents in meaningful volunteer roles in several of the departments. A huge thank you to Director Huff and her staff at the Senior Center, Director Holub and Chief Lichman and others who work to engage the city's senior and other volunteers.

The Senior Center will be collecting socks, hats and mittens on March 14th through March 18th for the Community West Foundation Socks Plus Program. This program is a result of a young lady's philanthropic work, who was Mayor for the Day, and discussed this idea with Director Deb Huff.

- Councilman Sindelar asked if the Police Department will be replacing Diego. The Mayor said not at this time as there are a number of canine units across the County and Apollo will continue to work with the Rocky River Police Department.
- Mr. Sindelar asked if the city keeps stats on water main breaks. The Mayor said Cleveland Water keeps track and Director Snyder added that the city reports the water main breaks to the Cleveland Water Department. Mr. Sindelar asked if there were trends with the water main breaks. The Mayor said that what typically happens is it breaks once, gets put together and then is back in a week or a couple of days for an additional break and the Mayor has asked them to be more global in their repairs. The Mayor said it has changed and now it is not always the same area time after time with breaks. Anytime there is cold, cold weather and then it warms up, then cold, cold weather there will be water main breaks. The Cleveland Water

Department has been very responsive. The Mayor spoke with Alex Margevicius, the head of Cleveland Water, on a Friday night leak at Wooster/E. Shoreland and the Water Department responded quickly.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if Cleveland Water is called to inspect pipes when the streets are open. The Mayor and Director Snyder said that Cleveland Water is called in advance with the names of streets that are going to be worked on and asks the Water Department and the Gas Company to be there to evaluate and determine if there is work that needs to be done. Director Snyder added that generally when these projects that involve sewer replacement are done, the projects always piggy back with Cleveland Water Funding applications. Most of the time Cleveland Water jumps on the opportunity to do a water main project. As the city plans projects, they are planned in part around streets that are due for water replacements.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilman Furry stated that there will be a Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting this Thursday morning at 7:45. Mr. Furry will be unable to attend as he will be out of town.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE NO. 71-21: Mrs. Morris said this was referred to the Planning Commission and is still on hold. The Planning Commission Meeting was canceled last week due to the weather and is rescheduled for March 1st.

ORDINANCE NO. 105-21: Mr. Moran said this was referred to the Planning Commission and is still on hold. The Planning Commission Meeting was canceled last week due to the weather and is rescheduled for March 1st.

ORDINANCE NO. 1-22: Mr. Moran stated that the changes in the Wage Ordinance reflect the new police wages agreed to in their new union contract. No other changes have been submitted. This will be read for a third time next week and will be on the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 2-22: Mr. Shepherd stated that this ordinance is a paving and major water main replacement for Malvern and Telbir Avenues. This is also set for a third reading and is a \$1,186,000 project and will be on the consent agenda. Five bids were received and Fabrizi was the low bidder. Fabrizi's qualifications were discussed at previous meetings. The City of Cleveland Water Department is paying over half of this pursuant to the City's agreement with them.

ORDINANCE NO. 3-22: Mr. Shepherd stated that the city sets aside money for emergency repairs for streets and storms and not to exceed \$50,000. This is scheduled for a third read and will be on the consent agenda. This was put out to bid in 2011 and Fabrizi has held their prices since then. MacKay Engineering has verified that the pricing is very favorable.

ORDINANCE NO. 4-22: Mr. Shepherd stated that this will be up for a third reading and is for the rehabilitation of the municipal court building. This responsibility falls upon the city under the arrangement with the Court that is set forth pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code. The host community has certain responsibility for some of these expenses. Three bids were received and the low bidder was Building Technicians Corporation by approximately \$10,000. This will be added to the consent agenda.

ORDINANCE NO. 5-22: Mr. Shepherd said that this ordinance is for construction management services relative to the Wooster Road resurfacing project. This is for the section of Wooster Road from Center

Ridge south to Westover. Six responses from the Request for Qualifications and Proposals were received, with Quality Control Inspections, Inc. being the best suited for this project as the construction management. This was reviewed by the administration and engineers and has been determined that this is the best candidate. A part of this contract will be paid for by ODOT. The paving project is an 80/20 split with ODOT. If the cap is not reached for construction, additional funds could be put towards construction management. Mr. Shepherd stated that Mr. Furry asked for a list of other RFQ's that were submitted for this ordinance and Director Snyder disseminated that information to Council. This will be read for a second time at next week's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: President Moran thanked Mike Balla for having the room set up for the City Council Meetings. With the drop of COVID numbers, City Council will hold the rest of the February meetings at the Civic Center but move the meetings back to City Council Chambers at City Hall beginning in March.

As there was no further business by members of Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council