

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023.

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in the Caucus Room at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7:45 p.m.**

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

Absent: Councilman James A. Kaminski.

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:47 p.m.

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

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee: Council President Carbone advised Ordinance No. 2023-058 is an ordinance amending the zoning map of the City of Strongsville adopted by section 1250.03 of Title Six, Part Twelve of the Codified Ordinances of Strongsville to change the zoning classification of certain real estate located at 8810 Pearl Road (PPNs 395-06-009; 395-06-010; 395-06-011; 395-06-012) in the City of Strongsville from GB (General Business) classification to R-RS (Restaurant-Recreational Services) Classification. The Planning Commission gave this a favorable recommendation on April 13, 2023. This will be placed on second reading and set for a public hearing June 5, 2023. Mayor Perciak advised this is for a proposed Dunkin Donuts. Ordinance No. 2023-059 is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Fabrizi Trucking & Paving Company, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$2,343,152.50, for improvements to various streets in the City of Strongsville in connection with the 2023 pavement reconstruction program. Ms. Kosek asked if this will be the final change order for this project. Mayor Perciak advised to the best of his knowledge, there will not be another one. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Ordinance No. 2023-060; an ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor to issue and approve Change Order No. 1 (final) for an increase in the contract price, in the amount of \$9,181.80 for the total project cost of \$571,446.80, in accordance with the provisions of the contract between the City of Strongsville and Fabrizi Trucking & Paving Company, Inc., in connection with the Foltz Parkway Culvert Replacement Project.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Council President Carbone advised Ordinance No. 2023-061 is an ordinance approving and authorizing the filing of an application for financial assistance from the Ohio Attorney General's office in connection with the Ohio Law Enforcement Bulletproof Vest Program. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Public Service & Conservation Committee: Chairman DeMio advised Ordinance No. 2023-062 is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Dura Mark, Inc., for a total amount not to exceed \$902,200.00, for materials and services in connection with the paint striping of certain streets and highways within the City of Strongsville. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Ordinance No. 2023-063; an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Crossroads Asphalt Recycling, Inc., in a total amount not to exceed \$2,259,462.50, for the purchase of general pavement services for 2023 for use by the service department of the City of Strongsville.

Recreation & Community Services Committee: Chairwoman Roff advised Resolution No. 2023-064 is a resolution accepting a monetary donation, from The Strongsville Rotary Foundation, to be used towards the purchase of mulch for various city playgrounds. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Carbone advised Ordinance No. 2023-065 is an ordinance amending section 266.05 of Chapter 266 of Title Six Part Two-Administration Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Strongsville in order to update certain health insurance benefit information for certain city employees. Mr. Jamison advised this is to clarify these benefits have been in effect since 2016, and will remain thereafter. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 8:00 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. 2004-273.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Councilman James A. Kaminski.

Motion made by Councilwoman Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio, to excuse Councilman James A. Kaminski for just cause. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 3, 2023 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

(None)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark: Thank you President Carbone, there was a Strongsville City School Board meeting on April 6, 2023. Treasurer, George Anagnostou, and Athletic Director, Denny Ziegler spent some time sharing information from the athletic department budget. They, along with other members of the administration staff, have taken a 5-year proactive look at that. Like everything else, costs are going up. The board is supportive of their efforts and challenged them to look for additional opportunities for revenue to look for extending that 5-year lookout to 10 or even 15, whatever it takes to mitigate risk of surprises; the goal being to make sure that we continue to not only support the basic needs, but allow the boosters to supply supplemental and enhanced experiences for our student athletes, consistent with our excellence in athletics' mission. The next financial item highlighted during the meeting was the ESSER budget. We're in year 2 of 3; so the next school year is the final year. Again, these are funds that the state provided to offset some of the challenges and hardships the schools' faced from the COVID pandemic. Based on the projections for this school year, there should be about \$1.9 million dollars left for that final year of ESSER funds. The recommendations and adjustments were highlighted, really to ensure that 100% of that funding is used to provide the best value, as those dollars are all use or lose. At that meeting, we also got an update from the DLT (District Learning Team) presentation from Jenny Pelko and Jessica Frenchik, that highlighted the need to learn skills, not just content. Superb information was shared with us at the meeting. There's going to be videos made available on the district's website to be open to the public and anyone can watch. Kinsner Elementary School's principal is going to resign at the end of this school year from his position; but the good news that we learned is he is staying in the district. He will move to the high school; so there is a search underway for a new principal for Kinsner; and he will be retained moving to Strongsville High School in the social studies department. Spring sports are well underway. I'm just going to share a couple of dates; and I know speaking of spring sports, President Carbone had an announcement he wanted to share with respect to one of those, but just a couple of important dates on school board. The next Strongsville City School Board meeting will be April 27th at the administrative building. The Strongsville Education Foundation's "Jockeys & Julips" is on May 6th at the Strongsville Recreation & Senior Center. I'm going to say this, the last day of school is already coming up, Friday, May 26th; and that is an early release day. Do you want to share something around the lacrosse?

Mr. Carbone – Yes, I won't get into full details, but most of you may have heard about our fields at Allen Elementary. There were some vandals. Some people went in there and turfed the fields and put them in a condition where our kids with the lacrosse program could no longer go have games there. What we emphasize here in Strongsville is our residents and our business community. We had an opportunity; and hopefully, this works out. I just want to put a positive spin because it breaks my heart when we're on Channel 8 News, not for something positive; and unfortunately, this was aired a couple of times about these vandals in our city. A resident of our community, and a business owner of our community, has opened up conversations with lacrosse, possibly having them playing on their field at their business. This is where when you have the relations we do with our residents and with our business community, we can take a negative into a positive. It's not finalized; hopefully soon, but I just wanted to throw that out there, thank you.

Mr. Clark – I figured that was what you were going to share and that is superb, thank you. That concludes the school board report, but I'll gladly take any questions.

(No comments)

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Clark:

(No report)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. Carbone, we have no updates from Southwest General, as we have not had a board meeting since our last Council meeting. There are no updates this month...at the beginning of the month, but I will take any questions here for Southwest.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short: We are going to have an Economic Development Committee meeting next Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. here in Council Chambers. Mr. Painter, our economic development director will be leading that with the Montrose Group to discuss a survey, I believe they want to do regarding some of the future in planning economic development opportunities for Strongsville. Anything else Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Perciak – Over the next two decades, this is the beginning of that study.

Mr. Short – We are looking for input from the committee. Obviously, as always, my colleagues are welcomed to join that if you would like. That concludes economic development. I do want to add too about the incident that destroyed Allen Fields. I know a business stepped up as well to help them fix that because part of the lacrosse association, which leases that from the schools, it's their responsibility to maintain that. They just had a big fundraiser to, hopefully, redo that field to make them more viable for the lacrosse program for the kids in second through eighth grades. I do believe there might be a fundraiser as well, so we will provide some information on that as well once that fundraiser is set to repair those fields. That concludes my report in economic development, but will happily take any questions, thank you.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio: Thank you so much, we have Ordinance Nos. 2023-062 and 2023-063, both are under this committee. One is striving for \$902,000.00 for 2023 and 2024 and \$2.2 million dollars for the reconstruction of streets; we appreciate that. Mayor, those bids were awful tight; that was a good estimate you came through with.

Mayor Perciak – We're just happy that we had bids because with some of the bridges and things, we were unable to obtain a bid and had to go out and rebid.

Mr. DeMio – We thank you for those tight numbers, you were awful close to what that number was...we really appreciate it. We would like to suspend and adopt those two pieces of legislation tonight, so everything can go forward and start moving as the weather gets better...that's it, thank you.

FINANCE – Ms. Kosek:

(No report)

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski:

Mr. Carbone - In Mr. Kaminski's absence, I will take over Planning, Zoning and Engineering, Public Safety and Health, and I will also do Committee of the Whole, that is my committee. We are going to start with Ordinance No. 2023-058; this is a rezoning for real estate located at 8810 Pearl Rd. from general business classification (GB) to restaurant recreational services (R-RS). This did get a favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission on April 13, 2023. This is speculating that this is going to be a Dunkin Donuts on the north end. We are going to place this on second reading and the public hearing will be June 5, 2023. We have Ordinance No. 2023-059; this is to enter into a contract for improvements for various streets in our city. It's the 2023 pavement reconstruction program in the amount of \$2,343,152.50.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski (cont'd):

Mr. Carbone (cont'd) - We have Ordinance No. 2023-060; this is to issue and approve a change order no. 1 for the (final) to increase the contract price between the City of Strongsville and Fabrizi Trucking and Paving company, Inc. This is in connection with the Foltz Parkway culvert replacement program for \$9,181.80.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski:

Mr. Carbone – We have Ordinance No. 2023-061; this is authorizing the filing of an application for financial assistance with the Ohio Attorney General's office for our Ohio Law Enforcement Bullet Proof Vest program. This is up to \$40,000.00; our portion is 25%.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - Ms. Roff: I have just one item, I have Resolution No. 2023-064; that is to accept a donation from the Strongsville Rotary Club to be used towards mulch for the various playgrounds in Strongsville. I did want to though, now that we are talking about school and stuff getting out, I know college kids will be home soon. I wanted to remind people to check out the new memberships that they have at the Strongsville Recreation Center. Some of them are for shorter amounts of time so they can get a membership for just the time that they are home. It works out for them, as far as I'm sure financially, and they are just using it while they are there for the summer months. Also, on April 28th and 29th at 8:00 p.m. at the Strongsville Highschool little theatre, the Strongsville Community Theatre is putting on a murder mystery type of event. The tickets are \$15.00, you can reach out to their website: www.strongsvillecommunitytheatre.com to get tickets or there is a phone number (440-879-8817). It's supposed to be fun for all, that's all I have.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone: We have Ordinance No. 2023-065. This is amending Section 266.05 in order to update certain health insurance benefit information for full-time employees. All these, outside of Ordinance No. 2023-058, is to suspend and adopt. Does anybody have any questions for me on these?

(No comments)

Mr. Carbone – Before I close out the Council Committees, I did under Public Safety and Health, wanted to...on behalf of Council, really, I sympathize with the residents there that lost their homes in Hunting Meadows on Lanier Ave. to a house fire. This was in the middle of the night...they were sleeping and it was the smoke detector that alerted them. Our hearts go out to them. I know our community, what type of community we have, I know our community will support them dearly making the transition as smooth as possible. I also want to...I'm sure the fire department will get it out there to make sure your smoke detectors are working and the batteries are updated. This could have gone another way, and it didn't; so just please take a couple of minutes in the next day or two and check that over.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

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

Mr. Clark – Jim If I can comment before we move on. I spent some time with Chief Draves last week; and certainly, our hearts go out to the family. Like you said, our community will surround them, but it's times like these when really, it's important that we have that force there and that response and ability. It was and it is a tragedy. Thankfully, all lives were saved and no lives were lost. There's many homes around there and response time matters from the smoke detector going off, to our response time getting there and making sure that we have that response time. If an entire home becomes engulfed, it can quickly spread and be more than that. I think it's important, as we look forward, that we continue to stay on top of that. Certainly, as you said, our hearts go out to the family, but also a "thank you" to our fire fighters for what they do in those situations, thank you.

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Yes, good evening Mr. President and everyone. Just a quick note before I get into a tribute for our former Police Chief, Ray Buschman. Yesterday, I had the privilege of being at the dedication and consecration of the new facilities for the Strongsville United Methodist Church. It was truly a very happy event; a bunch of jubilant people. I urge all of you, if you have an opportunity, go visit the new facilities at the Strongsville United Methodist Church. Pastor Dave Scavuzzo just did a brilliant job, along with the Bishop and all of the staff there at the church. They really just wanted to thank all of us for the expertise that we have in our engineering department, our building department and all the services that we render to them so that this can come to fruition. As Pastor Dave told me, he said they just have one more major step to go, and that's the building of the sanctuary. I have to tell you, what a great group of people; just hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people. I have to say, at this point of my career, I knew half of them. It was a great day, and so congratulations to everybody at Strongsville United Methodist. The next thing I have is a tribute here to Ray Buschman, our former police chief. On April 7, 2023, the City of Strongsville lost one of its past leaders when former Strongsville Police Chief, Raymond Buschman passed away at the age of 93. By the way Jimmy, he was the chief when I first came to Strongsville. Chief Buschman spent nearly his whole life in Strongsville and graduated from Strongsville Highschool in 1947. He participated in a variety of sports and was inducted into the Strongsville Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989. Chief Buschman served in the U.S. Army as a M.P. in Stuttgart, Germany until he joined the Strongsville Police Department in 1953. Chief Buschman worked his way up through the ranks and took over as Chief of Police in 197. At that time, the force totaled 25 officers and served a population of 15,000 residents. Some of the changes and innovations that took place under Chief Buschman's leadership include: Renovation and expansion of police headquarters, state certification of the department's basic training program, creation of a detective bureau and traffic unit, acquisition of the department's first helicopter, and the creation of a juvenile bureau and the safety town program. Chief Buschman retired in 1982 after 29 years of service to the City of Strongsville. Ray was the cherished husband of Blanche for 67 years. He was the father of Karl, Lynn and Laurie (deceased), and grandfather to three. Please join me in a moment of silence as we honor Chief Buschman.

At this time, a moment of silence was observed.

Mayor Perciak – That ends my report, Mr. President.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you for sharing that, Mayor.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR, DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICERS (cont'd):

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dean: Thank you Mr. President, I just want to remind everybody that tomorrow is Tax Day, unfortunately. The easiest way to file taxes with the City of Strongsville is to go to www.ritaohio.org. That is where you can file your taxes online and they have extended hours and drop-off locations all day tomorrow. If you have any questions, we can give you the number to call Rita. At City Hall, we would be happy to help anybody with any questions. I also would like to certify that all funds are made available for all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda requiring certification of funding.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you, Mr. Dean.

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

James Evanoff, 3649 Ascot Drive, Brunswick, Ohio 44212: James Evanoff, 3649 Ascot Drive, Brunswick. I'm pretty sure, as soon as you heard Brunswick, you want to know why I'm here tonight. Well, I'm here about this exit ramp plan that you guys insist upon ramming down my city's throat. I'm sitting here looking at a lot of failures that have gone on in this city in the City of Strongsville, that have contributed to the problem that now, all of a sudden, you want the state to rescue you from. You've continued to overbuild on the Route 82 corridor in Strongsville. You have done nothing to change the traffic and approve traffic on Howe Road. The state offered you money to put a slip ramp in. There's plenty of open land that you can put a roundabout in at Howe Road and Shurmer Road that would ease some of the bottlenecks there. Have you thought about widening Howe Road or even just putting some turn offs in, so that way Amazon and UPS deliveries and anybody else who's delivering, doesn't tie up the road? How about your garbage contracts? If I was the city and I was so worried about the traffic on that road, I would tell Republic Services or Rumpke or whatever other garbage contract you have hauling for you, you cannot be on that road between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. collecting trash. You cannot be on that road after 3 p.m. collecting trash in either direction. You're the City of Strongsville, you are the one offering and trying to get a contract. You can put that kind of thing in there. I can't tell you how many times I go down Howe Road and it's tied up because of a garbage truck on that road. A lot of the traffic problems are created by the City of Strongsville by not doing a better job of enforcing contracts, improving traffic flow and turned down free money from the state. That's ridiculous, and now you want to force this down the throat of the city that I live in. Saying, "Oh, we need this...it's for the greater good because all the traffic is from Brunswick that's on that road." Guess what? Many people in the City of Brunswick, we've been studying and looking and seeing how people are driving down the road. Eighty to ninety percent of traffic on our road are your residents. Quit lying to the public saying, "Oh, thirty, forty, fifty percent of the traffic on that road is the City of Brunswick...it isn't. Unless you're telling us, "Don't come to the...your locations here in Strongsville". Guess what, if I'm thinking about going and getting a steak, maybe I will drive to Medina instead of coming to Strongsville. Obviously, we are not welcomed here. That's the message you're giving me here by trying to ram this down our throats. Have you even said, "You know what, hey, we realize that Boston Road is going to need a ton of improvements to do this or we need this so bad that we'll pay for everything that the state doesn't pay for." Have you done that? No, you have not. You obviously had the juice with Mr. Tom Patton at the state assembly to try to and get this exit put in. Why didn't you have it done in such a way that you're going to build an exit at Drake Road? You obviously had the juice, because the general assembly member that represents this city, got...the only place that this exact legislation exists and would be legal, is on the Brunswick / Strongsville border. Why didn't you do that?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Evanoff (cont'd) - Why didn't you say, "Tom, we really need a freeway exit...we need it on Drake Road, get it done and get it paid for." Mr. Carbone, a minute ago I heard you talk about you feel for the people whose...because their house burned down. Well, I tell you what...I'm going to tell Strongsville to put their money where their mouth is. If you really feel for it, why don't you do what Cleveland and the state did with the Opportunity Corridor? Years before the first shovel even went down, they gave all the people that lived in that area, way over value on their homes. If you guys really insist upon needing this, knowing that you're going to take out homes in Strongsville and Brunswick, write legislation now or work with the state right now. Get the legislation made and pay them \$300,000.00 over market value for their homes. That way, they can move and get on with their lives now instead of waiting for a drop in the market and then you're going to say, "We are going to eminent domain you out of your homes." That's the problem with Strongsville, they are always worried about their commercial interest...tax money, tax money, tax money; but you don't seem to care about the people.

(Applause)

Sue Mazzola, 3440 Boston Rd., Brunswick, Ohio 44212: My name is Sue Mazzola, I live at 3440 Boston Road, Brunswick, Ohio. Mayor Perciak, I address this to you sir. Were you aware that representative Tom Patton brought this bill to Governor DeWine in an unprecedented way? Brunswick had no say and it was done with deception. You had said that there were three sites you were looking at; when in fact, only Boston Road fits that criteria; so, there's a little lie there. You took away the voices of both Strongsville and Brunswick residents. You have emphasized, in your last meeting, this is all about safety. Tell me sir, how is this safer to put in a residential area? It's not. Are you being fully transparent with your residents on Howe Road who think this is going to alleviate problems on their streets? If that interchange goes up, the south end of Strongsville is going to use it, causing more traffic on the south end of Howe Road. Understandably so, but do you not think all the cities south of us are not going to get off on that interchange and take the back road to the mall to avoid Royalton Road? You just increased their traffic; but of course, you'll just have to blame it on the Brunswick residents. Okay, any relief you're going to get by removing the Brunswick residents, you're going to get back again once you finish your Town Hall. Strongsville was at one time a sought after residential area looked there myself before buying in Brunswick. That's where everybody wanted to go and raise their children. You have turned it into a commercial circus. There is nothing family friendly about Strongsville anymore...it's just about building, building, building. There's not a strip anywhere in Strongsville that isn't surrounding a neighborhood. You have destroyed your own city and that's why people are moving south. As far as the eminent domain...let's talk about this. First of all, doing this is going to destroy families. Eminent domain will give us only so much money. My neighbor put her house up for sale. She's looking now; she can't even get a condo for \$399,000.00. We are not going to get that kind of money. There are people...she's on a fixed income. We have a lady in Strongsville...92 years old. Where is she going? None of us are going to have homes. We have families living there that their dollar is stretched as it is in today's market. With things being so high, where are they going? Minimum, is \$100,000.00 more that we are going to have to pay out to find something comparable to what we've put into our homes. I put in a new roof, new siding, new air conditioning, heating, windows...I'm not starting over. I'm 64 years old. We don't have that kind of money. We were looking to retirement which is why we did this so we wouldn't have to worry about it. Now, people think it's okay to come in and just say, "You know what, we are a little crowded...we need to invade your space." Now, let's talk about Representative Tom Patton who we all know, anybody who knows him, knows he is a shady man. He's been in question since the Dimora trial, and up to now even. To their former Secretary...former House Speaker in Columbus, Patton's name was listed...

Mr. Carbone – Ma'am, can we keep it to Boston Road, please?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Mazzola (cont'd) – Why, do you not want to hear this? Does Patton not represent you? You know what, this was dirty politics...that's how he got this bill up there. You should hear this because you all promised to work for people; what you're doing is not. When dirty politics is involved, that's not working for people. He is a crook and anybody who associates with him. The man should be removed. GOP wants him out, anybody who associates with him...it's only a matter of time before they go after him. Again, his name brought up in the scheming. This is him representing your city...that's your reputation, thank you.

(Applause)

Shrea Kellums, 3450 Boston Road, Brunswick, Ohio 44212: My name is Shrea Kellums, I live on 3450 Boston Road in Brunswick. I have lived in my house for over 30 years, and basically, we are doing...I have like three more years until retirement. Our plans were to sell the house, get a decent amount of money for it so we have money for retirement. Well then this is thrown at us. I will probably get diddly squat for my house if anything...if I even have a house left. I have done my own surveys...I went down last week. My first day was at 6:15 p.m., I went into the Marathon. At 6:15 p.m., it took me six minutes to get home on Howe Road...six minutes to my house into the driveway and into the garage. Then I went at 5:15 p.m., it took seven minutes from the Cleveland Clinic to Drake Road then from Drake Road I timed it again and from Drake Road to Howe Road right into my garage, was two and a half minutes and you guys are blaming Brunswick. All I'm hearing is 43% of the traffic is Brunswick. That's a bunch of hoey; an absolute bunch of hoey and lies. Just leave us alone...that's all...leave us alone. You're lying by saying that it's going to be totally paid for. Brunswick is not that kind of community. You guys might have deep pockets, we don't. Our community is not like that; and I don't appreciate you telling us what we're going to do with our money; I really don't.

(Applause)

Terry Woods 3510 Boston Road, Brunswick, Ohio 44212: Terry Woods, 3510 Boston Road, Brunswick. I looked at the plans and laid out four pictures of what your ramp could look like; and it's quite obvious that Drake Road is the only optimum place for it. Boston Road would take out too many houses. I really didn't count the houses around the exit ramps or anything; I don't know if you guys have already. I think you made a big mistake by not taking the slip ramp. It would have been the simplest solution to everything. Just put a third lane in Howe Road, which I thought was going to happen with the sewers; but you fooled us on that one. She's right, traffic is much lighter from Drake Road to Boston Road...much lighter. In the mornings, it's pretty heavy from Brunswick. I don't know where they are going; but when I was working, it wasn't that bad. I have been retired now for 14 years. The traffic got a lot heavier after the mall went in; but again, you hit Drake Road and it was a lot thinner...it's wasn't that heavy. I don't know where all the controversy is coming from and I don't know why or how Patton got this passed, other than devious methods. I think that once you do your survey, and I hope Brunswick does the same survey, you'll find that Brunswick roads shouldn't be messed with. The straightest shot for your trucks is right down Drake Road into Foltz Parkway instead of down Boston Road. Neither road is really equipped right now for trucking, especially Brunswick, that's a country road that's just a pain. That's all I have to say.

Mr. Carbone – Sir, you said you saw photos? Where did you....

Mr. Woods – I forgot to bring them with me...I have the...

Mr. Carbone – Was this at the Committee of the Whole meeting of the City of Brunswick had?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Woods - It was a shot of Drake Road, Boston Road and Howe Road. The planned ramps were just drawn in over photos. I don't know who made them up or anything; but I can get them to you next week if you want. It's pretty ridiculous when you see the drawings with what they did. That's all I have to say.

(Applause)

Mr. Carbone – Thank you very much.

Lou Chapman, 14634 Boston Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136: My name is Lou Chapman, I live at 14634 Boston Road, I have lived there for 44 years. I think this is maybe about the fifth time we passed over this intersection. I'm a retired electrician from General Motors Corporation and I'm also ex-vice president of the Homeowner's Association for The Trails Development. Over those periods of years, I must have done thirty... maybe fifty electrical jobs for those associates that I have met, like the people that come to this microphone. This is not the first time; my telephone has been ringing off the hook about how emotionally upset these residents are with all the things that are going on in our community...inflation and everything. Many of them are struggling. I'm not the official spokesman, but seeing that I'm the handy man, I get a lot of telephone calls. Just the announcement has caused tremendous upset by people who are fragile...people that need assistance. This publication, again about this interchange, is poorly done without enough facts. It's another "maybe it's going to happen." The ramifications that these people are having are taking them to the doctor, believe it or not, and they have to get a ride to go to the doctor. It's not like they can just go in and get to a car. That's my statement that I wanted to make. The second thing I'd like to do is ask you is what's prompting this? "Where is the data that supports this type of interchange to be put on Boston Road?" I'd like to know...I can't seem to be able to find that. I'd like to know if the Council can tell me where to go that justifies this type of intervention at that location. With 44 years of watching traffic go down Boston Road, since they started working from home, this is the lightest traffic we've seen. That's not a statistic. I didn't have a counter, but with 44 years' experience and hearing it go by, we know when it increases and when it decreases. We love Strongsville, but we do not like the way this has been flopped out there, again, upsetting people with more questions than answers. That's not the way to do good business; not for the caliber of city that Strongsville is. Thanks for the opportunity to talk.

(Applause)

Nancy Frognowski, 465 Pembroke Cove, Brunswick, Ohio 44212: My name is Nancy Frognowski, I live at 465 Pembroke Cove in Brunswick. My backyard...I live in Concord Meadows so I live in one of those cluster homes. My backyard, with my porch that I love to sit out on and the yard, the pond and then Carpenter Road. I'm very concerned about the traffic that will come down Carpenter Road. It's pretty congested now, and I feel like this will only increase it. My heart also goes out to the residents of Boston Road. I have been to a couple of Brunswick Council meetings and a couple of people have broken down in tears talking about what's going to happen with their houses and I feel the same way. I purchased my house several years ago. It's supposed to be my forever home. I'm retired, I'm single and I'm not quite sure what the next move is; this is very concerning. Like others, I was very disappointed and angered hearing about this interchange again. I have been in Brunswick for 35 years and I know it's come up again and again. It just seems like all of a sudden, it's been imposed on us and we had no say in the matter. I'm curious about ODOT and NOACCA and when their opinions come in and all these studies that I know are being done. It seems that there's a certain protocol that this is all supposed to follow. I'm not educated enough about it, but I'm not sure that all that has happened; I haven't heard about those. Like other residents said, it seems that Strongsville has a lot of development in your commercial businesses, the stores, the mall and Costco. Now Brunswick has to take on the responsibility of the traffic problems.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Frognowski (cont'd) - Talked about safety concerns...I hear that a lot that; that's part of the reason. There's safety concerns for Brunswick residents too and Strongsville, as some of the people talked from Strongsville that live there. I don't see how it would be safe having all that traffic, trucks included, on Boston Road and then the further places on Carpenter Road and every other way they would go. I also think it's a financial burden for the City of Brunswick to take on because then they would be, maybe, having to improve those roads; if that's how the costs go for maintaining them for sure. Another thing that I don't hear brought up often, but I have heard it a few times, is that there is a jet fuel line in that area and that it would have to be moved. To me, that is a huge...I never knew that before and that's a huge safety concern. Just moving it, and God forbid, there's any kind of accident during that. That doesn't make sense to me why that area is being looked at. I guess too, again, some of what I'm saying is repetitive so I apologize; but Strongsville had the opportunity for the slip ramp and the residents...many residents opposed it. They were heard and it didn't go through. Now, I feel like all of a sudden, it's being dropped on Brunswick and do we get a chance to oppose it and possibly have it dropped? It doesn't seem that way because it seems that now it's all of a sudden, a law that was kind of snuck in there. I'm curious when the trucks gets off that exit...where are the trucks going to go? Are they going to come down South Carpenter Road to Route 303? Are they going to go down Boston Road which we know is not in the condition right now to accept all that? Again, my final statement is that I purchased my home. I'm proud to have done it by myself and that's where I was going to live out my retirement. I just don't feel that I can do that anymore. I am one of those people that lays awake at night thinking, "Do I sell now...do I wait, is this going to happen?" It's very upsetting. Thank you very much for listening.

(Applause)

Mr. Carbone – Thank you for sharing your comments.

Ms. Pientka – That's all who signed in, President Carbone.

Mr. Carbone - Did anybody else want to come to the podium and say a few words?

Ms. Mazzola – "Unintelligible"

Mr. Carbone – Pardon me?

Mr. Jamison – No, you get one chance...that's what the rules provide.

Mr. Carbone – Anybody else who has not spoken? Well, I appreciate everybody coming in and voicing your opinions about this. There's a lot of assumptions that are going on and there's a lot of misinformation out there; and the reason why it's misinformation is, we have nothing. We are as much in the dark as you guys are with this. There is a feasibility study that is being conducted, but we have not seen anything. When you start...we're just hearing a lot of assuming that these things are going to take place and it's just not true at this point. The state did take an initiative on this. Obviously as elected officials, we are going to look and dissect this. As soon as we get something back we will...there is a process. A couple of you had said, "We want to be part of that process...there hasn't been a process...you haven't been transparent." We have been transparent. What we have is what our community has...what you have. That is all we have at this point, but there's just a lot of misinformation. The slip ramp came back from NOACCA as a highly unfeasible project; because that's part of the process. There was an idea to relieve traffic, right...absolutely safety, not only for the residents of Strongsville...for the residents of Brunswick, Hinckley, North Royalton, Columbia Station and Brunswick Hills. Obviously, as elected officials, we are going to look at all these things and there is a process.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Carbone (cont'd) - That went through the process. The residents of Howe Road, you're absolutely right, were very passionate about that. Ultimately, the decision came from NOACCA as a highly unfeasible project; and when we start getting into...I have watched all the meetings in Brunswick and I read all the comments. We're talking about four or five lanes, the jet fuel lines, about Foltz Industrial...it's just none of this is true at this point. We're just assuming this. Once we get something back, we are going to share that. We're all going to be able to dissect that and I can tell you we are make the best decision for our residents and for our neighbors to the south of us. Safety will be part of it, feasibility will be part of it, what type of impact we are going to make...all these things are going to be taken into consideration. I guess what I ask is if you could just be patient. As we get stuff, we will share that, and then we will be open to hearing your comments; but right now, it's just very premature. We have zero information, and the information we have, is exactly what...some of it, what you've had with what's going on in the state. Right now, this is a state initiative. Is there anything you would like to add?

Mayor Perciak - We authorized the payment of the study just to find out all the things that you discussed, President Carbone. At the end of the day, there is going to be a process where all the residents...whether it be Strongsville or Brunswick, will have an opportunity to come to a forum and voice their opinions but we are far, far away from that. The study...the first step is due here sometime at the end of May; but that doesn't mean we are going to be ready to release that. It has to go through all the different agencies. Then, if in fact they allow us to go to the second study, that's when everything else will start. All the public hearings and not to mention all the other...some lady had mentioned protocols. That's exactly what has to happen. We will have to follow all those footsteps. Yes, President Carbone, you are correct; and yes as of this point, we do not have an updated study. There were studies that were completed over the last 25 years; there's a big stack of them. I think those of you that live in The Trails know that's nothing new. Those studies are no longer acceptable by ODOT or NOACCA; but on the other side, we are going to do our best and we are going to try to do what's right. At all costs, we have to be within the limits of the law...that's what we do here. We are not going to operate or do anything outside of the law. That, you can take to the bank. We will follow the law.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you Mr. Mayor, and I just want to add one thing. A lot...not only Strongsville has overdeveloped. We didn't want some of this stuff. We were legally forced on some of it.

Mayor Perciak - That's correct.

Mr. Carbone - That whole Costco plaza and everything...

Mayor Perciak - Was the result of a settlement of a law suit.

Mr. Carbone - Yes, and if you look at "like" communities, I think you're seeing it. You're experiencing it down Route 303 in your section of Pearl Road overdevelopment, which is causing a lot of traffic, stacking of cars and what forth. We have made, in the City of Strongsville, we have made steps to improve our traffic flow for safety. Yes, we want to get people home quicker; but the main goal is to be safe and we've worked with ODOT and NOACCA. We've done a lot of improvements to our ramps to get the cars off of Interstate 71 and get them flowing on Route 82. We just spent almost six million dollars on a traffic signalization program. We have done things; but when you say "overdevelopment", when you say the "mall" to somebody that lived off of Howe Road since he was five years old...I can tell you this, when I was riding my BMX bike before the mall, where there were BMX tracks, or when I was driving downtown in the early 90's, there were stacked cars there. There was...the northern end of Brunswick and the southern end of Strongsville was overdeveloped residentially and quickly; the infrastructure was not in place to take care of it.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Carbone (cont'd) - We are trying to sort through all that right now; so, your patience would be much appreciated. We are going to be transparent and there's going to be more opportunity to speak in the future.

Mayor Perciak – That is correct Mr. President.

Mr. Carbone – There will be plenty of time for questions, believe me. We are going to be here to answer them.

Mr. Jamison – The rules don't provide for anything from the audience, you had your opportunity. We don't engage in comments from the audience or debate from the audience. It's from the podium; it's clear in our rules, but it's by ordinance as well.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you Mr. Jamison, so with that being said, we appreciate all your comments. We're going to be here...there's going to be a process, and we're going to be here to hear future comments from you. For right now, we are going right to ordinances and resolutions.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2023-058 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE ADOPTED BY SECTION 1250.03 OF TITLE SIX, PART TWELVE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STRONGSVILLE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 8810 PEARL ROAD (PPNs 395-06-009; 395-06-010; 395-06-011; 395-06-012) IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FROM GB (GENERAL BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION TO R-RS (RESTAURANT-RECREATIONAL SERVICES) CLASSIFICATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading and referred to the Planning Commission 04-03-23. Favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission 04-13-23.*

Placed on second reading and set for a public hearing June 5, 2023.

Ordinance No. 2023-059 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS STREETS IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2023 PAVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2023-059 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-060 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 (FINAL) FOR AN INCREASE IN THE CONTRACT PRICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND FABRIZI TRUCKING & PAVING COMPANY, INC., IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLTZ PARKWAY CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-060 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-061 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OHIO LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETPROOF VEST PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-061 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-062 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR MATERIALS AND SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PAINT STRIPING OF CERTAIN STREETS AND HIGHWAYS WITHIN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-062 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-063 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF GENERAL PAVEMENT SERVICES FOR 2023 FOR USE BY THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-063 ADOPTED.

Resolution No. 2023-064 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A MONETARY DONATION FROM THE STRONGVILLE ROTARY FOUNDATION TO BE USED TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF MULCH FOR VARIOUS CITY PLAYGROUNDS.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2023-064 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-065 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 266.05 OF CHAPTER 266 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWO-ADMINISTRATION CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN ORDER TO UPDATE CERTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFIT INFORMATION FOR CERTAIN CITY EMPLOYEES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-065 ADOPTED.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

Application for Permit: STCK - C1- C2: To: Laxmi 10925 Inc. DBA: Prospect Beverage, 10925 Prospect Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44149 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 04/24/2023).

There were no objections to this permit.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

(None)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Carbone adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Marialena Beach

Marialena Beach
Council Secretary

05-01-23

Date