

**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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, September 18, 2023, at 7:45 p.m.**

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

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:46 p.m.

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

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2023-131 is an ordinance enacting new section 1252.38 of the Planning and Zoning Code of the Codified Ordinances concerning short-term rentals in residential districts. This was placed on first reading and referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendation.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2023-132 is an ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for health services for the City of Strongsville for the years 2024 and 2025. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Public Service & Conservation Committee: Chairman DeMio advised Resolution No. 2023-133 is a resolution granting permission to repurchase certain certificates for burial rights in the Strongsville Municipal Cemetery (Zlokas). Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Recreation & Community Services Committee: Chairwoman Roff advised Resolution No. 2023-134 is a resolution accepting an additional donation in the amount of \$50,000.00 from The Strongsville City Club to be used for The Strongsville City Club playground within the Town Center area. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Members of the City Club were present in the audience to acknowledge their donation during the Council meeting.

Committee of the Whole: Chairman Carbone advised Ordinance No. 2023-135 is an ordinance approving and adopting the mid-year replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Resolution No. 2023-136; which is a resolution in support of the city school district renewal levy (Issue No.14) on the November 7, 2023 Ballot.

***Ms. Kosek made a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing the purchase of real property. It was seconded by Mr. DeMio 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 7:50 p.m. Also present from the Administration: Mayor Perciak and Law Director Neal Jamison. The executive session concluded at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened into open session.***

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 8:11 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, James A. Kaminski, Joseph C. DeMio, Gordon C. Short, Thomas M. Clark, Kelly A. Kosek and Annmarie P Roff. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Finance Director Eric Dean and Law Director Neal Jamison.

***Motion made by Mr. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio, to amend the agenda to move Resolution No. 2023-134 from "Ordinances and Resolutions" to "Appointments, Confirmations, Awards and Recognitions". All members present voted aye and the motion carried.***

**COMMENTS ON MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 5, 2023, were approved as submitted.

**APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

**Recognition to The Strongsville City Club, for their donation to the Strongsville Town Center Enhancement & Walkability Initiative. Mr. Terry Toth, President, and Mr. Mike Polo, Treasurer, were present for this recognition.**

*(Mayor Perciak' s dialogue was inaudible due to positioning of the mic)*

***At this time, Mayor Perciak read and presented a formal copy of Resolution No. 2023-134 to Mr. Toth and Mr. Polo.***

(Applause)

Mr. Toth – Thank you guys, we all appreciate it. Mayor, Council, thank you for all your support. I know this project has been something that's been talked about for decades. It was really special to us and to The City Club; so on behalf of The City Club, we are proud to make the donation. I know that this is a community project, just like the clock tower that has become an icon of our town. It's good for the young kids. It's good for old people like me, and everybody in between. For our community, thank you guys for everything you do; and we're just humbled to be a part of it, thank you very much.

**APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS (cont'd):**

Mr. Carbone – We have a phenomenal community; but I really think what sets us aside from a lot of other communities is our civic organization; not only to be able to be presented with a check for \$50,000.00, but yesterday – the Breakfast on the Bridge. It's unbelievable when you have a thousand people, mostly community members, coming together. We also can't forget The Rib Burnoff. Unbelievable activities that we have here in town from our civic organizations - The City Club especially, that's brings a community together, young and old. Somebody like me that's been here almost a lifetime and to be able to have these memories of me going with Mr. Novosel and going to Breakfast on the Bridge in middle school; and waking up early when I slept over his house and having to clean off tables and doing all that. It's great, we celebrated our 40 years. On behalf of me personally, and a lot of other people like Jim Kaminski, just be a part of it and see it as a young kid and as I got older...now, my kids experiencing it and everything, we couldn't do this without great civic groups, so thank you to The City Club.

(Applause)

Ms. Roff – Thank you guys again.

Mr. Carbone – Anything else Mayor?

Ms. Pientka – We're going to vote on the legislation.

Ms. Kosek – Do you need to read the title Aimee?

Ms. Pientka – No, the Mayor read it and I attest to that.

**Resolution No. 2023-134** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AN ADDITIONAL DONATION OF MONEY FROM THE STRONGSVILLE CITY CLUB TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRONGSVILLE TOWN CENTER ENHANCEMENT & WALKABILITY INITIATIVE, AND FURTHER DESIGNATING THE STRONGSVILLE CITY CLUB PLAYGROUND WITHIN THE TOWN CENTER AREA.

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. 2023-134 ADOPTED.**

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark:** Thank you President Carbone, there was a Strongsville City School Board meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2023 (meant to say September 14, 2023). I am going to cover four topics. It was a great meeting and a lot was covered. First...also on that day, the state report card was released; there was great information. I think we have some members of the school board here tonight. I was going to talk about the state report card, but since we have three members that I see from the school board here tonight, I am going to invite them to come to the podium and cover some highlights directly.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

**SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark (cont'd):** There was three things I was going to mention. I don't know if they are going to cover them all, but one was the good news on the state report card, one was an update from GPD (a firm Strongsville schools are partnering with for elementary facilities planning project), and the third was an announcement of a community conversation tomorrow. Those were three of them, but I will let you come up and I will cover any points that I think you don't get to, thank you so much.

***At this time Ms. Laura Wolfe-Hosum, President of the Strongsville School Board, came up to the podium to speak.***

Ms. Wolfe-Hosum – Thank you, for those that don't know, I am Laura Wolfe-Hosum. I am the President of the Strongsville School Board. President Carbone, President Pro Tem Kosek, Members of Council, and Mayor Perciak: I along with my fellow board members would like to thank you for allowing me to take some time during your meeting to share an update from the Strongsville School Board about our district. Last week the Ohio Department of Education released the state report card for the 2022-2023 school year. I am happy and proud to report that the Strongsville City Schools earned the highest overall rating of 5 stars....

(Applause)

Ms. Wolfe-Hosum – Thank you, 5 stars is defined as, "significantly exceeding state standards." You can be proud that Strongsville is one of only 75 schools out of the 607 schools in Ohio to achieve this rating. Our district's purpose is "Inspiring and empowering today's learners to build tomorrow's leaders". It is through the efforts of our students, their parents and guardians, the teachers, staff, and administrators along with a supportive community that we accomplish our purpose. I think that this 5 star rating is one way you as Councilmembers, and the community as a whole can measure how well our schools are performing. While we are very pleased with the results, we also recognize that there are areas for improvement in our daily work. Rest assured that at our board meeting taking place October 12, 2023, we will dive into the results and review where we can change and adjust, where we can improve what we do, so that our students will be empowered to achieve even more. We are fortunate to have a strong partnership with City Council, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councilman Clark. As our school board liaison, I know he will bring you a full report of our meeting. I would also like to inform City Council that on the November 7<sup>th</sup> ballot we have a levy. Issue 14 is a renewal levy with no new taxes. Let me share some background with you about the levy. The levy was first approved by the voters in 2019 for 5 years. The 5.9-mill levy generates approximately \$9.8 million dollars annually for our district and students. Issue 14, a no-new-tax renewal levy, will preserve classroom education and programming that is essential to keep our schools excellent and uphold the quality and values of our community. The Strongsville City School District has three goals: academic achievement and growth, financial prudence, and community engagement. Let me highlight a few of those key points: Our Treasurer, George Anagnostou, exemplifies financial prudence with his "Meritorious Budget Award" and "Excellence in Financial Reporting Awards" for 7 straight years. What that means to me is you can trust George's numbers. What that means to the community, is the district spends its money wisely, and is constantly looking for ways to save the taxpayers' dollars. With George's leadership we re-financed our bonds that built the middle school and renovated the high school and saved the taxpayer \$19,862,000.30 dollars over the life of the bond. The passage of this levy back in 2019 put the school district in the position to improve our rating with Moody's which then led to this savings. Failure of the renewal levy jeopardizes our ability to be wise with the taxpayers' dollars.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

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

Ms. Wolfe-Housum (cont'd) - Mayor Perciak understands the intricacies of Moody's credit ratings, bond markets, and interest rates from his many years as a banker and Mayor. If anyone on Council or in the public wants a master class on the subject, I'm sure he will oblige. Thank you Mayor Perciak. The levy also fosters our goal of academic achievement and growth. Let me share just a few examples of the opportunities our students experience because of this levy; one to one technology, the taxpayers 1/2 a million dollar investment every year means that every student has a Chromebook in our district, a career exploration program for 11-12 graders to support career pathways, English language teachers to better support our English learning students, an elementary assistant principal shared in our large elementary schools, an elementary curriculum supervisor for grades Pre K-5, a gifted coordinator for our gifted students, LETRs training (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling); this is the multi-year commitment by the board, so that all our students learn to read well, makerspaces in all buildings K-12, a math coach at the middle and high school, a special education coach, a band/orchestra supplemental teacher, music funding for instruments, supplementals for jazz band show choir and chamber strings starting in grade 6 through 12, support for a fall play and spring musical, an assistant athletic director for the middle school, a dance team and spirit squad at the high school, reinstated 8th grade teams in volleyball and girls/boys basketball at the middle school, extracurriculars at every elementary school, guidance counselors and social workers, one dedicated high school SRO (School Resource Officer), one dedicated middle school SRO, rotating elementary SRO's, safety cameras on buses, and school bus GPS tracking. I could go on and on, but I think you can see how essential the levy is to our students. Our last goal is community engagement, which this ballot issue represents. As a board, we are comfortable asking for the community's continued support because of the good work that we have done and will continue to do. I have shared with you the news of our 5 star rating, our goal of financial prudence, and the many examples of academic achievement and growth that the levy represents. Councilmembers, I would like to thank you for your attention to the information I have shared about our school district. I now would like to ask you for your help. We trust our voters to get the facts and make an informed decision. You can help us by sharing this information with the citizens and voters in Strongsville. Issue 14 is a renewal levy with no new taxes. On behalf of the entire school board, I am asking for your support and endorsement of the passage of Issue 14. Thank you for your attention. I think Mr. Micko has left you with a one page questions fact sheet up there for you. We would be happy to listen to any comments or answer any questions, thank you.

***A copy of the fact sheet is attached to the back of these minutes.***

(Applause)

Mr. Clark – No questions for our special guest? Thank you, excellence is a journey not a destination. We appreciate your leadership as a board, as we as a community try to continue the journey towards excellence. You covered a lot, but I am going to touch quickly on GPD because there is a community forum tomorrow, Tuesday, September 19, 2023 where the community virtually has an opportunity to get an update. I suspect it is a little more robust. Last Thursday, GPD presented on the process quite extensively. It's a journey too, and tomorrow is an opportunity for the community to get information. All the links to that will be available on the Strongsville schools website. It would not be a school board update if I didn't at least give you one save-the-date.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

**SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark (cont'd):** My colleagues would appreciate if I mentioned The Strongsville Education Foundation which is another key element to our collaborative community as we learned about what The Strongsville City Club does for our community and our city. The Strongsville Education Foundation has an event on Saturday, November 11, 2023, Veteran's Day, that evening, at our Strongsville Recreation Center. I believe there's still some sponsorship opportunities and there are certainly tickets available. Plenty of opportunity with the upcoming levy renewal and with The Strongsville Education Foundation event to continue to support the journey towards excellence in our schools. Any questions on the school board report?

Ms. Roff – If I can just add a thank you, with you, to all three school board members: Michelle Bissel, Laura Wolfe-Housum and Richard Micko. Thank you, guys, for coming out, and thank you for supporting this levy. I know that people are not always happy to hear about taxes; but when we are already there doing it, I say we keep doing it because it's working. Thank you, guys.

Mr. Clark – Thank you for making that comment. I will also comment that at every board meeting whenever George Anagnostou gets any of the praise, he talks about it's a team effort, and it brings everyone involved. I just want to mention that you guys have a great team. That concludes the school board report.

**BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Clark:**

(No report)

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:**

(No report)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short:** We are going to have our committee meeting next Monday, September 25, 2023 here in Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. Brent Painter, our Economic Development Director, will be giving us an update on the economic studies and how that's going on in the city. The Business Expo is Wednesday, October 18, 2023 here at the Ehrnfelt Center. How many spots do we have left, do you know? Twenty-five left...and in state economic news, eVTOL Manufacturing put 2000 new jobs for Ohioans in the Dayton, Ohio area. Again, Governor DeWine and Lieutenant Governor Husted continuing the great work they have been doing to track manufacturing businesses to Ohio. This will be a manufacturing site for electrical vertical takeoff and landing vehicle aircraft (eVTOL).

Mayor Perciak – That's why it's in Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Short – That's why it's in Dayton, Ohio, right next to Wright Patterson Air Force Base. They will invest \$477 million dollars to renovate an old US Postal Service building just, off the taxiways at Dayton International Airport. This will generate 2,000 high-quality jobs with an estimated payroll of \$140.6 million dollars. That is great news.

Mayor Perciak – We hope to get some of that run-off here.

Mr. Short – Yes, some of the suppliers.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short (cont'd):**

Mayor Perciak - If you remember on Thursday evening, this was what the Lieutenant Governor was eluding to. I didn't want you to think that I didn't want to share it with you, but it was out there this morning. You know that the conversation was lengthy as we brought in Momentive Products, as we brought in Intel, and all the other areas that we are helping move in right here. To the Governor's credit, and to the Lieutenant Governor's, and the Ohio Department of Development Director, Ms. Mihalik, they are making us a part of what is going on there. If you have a chance to bump into any one of those three in your visits there, please thank them. They are making Strongsville a big part of what's going on.

Mr. Short – Yes and again, with our location at I-71 and the turnpike, it's a great way to be a supplier for these very large manufacturing sites. It is very good news for the State of Ohio and The City of Strongsville. Again, October 18, 2023, The Business Expo from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. or 8:00 p.m.?

Mayor Perciak – The networking starts at 4:00 p.m. for the participants, and then it starts at 5:00 p.m., correct.

Mr. Short – Alright, right here at the recreation center. There are still 25 booths available, so if you are a business and you want to be there, it's a great opportunity for customers and to network as well.

Mayor Perciak – We are going to do whatever we can to accommodate however we can; but we have to clear it with the fire marshal and the chief of fire to make sure we are in compliance with all.

Mr. Short – Yes, so again, there is still time to sign up. I would reach out to Brent Painter our Economic Development Director, here at the city. With that, that concludes my report, but I will take any questions. Alright, I will turn it back over to you, Mr. Carbone.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you.

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio:** Thank you so much, this is an easy one. We have a repurchase of burial rights on Resolution No. 2023-133, and in standard practice, we will suspend and adopt. Mayor, when are we buying salt?

Mayor Perciak – Believe it or not, it has been bought so we are just getting it wrapped up.

Mr. DeMio – I'm just teasing you.

Mayor Perciak - We are getting ready and if you drive by any of our salt bins, we are full. We are ready...I even hate to say the word "snow."

Mr. DeMio – I know...otherwise, I will close, thank you.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

**FINANCE – Ms. Kosek:** We have no resolutions or ordinances on the agenda tonight, but I'll remind everyone that we are scheduled to have our Finance Committee meeting to discuss the budget on October 23, 2023. I believe that it is at 4:30 p.m., but make sure that you please get that on your calendars...important meeting. I know that we will get the budget materials to you with sufficient time to look at it before that meeting. If anybody has any questions, I will be happy to answer them. Otherwise Jim, I will hand it back to you.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you much.

**PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski:** Planning, Zoning and Engineering, we have one ordinance this evening. Ordinance No. 2023-131; this is an ordinance enacting a new section within the Planning and Zoning Code in connection with short-term rentals in residential districts. This will be a first reading this evening and refer to the Planning Commission. If there are no questions, I will proceed with Public Safety and Health.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski:** We have Ordinance No. 2023-132; this is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for health services for the calendar year 2024 and 2025. The recommendation this evening is suspension and adoption. That concludes my report on Public Safety, but I will be happy to take any questions this evening.

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - Ms. Roff:** Everything is all set here on my end and thank you again to our City Club for that beautiful donation. I appreciate it and appreciate all your guys' work. I know you guys were all...the members of our City Club here were out there cooking along with the Mayor, thank you guys...and thank them.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Carbone:**

(No report)

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone:** I have two...Ordinance No. 2023-135; this is adopting mid-year replacement pages to our Codified Ordinances of the city, repealing the ordinances and resolutions in conflict therewithin. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt. Lastly, we have Resolution No. 2023-136; this is in support of the passage of the Strongsville City School District renewal levy (Issue No.14). At our last Council meeting I did ask our Finance Director, Mr. Dean, if he could reach out to the schools...George Anagnostou. Is there any information you could share from that with us?

Mr. Dean – I did have a great conversation with George. I was able to look at the county website also for any questions on your property tax...the county website, the fiscal officer, or the collection agency for that. Just a couple of highlights, the 2019 levy that we are discussing is for 5.9-mills. That's currently collected at 5.1-mill because of House Bill 920. That means home prices have gone up, so that levy has gone down. The total collections mill-wise for the schools are at 38.27-mill. This levy is 13% of the total school collections in property tax. The 9.85-mill levy is expected to be collected at .94%. That's our 2022 collection rate on our property tax. It would be about \$9.347 million in total funds for the schools. Finally, currently this levy is generating \$179.00 per \$100,000.00 of home value for each resident. That's all I have.



**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

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

Mr. Carbone – Thank you very much. Nicely done from the school board...Ms. Housum, very nice. The recommendation here is to suspend and adopt. I'm just excited about the opportunities, and excited about having the experience that goes first hand with my children. I'm very excited about the future of Strongsville here, so thank you very much.

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

**MAYOR PERCIAK:** Thank you Mr. President and if I may, I just want to add to President Carbone's support for the school levy. Mr. Micko and I were at one of these meetings together and I think everybody understood where the Mayor stands on the school levy. I support it...the renewal 100% and there is...

(Applause)

Mayor Perciak - Make no mistakes, our schools are important to us; and the minute that we start undermining the value of our schools, we have issues. I agree with everybody, our Council...it's important that we continue to support our schools every which way we can. You know what? We're blessed to have Dr. Ryba. We can go right down the list with the administrators, our teachers, our principals, and down to our bus drivers which we can't find enough of these days. We are very grateful to everybody at the schools. Now, I will get on to a few thank you(s). Yesterday was a marvelous day in the City of Strongsville and God cooperated with us. I woke up, I looked out and it was raining. I said, "Ugh, please God." At the end of the...by 8:30 a.m., somehow, I missed you...we crossed, by 8:30 a.m. it cleared up. When the line started on the Breakfast-on-the-Bridge, they didn't end until 11:45 a.m. Everybody who worked, everybody who donated, all the City Club members, and the friends of the City Club that made this event come together. It was a big event for the people of our communities. As Jim Carbone mentioned earlier, it's a great place for our people and for anyone who wants to join us over there, to network and share ideas and thoughts. A lot of networking went on there. To the City Club, all of their members, and to all the friends of the City Club, thank you. Once we were done there, we went over to the Day-at-the-Chalet. That was a free event sponsored by the Arts in Strongsville. This was an event that really was for our children. They had every imaginable type of thing there: from all the things that little kids like...from face painting, to the kids would stick their hands in some kind of...and get their hand prints down. They had balloons, they had all kinds of dance performances. Then they had booth after booth after booth that these kids could go to. Rich Micko was over there handing out free popcorn. There was a lot of things that were going on yesterday at The Chalet. I truly want to thank all the people from the arts group in Strongsville for that. I just want to remind a few people as we talk about the education thing. Our Christmas dance...our scholarship dance is going to be on Friday, December 1, 2023 this year. The Chamber of Commerce will have tickets for that. They are still looking for some major sponsors. Since we are talking about Christmas, our Christmas lighting is going to be November 19, 2023. That is the Sunday before Thanksgiving at dusk; that is what we have going. I would be remiss if I did not mention Issue No. 81 which is going to be on the ballot here in November. That is for the rezoning of a parcel of land on Route 82 which we hope to use for a future fire house EMS squad. As you know, as we continue to attract visitors to our center of town, we have to be able to take care of anyone who may have an incident of any kind. As most of you know, most of our firemen are paramedics, some are nurses, and some are nurse practitioners.

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

Mayor Perciak (cont'd) - We are very blessed to have so many men and women who are focused on helping people. We need a fire station here at the center of town, so we have to rezone that land. That would be the first step. Once we get that done, then we will move ahead and go to step two, three, four and five. That's all I have tonight.

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

**LAW DEPARTMENT – Mr. Jamison:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate that for the homes on Howe Road, the one is going to trial / hearing in early October. Last Friday, I was at the other house in an effort to start the process to get that cleaned up. I will keep Council posted as we go forward. All ordinances and resolutions are in proper legal form; that concludes my report.

Ms. Roff – Thank you again too as always...

Mr. Jamison – You're welcome.

Ms. Roff - ...with your help with that.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Sue Krejci, 3365 Sliding Rock Trail, Brunswick, OH 44212: Good evening, Sue Krejci 3365 Sliding Rock Trail in Brunswick. I believe in evidence based decision making, especially when it comes to large investments. Let's put rhetoric and emotion aside, and look at the data. While it may look like a good solution on paper, NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) has done multiple studies over the years and all of them have shown that a Boston Road/I-71 interchange would not fix the traffic on Route 82 in Strongsville or Route 303 in Brunswick. It's a lose-lose for both of our cities. Your own feasibility studies show that regardless of interchange design, "The SR82/Howe Road intersection typically resulted in poor/failing level of service throughout each scenario." This can now be found on page 209 of your revised study. Also, in the revised study, ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) engineers had many critical comments on your study conducted by Euthenics that could be summarized in three groupings as follows: 1). It's unclear why an interchange was selected as best option to improve safety and traffic issues. 2). There is not enough evidence to support Boston Road as the best location for an interchange compared to other locations for example: Drake Road. 3). The study has drastically underestimated the number of homes that will be taken and therefore; drastically underestimated cost. Your study estimates at the very most, 14 homes would be taken, but the comments from several ODOT engineers state that all of the homes between Howe Road and the highway will need to go for limited access right-of-way. There are 20 homes just in that area...20, and that is on Boston Road. That does not include any homes on North Carpenter Road, Benbow Road, The Waite Farms Development, or The Boston Knowles Development. Remember when Tom Patton said, "Forty percent of the traffic is from Brunswick?" I looked at your traffic data this weekend. On page 59 and during rush hour, "Only 13% of the traffic that exits westbound on Route 82 continues on Howe Road past Drake Road." Do you know how many continue onto North Carpenter Road in Brunswick...2.3%.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Ms. Krejci (cont'd) - If we assume that half the folks that turn onto Boston Road from Howe Road are also Brunswick residents and add those in, then we are up to 7.8%...so, let's call it 8%...8%. That's a long way from 40%. The faulty data was the basis of Tom Patton pushing through a bad law that will not help your traffic issues. Ms. Krejci (cont'd) - We all learned the scientific method in school. You develop a hypothesis, test it and confirm or reject it based on the data. This hypothesis has been proven wrong; and that's good that we see this now before you green light an expensive and intrusive project that does not achieve the intended goal...not even close. The scientific is based on evidence and not emotion. This hypothesis is untrue so you must try another. I know that we live in an age where the truth doesn't seem to matter and many seem to trust feelings over facts. If you can look at this through an objective lens, you will see as I have, the data does not support Tom Patton's claims that a Boston Road interchange will improve safety or traffic on Route 82 and Howe Road. Spending \$50 million dollars to \$100 million dollars to build a Boston Road interchange and still having a poor failing result on Route 82 does not seem like a wise investment to me. Even the Euthenics president who did the study said that. "You would still have backups on Route 82." How will your constituents feel once this interchange is completed and they still have backups? What are you going to do then when you can't blame Brunswick anymore? Mayor Perciak, you said something at a prior meeting when you were talking about doing extra enforcement in neighborhoods where residents were concerned about speeding. You said, "I will tell you what happened in my neighborhood when we started the strict enforcement that everyone said it's Brunswick people, and yet actual documentation, it was people in our own subdivision." Everybody said it was Brunswick people, and now you have actual documentation that it is not us causing the traffic problems in your city. Putting an exit in where the traffic dissipates is just simply not going to fix the problem. Ms. Kosek, you stated at the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2022 where you authorized the funds for the traffic study that, "Three hundred thousand dollars is not an insignificant amount of money. Do you think that this is something we will be able to push through?" I would implore you all to open your eyes and see that pushing this through was a bad plan from the start. Decisions like this should be driven by data and not political will. I implore you to do the right thing for both cities and abandon this plan that does not come close to resolving the safety and traffic issues it is ostensibly supposed to fix. Please do the right thing, thank you.

(Applause)

Shrea Kellums, 3450 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: I am Shrea Kellums, and today I wanted to bring a picture of my house, the house that you want to take away from me. We also have houses in here that you guys want to take away from us. We've put our heart and soul into these homes, and you want to take them away saying it's for safety and we know there's nothing with safety...we know that. I have been saying that from the beginning. This is what you want to take away...right here and all of those out there. I...I...I just don't know how you guys sleep at night, thank you.

(Applause)

Scott Graham, 19211 Timber Creek Circle, Strongsville, OH 44136: Hello, Scott Graham and I live at 19211 Timber Creek Circle, in Strongsville. I was here in early spring to talk about the same issue; and kind of at that time, we were told to wait on the results of the study. I had patience and saw the study reported on last week, and I just had a few comments about it. The report out at the last meeting, the first thing that struck me was that all the board members...all the committee members didn't know about the presentation. I thought that was kind of odd.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Mr. Graham (cont'd) - It kind of goes back to Mr. Mellis's comments on management. It seems like...I don't know if nobody knew or some people knew. That seems like even more of a problem. Just kind of...I don't know, what, did he drive by and just pop in? It just seemed like you outta know he was coming. Second thing that caught my attention was 4-6 lanes, yikes. The only comment I had back in the spring was that I didn't want it to become Boston Highway. I know it was said 500 feet, 1000 feet...we all know that it's going to go all the way from West 130th to Pearl Road at least. That kind of struck me...4-6 lanes. It's sure not like Wallings Road. Wallings Road is two lanes...period, no turning lanes...nothing. I also had a comment about Mr. Mayor saying that, "Boston Road couldn't be widened." Something about Brunswick's speed limit or something; looks like that's changed. The next thing that struck me was the scope seemed like it wasn't defined very well. Mr. DeMio mentioned Columbia Station and future traffic and that type of thing. It seems like if we put that much money into the study, the scope should have been defined a little bit better. The next thing that stuck me was the moderate improvement that the previous speaker talked about. I don't know how much money...Mr. Mellis also made that point about what kind of money are we talking about here? Do we know? It seems like a lot of money for a moderate improvement. Also, a moderate improvement may be on Route 82, but definitely a degradation on Boston Road. So how much did we spend for a moderate improvement? I don't know, is it worth people's homes...losing their homes? We won't lose our home, but I really feel for the people that will. Whether it is local payment or the state chipping in, it's still all our money that we're paying for this. Also, we have an HOA and we just made a major investment to replace one of our assets right along Boston Road. Hopefully, that money was not spent in vain. I know there's people out here for it; because it saves them 5 or 10 minutes getting to work and back. I don't think those people would stand here and face these people and tell them that their 5 minutes is worth them losing their homes. A couple of things I didn't understand...Part 1A and Part 1B. Part 1A, I kind of got that...the study part, but then it said Part 1B was the part where ODOT is involved with public meetings but that has not been authorized. Not sure what that means. We haven't heard anything. He said it may be a couple of weeks or something. I don't know if that has come out and I just missed it, but I'm not sure. Lastly, I just want to thank and admire the "Homes and not Highways" group for their persistence and their dedication to this cause...and my wife. One speaker at that September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting really said something that struck me. He said, something about time...none of us want to be here spending our time on this. We would rather be spending our time, like he mentioned, with our kids, and our grandkids. People have been forced to spend a lot of time going down to the State House. That was just amazing. That's basically all I wanted to say, thank you for your time.

(Applause)

Nancy Frognowski, 465 Pembroke Cove, Brunswick, OH 44212: Nancy Frognowski, 465 Pembroke Cove, Brunswick. Good evening everyone, since our last meeting when the gentleman from Euthenics spoke about the results of their study, I've had so many thoughts on this interchange. I don't understand why the issue of safety and reducing traffic continues to be the reason as to why the interchange is needed at Boston Road. As we all know, there are so many safety issues that would have to be addressed if the interchange is put in at Boston Road. It doesn't make sense to me to create numerous safety issues at another location in order to increase the safety at Route 82 and I-71. The study prepared by Euthenics showed a minimal reduction in traffic at Route 82 and Route 303; and yet, there continues to be discussion to put this interchange at Boston Road. For a minimal reduction in traffic, you're willing to destroy Strongsville and Brunswick residents' homes.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Ms. Frognowski (cont'd) - You're willing to change our residential neighborhood into a commercial area for a minimal reduction in traffic; and you are willing to relocate a jet fuel pipeline. Imagine the potential tragedies that exist with that type of project. Mayor Perciak, aren't NOACA and ODOT required to review and approve this interchange location prior to it being a done deal? Do you think the study addresses all that ODOT needs to review this? Does Strongsville have any plans to work with Brunswick and Hinckley on this proposed interchange which Governor DeWine suggested and recommended? It continues to anger me how your city can forcefully impose an interstate interchange on Brunswick, and the southern portion of Strongsville to supposedly improve the circumstances on Route 82 in Strongsville; when numerous detrimental and negative consequences affecting so many, will take place in our neighborhoods, thank you.

(Applause)

Eileen Krejci, 3684 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: Eileen Krejci, 3684 Boston Road, Brunswick. Good evening, the feasibility study prepared by Euthenics has determined that the proposed Boston Road interchange will not solve the congestion and traffic issues on State Route 82 and Howe Road. In fact, the study shows that the improvement would be minimal and a backup of traffic on State Route 82 will still exist. I'm sure that Mayor Perciak was not happy to hear that the addition of the new interchange at Boston Road was not going to solve Strongsville's traffic issues on State Route 82. Since the addition of a new interchange at Boston Road will not solve the safety issue, and Mayor Perciak has stated in the last meeting that Foltz Parkway will not be connected to Boston Road, it's time to move on from the idea of an interchange at Boston Road. The safety issue itself can be resolved by implementing other options that Strongsville has not yet explored. Perhaps more in depth investigation into traffic patterns, current timing of traffic signals, etc. by experts in this field would yield better traffic flow on State Route 82. This option would be a win-win for both Brunswick and Strongsville, especially for those residents who are targeted to lose their homes, thank you.

(Applause)

Buckley Wilford, 18583 Benbow Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136: My name is Buckley Wilford, 18583 Benbow Road, Strongsville. I wanted to say some things. The other day, I was so proud of The City of Brunswick, which I'm not so proud of Strongsville. I'm glad to hear good things going on with our city and stuff; but it just seems like I can't take any joy in that right now. It's like we're the black eye of Strongsville. It's like Boston Road was chosen because who cares about that side of Strongsville – at the end next to Brunswick? Who cares...we won't look at Drake Road; we won't look at Shurmer Road, which Ann Roff was totally against before; but by all means, that would at least be in Strongsville; and it would still be another way over there to the Foltz Parkway to get people off. She's all for the area on Boston Road which she's still the ward person for as well; which I just can't believe that, it just astounds me. I'll remember that on voting day and I'll make sure I'm telling everybody about that too. Then, this whole deal with Tom Patton. We had a bus trip; there was a big bus rented. The City of Brunswick, the Mayor of Brunswick, all the Council members in Brunswick, and Council members from Hinckley were there as well and who were totally opposed to this as well. We had three representatives speak. We had a press meeting. One of the press people told me that she has never seen that many people ever come down there for an issue ever before in the State of Ohio. This shows that it's a pretty big deal. It's not just 5 or 10 people who are upset about this crazy decision to pick an interchange at Brunswick. I love the guy, Mark Romanchuk, when he pointed out, "Yeah, they signed that into a law and what a mistake that was.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Mr. Wilford (cont'd) - Sometimes mistakes happen, and those mistakes need to be rectified." We got to walk all with them as they signed it into the law books – to repeal the law, to change this silliness and this madness. Then, I couldn't believe later, that I read in the paper that Tom Patton was questioned and he said, "People should sue the realtors who sold them those houses from 40 years ago. If they don't get the compensation under fair market value, they should sue for that." That sounds like a little child talking, surely not a guy I want in politics, surely not a guy I would ever vote for again. I don't know whose running against him; but I will actively oppose him and all type of things whatsoever. I'll say don't vote for Tom Patton. This guy is not the kind of fellow we want to have represent anybody in the State of Ohio. I'm ashamed of that fellow as much as ashamed could ever be. I voted for him in the past. I guarantee I will never vote for him again, no matter who is ever running against him, because of the type of fellow that I've seen him to be. The whole issue with the congestion I think is a farce because they've already pointed out in this study, and to everybody here, that there's hardly any difference in congestion whatsoever to put this huge, huge interchange in and to destroy all these homes that someone from the transportation insight said, "Why not not make the pipeline move or move the 4-6 lanes towards Strongsville?" Imagine how many more houses, imagine how many more people in Strongsville – they realize that their houses also are going to be destroyed are going to be looking at this like, "Oh my gosh, who came up with this idea?" Where will it come to – our City Council right here, from the meeting last year when you guys all decided, "Oh, this would be a good idea, let's try to push this through." I am feeling pretty confident this is not going to happen; and I'm sad that I have to be here. I wish I didn't have to come here. I wish I didn't have to talk like this. I'm the kind of guy that likes to get along with people. I don't like to have conflict. I don't like to have all this trouble; but this is a deeply unsettling issue. It sure would be nice if you guys would take a stand and do the right thing and stop it now, rather than us having to come here every two weeks. The whole State of Ohio, the news planted all over the news, are all trying...making us all look like a bunch of losers here in the City of Strongsville because that's what it really looks like. It's a very terrible thing. That's the only thing I wanted to say here tonight. I know it's my frustration and my anger; but I'm glad you guys hear me and I hope you do hear me. I hope I'm not just speaking to a wall because you've already decided you're going to do stuff and you don't care what any of the residents say; because that's how I feel. That's how I felt just about the whole time I've ever been up here. I don't feel any love whatsoever, thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Carbone – Would anybody else like to come to the podium this evening?

(No comments)

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Ordinance No. 2023-131** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW SECTION 1252.38 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWELVE-PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN CONNECTION WITH SHORT-TERM RENTALS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):**

**Ordinance No. 2023-131** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW SECTION 1252.38 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWELVE-PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN CONNECTION WITH SHORT-TERM RENTALS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**Ordinance No. 2023-132** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH FOR HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 2024 AND 2025, 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. 2023-132 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2023-133** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO REPURCHASE CERTAIN CERTIFICATES FOR BURIAL RIGHTS IN THE STRONGSVILLE MUNICIPAL CEMETERY. [Zlokas]

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. 2023-133 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2023-134**

See under "Appointments, Confirmations, Awards and Recognitions"

**Ordinance No. 2023-135** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING MID-YEAR REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH, 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. 2023-135 ADOPTED.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):**

**Resolution No. 2023-136** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PASSAGE OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT RENEWAL LEVY (ISSUE NO. 14) ON THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 BALLOT.

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. 2023-136 ADOPTED.**

Mr. Kaminski – I was going to add, if you guys need help in ward 1, I'll be happy to help.

**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 9:08 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marialena Beach  
Council Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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

Mayor Perciak (cont'd) - We are very blessed to have so many men and women who are focused on helping people. We need a fire station here at the center of town, so we have to rezone that land. That would be the first step. Once we get that done, then we will move ahead and go to step two, three, four and five. That's all I have tonight.

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

**LAW DEPARTMENT – Mr. Jamison:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate that for the homes on Howe Road, the one is going to trial / hearing in early October. Last Friday, I was at the other house in an effort to start the process to get that cleaned up. I will keep Council posted as we go forward. All ordinances and resolutions are in proper legal form; that concludes my report.

Ms. Roff – Thank you again too as always...

Mr. Jamison – You're welcome.

Ms. Roff - ...with your help with that.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Sue Krejci, 3365 Sliding Rock Trail, Brunswick, OH 44212: Good evening, Sue Krejci 3365 Sliding Rock Trail in Brunswick. I believe in evidence based decision making, especially when it comes to large investments. Let's put rhetoric and emotion aside, and look at the data. While it may look like a good solution on paper, NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) has done multiple studies over the years and all of them have shown that a Boston Road/I-71 interchange would not fix the traffic on Route 82 in Strongsville or Route 303 in Brunswick. It's a lose-lose for both of our cities. Your own feasibility studies show that regardless of interchange design, "The SR82/Howe Road intersection typically resulted in poor/failing level of service throughout each scenario." This can now be found on page 209 of your revised study. Also, in the revised study, ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) engineers had many critical comments on your study conducted by Euthenics that could be summarized in three groupings as follows: 1). It's unclear why an interchange was selected as best option to improve safety and traffic issues. 2). There is not enough evidence to support Boston Road as the best location for an interchange compared to other locations for example: Drake Road. 3). The study has drastically underestimated the number of homes that will be taken and therefore; drastically underestimated cost. Your study estimates at the very most, 14 homes would be taken, but the comments from several ODOT engineers state that all of the homes between Howe Road and the highway will need to go for limited access right-of-way. There are 20 homes just in that area...20, and that is on Boston Road. That does not include any homes on North Carpenter Road, Benbow Road, The Waite Farms Development, or The Boston Knowles Development. Remember when Tom Patton said, "Forty percent of the traffic is from Brunswick?" I looked at your traffic data this weekend. On page 59 and during rush hour, "Only 13% of the traffic that exits westbound on Route 82 continues on Howe Road past Drake Road." Do you know how many continue onto North Carpenter Road in Brunswick...2.3%.