

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024.

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in the Caucus Room at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Council Members: James E. Carbone, Annmarie P. Roff, James A. Kaminski, Gordon C. Short, Thomas M. Clark and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison and Finance Director Eric Dean.

Also in attendance was Assistant Law Director Dan Kolick.

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 6:30 p.m.

The following Council Committees met to review legislation on the agenda:

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2024-001 is to accept for dedication to public use certain lands within Camden Woods subdivision; and to accept certain public utilities constructed therein. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Kaminski recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2024-002. This is to enter into a seventh amendment to the agreement for public safety dispatch services with Olmsted Falls, commencing January 1, 2024. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Ordinance No. 2024-003; an ordinance to enter into an eighth amendment to the agreement for public safety dispatch services with the City of Berea, commencing January 1, 2024. Resolution No. 2024-004 is to accept two donations of \$1,000.00 each from Swagelok Company to be used for education and training purposes within the police and fire departments. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Carbone advised Ordinance No. 2024-005 is to enact a new Chapter 841, "Recreational Marijuana," of the Codified Ordinances. Mr. Jamison advised after much discussion within the administration, particularly input from the police department, it was determined to handle the sale of recreational marijuana the same way the city has handled medical marijuana – prohibiting the commercial cultivation, dispensing and sale of recreational marijuana. This is consistent with the state code which gives every community the ability to opt out, just like with medical marijuana. This will be placed on first reading and referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendation. Mr. Carbone advised next Monday at 5:00 p.m., the Council will be conducting interviews for the At-Large vacancy seat. Mr. Jamison advised Council to submit any questions they may want to ask the applicants so he can review them prior to the meeting.

Ms. Kosek made a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of the Council Office pertaining to the appointment of a public official. It was seconded by Mr. Kaminski to adjourn from open session into executive session [Article XI, Section 9, City Charter]. All members present voted aye and the motion carried. Council adjourned into executive session at 6:35 p.m. Also present from the Administration: Law Director Neal Jamison. Mr. Jamison left the executive session at 6:45 p.m. The executive session concluded at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened into open session.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING:

The Clerk of Council certified that the meeting had been posted in accordance with Ordinance No. 2023-182.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members: James E. Carbone, Annmarie P. Roff, James A. Kaminski, Gordon C. Short, Thomas M. Clark and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison and Finance Director Eric Dean.

Also in attendance was Assistant Law Director Dan Kolick.

ORGANIZATION:

Election of Council President:

Council President James Carbone opened up the nominations for Council President.

Mr. Short nominated Mr. Carbone for Council President. There were no further nominations and Mr. Carbone then closed nominations.

A motioned was made by Ms. Kosek and seconded by Ms. Roff to elect James E. Carbone as Council President. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carries.

Election of Council President Pro Tem:

Ms. Kosek nominated Mr. Short for Council President Pro Tem. There were no further nominations and President Carbone closed nominations.

A motion was made by Ms. Kosek and seconded by Ms. Roff to elect Gordon C. Short as Council President Pro Tem. Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion carries.

****At this time, Mayor Perciak administered the Oath of Office of President of Council to James E. Carbone.****

(Applause)

ORGANIZATION (cont'd):

At this time, Mayor Perciak administered the Oath of Office of President of Council Pro Tem to Gordon C. Short.

(Applause)

Mr. Carbone – We will start the interview process on Monday, January 8th for Mr. DeMio. Until then, we're going to hold off on some of the Council committees such as Planning, Southwest, Strongsville School Board and other standing Council committees until we do have an appointment to Council.

Ms. Kosek – Jim, just one question, Jim Kaminski, are you available to go to Planning because isn't there a Planning Commission meeting this week or is it next week?

Mr. Kaminski – Yes, I can make myself available if there is.

Ms. Kosek – I just want to make sure we're covered.

Mr. Jamison – My suggestion is if you're going to meet on Thursday, that the Planning Commission meeting starts at 5:45 p.m. – that you probably meet at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Kosek – Is it next week? The meeting is next week?

Mr. Jamison – Yes, not this week, but the following Thursday...so it's the same potential night, but I think we had to do that last time two years ago; we had to start a little earlier if we're going to do a special meeting.

Mr. Carbone – We were considering holding the meeting (a special meeting) on Tuesday, January 9th.

Mr. Jamison – Then, there's nothing that night.

Mr. Carbone – So, we could potentially do it then.

Mr. Jamison – Yes, if you were thinking of January 11th, Planning Commission is at 5:45 p.m. I think there would be more than enough time to be starting at 5:00 p.m., but it's whatever you desire.

Mr. Carbone – Okay, and Aimee, we were going to let you know of that so we can get the posting in.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 18, 2023 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Mayor Perciak – Yes, good evening Mr. President, I have two appointments this night in order to fulfill the conditions of the City Charter, which was amended, where we will increase the number of individuals on the Civil Service Commission from three to five. The first individual I want to recommend is Thomas Burichin. As most of you know, Tom Burichin has been a member of this community for practically forty years. He attended Bowling Green State University and he has a Bachelor's in education. I think everybody pretty much knows Tom here in this town. Secondly, I also would like to appoint Brad Bender. Brad Bender, as most of you know, has a business in this town and he graduated from Ohio University in 1998 with a Bachelor's in business administration, finance and marketing. If you really wanted any more of a description, I have their resumes. I would be happy to circulate them to you; but those are the two names that I submit to you for appointments to the Civil Service Commission.

Mayor's appointment and confirmation of Thomas Burichin to a four (4) year term on the City's Civil Service Commission, effective January 2, 2024, and expiring January 1, 2028.

Motion made by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff to confirm the Mayor's reappointment and confirmation of Thomas Burichin to a four-year term on the City's Civil Service Commission, effective January 2, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2028. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Mayor's appointment and confirmation of Bradley Bender to a four (4) year term on the City's Civil Service Commission, effective January 2, 2024, and expiring on January 1, 2028.

Motion made by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff to confirm the Mayor's appointment and confirmation of Bradley Bender to a four-year term on the City's Civil Service Commission, effective January 2, 2024 and expiring on January 1, 2028. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Mr. Carbone – Mayor, two great gentlemen, that will be a nice addition.

Mayor Perciak – Yes, thank you.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark: Thank you Council President Carbone, there has not been a Strongsville city school board meeting since our last meeting. I will gladly take any questions.

Ms. Roff – Do they have an event coming up?

Mr. Clark – They always have an event coming up. This Thursday they have their planning session for the year, and at the end of the month, they have their regular board meeting. Is there a specific event that you're...?

Ms. Roff – For the...due to the Athletic Boosters.

Mr. Clark – The Athletic Boosters, I want to say is the first Saturday in February. I'm not looking at a calendar, so I can't give you a date even though I believe it's the 2nd.

Ms. Roff – I'm putting that out there.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark (cont'd): Thank you.

Ms. Roff – I started that so I have to keep that rolling.

Mr. Clark – I understand.

Ms. Roff – That's the "Night at the Races" and that brings in a lot of finances.

Mr. Kaminski – It's Saturday, February 3, 2024.

Mr. Clark – February 3, 2024, I was off a day, thank you.

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Clark

(No report)

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. Carbone, we have not had a board meeting for since our last Council meeting, and we do not have an update this month so far from the CEO. So, no report, any questions?

(No questions)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short: We did not have a meeting in December. We are probably looking at a meeting in February. I will speak to the economic development director and get a date. Aimee, we are probably looking at the last Monday in February, but I will confirm that later. That concludes my report, but I will take any questions.

(No questions)

Ms. Pientka – Do you want me to hold off until committees are appointed, Mr. Short?

Mr. Short – It's probably a good idea, yes.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone: We have Ordinance No. 2024-005; this is enacting a new chapter for "Recreational Marijuana" of Title Two of Part Eight-Business Regulation and Taxation Code of our Codified Ordinances concerning the sale of recreational marijuana. We are going to place this on first reading this evening and refer it to Planning. Neal, is there anything you would like to add to this?

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone (cont'd):

Mr. Jamison – Yes, thank you Mr. President. The administration has had a long discussion about this ordinance. After going through it thoroughly, it is our recommendation what is before Council now, it's our recommendation that you pass it at the appropriate time, thank you.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you, any questions for myself?

(No questions)

FINANCE – Ms. Kosek:

(No report)

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski: Yes, Planning, Zoning and Engineering there is one ordinance this evening, Ordinance No. 2024-001. This is an ordinance accepting for dedication to public use certain lands within Camden Woods Subdivision. The recommendation is suspension and adoption this evening.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski: In Public Safety and Health, we have two ordinances and a resolution. The two ordinances: Ordinance No. 2024-002 and 2024-003 are amendment agreements for public safety dispatch services; one is with the City of Olmsted Falls and the other with the City of Berea. Both of those are suspension and adoption this evening. Finally, we have Resolution No. 2024-004 accepting two donations of \$1,000.00 each from Swagelok Company. We would like to thank them for that generous donation. They have made this almost every year for the past several years; and that's for education and training for our police and fire departments. Again, the recommendation on that is suspension and adoption this evening. That concludes my report, but I will be happy to take any questions.

(No questions)

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Roff:

(No report)

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR, DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICERS:

MAYOR PERCIAK:

(No report)

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dean: Thank you Council President, I hereby certify that the funds will be made available for all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda requiring certification of funding, thank you.

LAW DEPARTMENT – Mr. Jamison: All ordinances and resolutions are in proper legal form; that concludes my report, thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mary Vantz, 78 Duxbury Lane, Brunswick, OH 44212: Hello, my name is Mary Vantz, and I live at 78 Duxbury Lane in Brunswick. I guess everybody else is still on holiday today. Anyways, here we are on a cold January 2024 evening. First of all, I hope that all of you had a happy holiday season and celebrated in whatever way you celebrate with your family and friends. I think we all appreciated a little bit of a break, and took a little time to exhale, but here we are getting back to business. You will continue to be here because you took an oath to serve the residents of Strongsville; all of the residents of Strongsville...all of them. We are here, and we will continue to be here because we remain passionate about our cause; and that of course is the prevention of any kind of interchange at Boston Road and I-71. We will continue to be coming here until this matter is resolved. Sometimes as you know, we feel either you don't listen, you forget, or you ignore our concerns. There still seems to be no real clear response to our concerns and questions. I won't be redundant tonight and repeat them. I do want to take a minute and mention our neighbors to the south, just as a little diversion to what you're usually used to hearing, and that is to the residents of the City of Medina. Their demographics are different yet very similar in many ways. They too have grown tremendously over the years, and have developed many homes and businesses in their city. I have never lived in Medina, so this isn't a commercial for Medina. They also have truck traffic that has to move from the west side of their city through Medina to get to I-71. Their truck traffic is mainly going east to west; and it can cause congestion if you have ever been in Medina at certain times during the day. However, they have never snuck anything into a transportation bill or any other type of legislation. They have worked extremely hard on moving their traffic through their city; albeit, not smoothly at times. No one in Medina has lost their homes or businesses in this process. They may have lost some footage...frontage of their properties or incurred other minor losses. We can't be Medina and we know it, but can't we do better than what than we're doing right now? In 2024, can Strongsville be the city that made a difference and be a model of how things can change without destroying neighborhoods whether it be in Strongsville or Brunswick? Wouldn't we be the envy of Ohio, and possibly outside the state? So, in the meantime we are asking, please think outside the box, respect our concerns and as wild and Pollyanna as it may sound, maybe great things can occur in 2024, thank you.

(Applause)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2024-001 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING FOR DEDICATION TO PUBLIC USE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN CAMDEN WOODS SUBDIVISION; ACCEPTING CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITIES CONSTRUCTED THEREIN AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ACTS REQUIRED IN FURTHERANCE THEREOF, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short to suspend the rules requiring every ordinance or resolution to be read on three different days, second by Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2024-001 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2024-002 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SEVENTH AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND THE CITY OF OLMSTED FALLS, IN CONNECTION WITH AN ADJUSTMENT OF FEES COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short to suspend the rules requiring every ordinance or resolution to be read on three different days, second by Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-002 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-003 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN EIGHTH AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND THE CITY OF BEREA, IN CONNECTION WITH AN ADJUSTMENT OF FEES COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short to suspend the rules requiring every ordinance or resolution to be read on three different days, second by Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-003 ADOPTED.

Resolution No. 2024-004 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TWO DONATIONS OF \$1,000.00 EACH FROM SWAGELOK COMPANY TO THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE TO BE USED FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE STRONGSVILLE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion by Mr. Short to suspend the rules requiring every ordinance or resolution to be read on three different days, second by Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2024-004 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-005 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 841 "RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA" OF TITLE TWO OF PART EIGHT-BUSINESS REGULATION AND TAXATION CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING THE SALE OF RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on first reading and referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendation.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

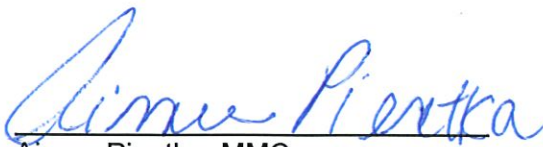
(None)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

(None)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Carbone adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.



Aimee Pientka, MMC
Clerk of Council

01-16-24

Date