

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

September 8, 2020

The meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole was called to order by Mr. Moran, President, immediately following the Special Meeting via Zoom.

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

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Director Thomas, Director Snyder

Assistant Law Director: Mr. O'Shea

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor reported that 4.8 inches of rainfall fell yesterday in a short period of time. The Service Department received about ten calls that are being investigated. They appear to be sporadic and not in one concentrated area. The WWTP can hold 120-125 million gallons of water. It peaked and probably went beyond 146 million gallons. The treatment capacity is about 45 million gallons and the plant treated about 57 million gallons. The plant was working very efficiently but took a lot of water. There were some bypasses at the plant with overflows at Magnolia and Beachcliff. There were 61,000 gallons for overflows at Beachcliff and Falmouth. Magnolia had about 600,000 gallons of overflow.

The Mayor read from the Northeast Regional Sewer District that the amount of water that fell Monday morning is almost equivalent to the amount of water that is treated in an entire year. Scott Sabol, meteorologist for Fox 8 said that a quick rainfall volume calculations show that roughly 80 billion gallons of water fell across 12 counties in northern Ohio, which is enough to fill First Energy Stadium 100 times. Interesting perspective. The plant functioned well, but with that amount of rain there will be some bypasses and some overflows.

The Mayor reported on the break-ins and car thefts. These are crimes of opportunity with cars being unlocked with keys and valuables visible. When certain individuals understand that residents are comfortable leaving vehicles unlocked, the city will attract this type of crime opportunity. Messaging will continue from the Police Department to the community. There was also an attempted break-in at a home, which is a completely different level. The police and Westshore partners are working on this. There is a Neighborhood Watch Program and Officer Camp could come and meet with an entire neighborhood and discuss how to protect yourself and be the eyes, ears, and good partners of the city and with law enforcement. These crimes have also hit Westlake, Bay Village and other communities. Keeping people safe in their own homes and vehicles is critically important to the City.

The Mayor and Directors have been working on the 2021 Budget for the last several weeks. Director Thomas wanted some fund balance projections that he could start to work with. The Directors have started to work on their budgets, including the Capital Budget. They have hit the ground running. Council should receive this in the beginning of November.

The Mayor shared the construction update:

- Center Ridge, TLCI and the CMAQ, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Grant, from Savors to Linden is beginning. The new traffic lights will be installed in the spring. ODOT originally gave the city a date of 2023-2024 for repaving of Center Ridge, but have pushed it back to 2027. Mr. Snyder and the engineers have gone back to them for reconsideration. Center Ridge, from Spencer west is in bad shape. The Service Department has rebuilt some catch basins and will do some paving in that section.
- The Riverdale Project will be completed within the next week or two. This project is ahead of schedule.
- The Police Station is on schedule. There have been some concrete issues but Mr. Snyder is doing a good job working through those. The city will go out to bid on the landscaping mid-September and the furniture and fixtures in mid-October. Council is invited to tour the police station construction site at any time. Please contact Rich Snyder.
- Bradstreet's Landing bid opening from last week is currently being reviewed with references being checked. The apparent low bidder did come in at \$2.3 million. The engineer's estimate was about \$2.8 million. Mr. Snyder along with SmithGroup, JJR are reviewing these bids.
- The Sidewalk Program has started. Shelley Sollars and Rich Snyder are doing a great job with this project and the program should start this fall.
- The crack-sealing bid came in at \$23,000 less than the engineer's estimate. This legislation will be coming to Council.
- The waterline awards for Nelson Park, Fairhill and Erie, which includes resurfacing, with the total project cost is \$2.5 million. The city will receive over \$1.5 million dollars from Cleveland Water for those projects. Thank you to Rich Snyder and MacKay Engineering.

Service Commissioner, Dave Arendec also received a grant from Worker's Comp for a hydraulic shore box for the Service Department in the amount of almost \$8,000. This equipment will keep employees safe and will be more efficient for deep digging projects. Congratulations to Dave for his first grant that he secured.

The State is looking at additional distributions of C.A.R.E.S Act dollars. One distribution was passed by the Senate unanimously, and was introduced by Senator Matt Dolan, Chair of Finance. The Senate unanimously voted to send \$650,000,000 directly to local municipalities. It will be based on a per capita formula. The last distribution was based on the Local Government Fund formula, which totaled \$477,000. The city would anticipate receiving about \$720,000 of additional C.A.R.E.S. Act funds. There is also discussion that the legislature will go back to look at additional dollars using the Local Government Fund formula again. The Mayor will keep Council posted. These distributions, along with past distributions received totals \$1.2 billion that the State is directing toward local communities. The Mayor said it is greatly appreciated.

The Pavilion at Rocky River Park is completed. A huge thank you to the Parks and Recreation Foundation and the Service Department for all their hard work. There was a thank you event for donors on Saturday morning. Councilman Klym was in attendance and is also one of their Board Members. The W. B. Smith Family was in attendance. W. B. Smith was a former City Councilman. His family donated about \$65,000 from his estate, which was the catalyst for making this project happen. A big thank you to Jackie York, Doug Cooper and John Cipriani who have all served as president of the Parks and Recreation Foundation and their leadership made this project happen. Recreation Director Bob Holub works very closely with the Foundation.

Youth Hockey is starting with many safety precautions. Open Skate and Learn to Skate and other activities will not begin prior to November 1st. The city will monitor, evaluate, and make a decision at that time.

September 21st, per the Governor's directives, Senior Centers can open. There are a number of criteria that must be met for opening Senior Centers and the city of Rocky River has met all but one. The one not met requires all staff members and every participant to receive a COVID test. Through the Department on Aging and the Senior Center Association, the Mayor believes that that part of the order will be modified. Seniors are anxious to come back to the Senior Center, although it will look different. There will not be a Deli lunch and classes will be limited to nine person classes. Online classes and outdoor classes have been being conducted. The Mayor appreciates all the hard work of the staff at the Senior Center and the Rec Center making sure that residents have interesting and fun programs to participate in.

This Saturday, September 12th, "Junk in the Trunk" will be held at the Senior Center. This was rescheduled from August due to inclement weather.

Harlan Radford hosts a swim-a-thon yearly and donates proceeds to a worthy cause. Harlan, along with the Rotary, purchased a decontamination unit for the fire department that has been installed and is up and running. Firefighters will use this unit after being on scene of a fire in the Westshore.

The Fire Department has been receiving additional PPE. The Emergency Management and Health Departments are gearing up with what might be a tough fall with the flu season along with COVID.

Rich Snyder submitted a grant to the Ohio EPA for an EV charging station. The charging station will be placed in front of the new parking lot so residents can see where it is located. This was part of the Volkswagen Settlement.

The Mayor said the response rate for the Census across the United States is a little over 65%. In Ohio, it is close to 70% and Rocky River is at 81%. That is good news, but Bay Village is at 87% and Fairview Park is at 83%. Please fill out the Census form and encourage neighbors and friends to complete the form as well.

This Friday a 9/11 Ceremony will take place in recognition of the sacrifices that were made on that day. The ceremony will begin at 8:30 a.m. Pastor Bogre from the Rocky River Methodist Church will be joining the ceremony along with Chief Lenart and Chief Stillman who will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone is invited to attend, along with masks and proper social distancing. The Ceremony will take place by the flags in front of Memorial Hall and the Civic Center.

- Mr. Hunt asked if the ice is down at the rink. The Mayor replied that the ice is down. Suburban Youth Hockey is aware of that along with requirements of masks and equipment. The Mayor is still waiting to hear from Rocky River High School and Avon High School if they will be using the rink for their hockey program. The city is pleased with the partnership formed with the Suburban Youth Hockey Program. They understand the concern of spending \$13 thousand to put ice down and the expense of not being used if the season cannot go forward. They agreed to share in some of the costs.
- President Moran asked about the cloth under the grates over the sewers. He is wondering if that helped slow the water down to the WWTP. Mr. Snyder said that those cloths were put in place for the Streets Program for storm water protection. Mr. Moran asked if it was permanent. Mr. Snyder said it would be removed when the projects are completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mrs. Morris stated that the BZA has been busy during the month of August. The Planning Commission had a pre-preliminary review to discuss a brewery to be located on Ingersoll Dr., accompanied by a discussion of a longer-term plan presented for Ingersoll by the property owner. Appropriate zoning of Ingersoll Dr. was also discussed.

Mr. Klym said there will be a Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting via zoom at 7:45 a.m. this Thursday. Mr. Klym said that hockey will be discussed as well as the short fall in revenue.

Mr. Klym also said that September 19th is the Chamber of Commerce Planting Day. This year they will be planting around the Gazebo at City Hall Park during two-two hour shifts from 8-10 and 10-12:00 noon. Please come and join them.

COMMUNICATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 66-20: Mr. O'Donnell said this was discussed earlier at the Special Meeting and it makes sense to get the funds as soon as possible.

RESOLUTION NO. 67-20: Mr. O'Donnell said that like Resolution No. 66-20, this was discussed earlier at the Special Meeting and it makes sense to get the funds as soon as possible.

RESOLUTION NO. 68-20: Mr. O'Donnell stated that this was the next step in the budget process. If there are any questions, please let him know.

RESOLUTION NO. 69-20: Mr. Klym stated that this is a resolution to support the state and U.S. Bike Route System. Council received a link to the Ohio Department of Transportation with information about maps and an overview guide that talks about the nationwide program to designate bike routes. Rocky River would actually have two going through Rocky River. US Route 130 (Lake Road) and the other is US Route 30 (Hilliard). They are attempting to get the 403 jurisdiction in Ohio that have these routes to approve this resolution. 75% of these communities have approved the resolution. It would be nice for access to additional grant funding, signage, information on maintenance and how to design them in the future to make them better accessible for both bikes and cars. The Mayor mentioned there was a meeting later in September that Councilman Klym would like to be a part of. Mr. Klym said that overall looking at bikes in the Community, the city received \$1,000 in the Bikes to School Program and they are

looking to place several bike repair stations around Rocky River. This goes hand in hand with the Master Plan in making the community more bike friendly. This will have three full reads.

- Mrs. Morris asked if this is part of the Community Confluence. Mr. Snyder said it is not, but it works towards things that are similar.
- Mr. O'Donnell wondered if the Rocky River Police Department is onboard with this. Mayor Bobst stated that the city is not there yet. There is a lot of discussion with ODOT and NOACA about the width of roads with safety implications. There is much interest in supporting cycling and being bike friendly. The Mayor has had lengthy discussions with the Bay Village and Rocky River Green Team about coexisting with vehicles and bicycles. Scott Cowan from Century Cycle has been a great partner in all of this.
- Mr. Moran asked about the electric bikes and motorized bikes he has seen and heard around the community. The Mayor stated that they go very fast and as long as they are obeying the rules on the road, there are no issues.

ORDINANCE NO. 70-20: Mr. Furry said this is to enter a contract with Burch Hydro, Inc. for the cleaning of the #1 primary digester at a cost not to exceed \$261,400. Mr. Furry expects three full reads. Mr. Furry spoke with Superintendent McConnell and this cleaning has not been performed in approximately 21 years. It is necessary preventative maintenance. The digester will be down for about two plus months for the cleaning. Superintendent McConnell is hoping to get the #2 primary digester done also after #1 is completed. Mr. Furry does not know if they are on the unresolved findings list, but he will know for the next meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 71-20: Mr. Shepherd added that Exhibit A on the contract really breaks down what this project entails. The target start date is November 1st and the target completion date is December 31, 2020.

- Mr. Furry asked what kind of local input does Council have that is specific to the City of Rocky River. The Mayor stated the City already has had input. This started with the Master Plan, taking the Development Code looking for any changes needed to make the Master Plan happen. The zoning map has been updated as it had not been updated comprehensively in some time. They are looking at zoning classification as well as permitted uses and conditional uses. This is not about rezoning but providing clarity and simplicity to using our code. The Planning Commission has been very involved along with others. When using the Master Plan, that is the entire community that was involved in that. The second phase is almost done and is paid for and the third phase is about to begin to finalize and get it online. It will be a more visual document. The Mayor stated that going back to the previous Master Plan, there was a mixed-use overlay. In certain commercial classifications the city would welcome mixed use, i.e. residential and office, commercial and residential or all three together. All of this has been discussed. There is also some concern with general business, that there are parts of the city zoned general business the the Master Plan would never envision as general business. There is not a plan to rezone specific parcels. Council may want to look at specific re-zonings, but this is not the intent of the process. It is to lay the foundation and then go from there.

ORDINANCE NO. 72-20: Mr. Moran said this is for the shingle part of the Senior Center roof that needs to be replaced. This is an emergency, as it needs to be done prior to inclement weather. This will be read again on September 14th and 28th so that work can commence in October.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS: NONE

President Moran stated that next week's meeting will be Monday, September 14th and will be another zoom meeting. Mr. Moran also wished Clerk Pease and Councilman Furry a happy belated birthday.

Mr. Moran adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

James W. Moran
President of Council

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council