

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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, October 2, 2023, at 7:45 p.m.**

Present: Council Members: James E. Carbone, James A. Kaminski, Joseph C. DeMio, 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, Law Director Neal Jamison and Public Safety Director Charles Goss.

Absent: Councilman Gordon C. Short

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:48 p.m.

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

Building & Utilities Committee: Chairman Clark advised Ordinance No. 2023-121 is an ordinance enacting a New Chapter 1476 of the Building and Housing Code. Planning Commission gave this a favorable recommendation. This was placed on second reading tonight and set for public hearing for November 6, 2023.

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. Planning Commission gave this a favorable recommendation. This was placed on second reading tonight and set for public hearing for November 6, 2023. Ordinance No. 2023-137 is an ordinance authorizing and directing the Mayor to issue Change Order No. 1, between the City of Strongsville and Gilbane Building Company, in connection with the Strongsville Town Center project. This will be an increase in contract price in the additional amount of \$31,851.00, for a total project cost to \$8,933,630.00. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2023-138 is an ordinance authorizing the sale at public auction of certain obsolete surplus vehicles no longer needed for any municipal purpose. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Finance Committee: Chairwoman Kosek advised Ordinance No. 2023-139 is an ordinance making appropriations for the annual expenses and other expenditures of the city for the year 2023 and repealing Ordinance No. 2023-111. This ordinance reflects an increase of approximately \$2.2 million dollars in which the majority relates to playground equipment and the Town Center fund. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Recreation & Community Services Committee: Chairwoman Roff advised Ordinance No. 2023-140 is an ordinance to enter into a service contract with BCI Burke Company, LLC/Snider Recreation, Inc. in the amount of \$515,000.00 for the purchase of playground equipment to be used by the recreation department in connection with the Strongsville Town Center project. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Ordinance No. 2023-141 which is an ordinance authorizing the disposal of various equipment and miscellaneous items utilized by the recreation center and senior center and no longer needed for any municipal purpose.

Committee of the Whole: Chairman Carbone advised Ordinance No. 2023-142 is an ordinance amending section 238.09 of the Codified Ordinances to increase the public bidding threshold amounts from \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00 for expenditures, and will begin October 3, 2023 through 2024. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Mr. Jamison clarified that this is part of the recent Ohio Legislature increase that will continue to be in effect until the City of Strongsville decides to change it; therefore, there is no expiration date on this legislation. He also mentioned that the threshold is \$75,000.00 which is the balance of 2023 and 2024, and then for each calendar year thereafter, it's increased 3%.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 8 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, 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, Law Director Neal Jamison and Public Safety Director Charles Goss.

Absent: Councilman Gordon C. Short

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

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

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

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Mayor Perciak – Thank you Mr. President, good evening everyone. Tonight is a very special night here in the City of Strongsville. It isn't often that we get to appoint a brand-new police chief, a new lieutenant, a new sergeant; and welcome a new officer from another community here to be a part of us. Without any further ado, I'll call upon our Safety Director, Charlie Goss, to come up and start the proceedings.

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

Administration of Ceremonial Oath of Office to newly-appointed Chief of Police, Thomas J. O'Deens.

Mr. Goss – Thank you Mayor and, as the Mayor said, when there is a vacancy in the office of the police chief, he's called upon to appoint a new police chief from the ranks of lieutenant. When he does that, it creates a vacancy among the ranks of lieutenant; so he's called upon to promote a new lieutenant from the ranks of sergeant. When he does that, it creates a vacancy among the ranks of sergeant; so he's called upon to promote a new sergeant from the ranks of patrol officer. When he does that, it creates a new vacancy in the patrol officer ranks. Tonight, we're here to witness the 4 officers take new Oaths, which will ceremonially appoint them in that domino effect. I'd like to first call our new Police Chief, Tom O'Deens, and his family up. I'd like to introduce Tom to our community. Tom was hired here by the Strongsville Police Department in 1995 and he got his basic training at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in Columbus. He served in the patrol division and detective bureau until he was promoted to sergeant in 2008. He was then a night shift sergeant for 9 years in the uniform division. In 2017, he was promoted to lieutenant and has served as the patrol commander for the last 6 years. He has received numerous commendations throughout his career. He has served as a union representative and contract negotiator for both the patrol division and the supervisors. Tom is married to Lisa for 33 years. They have four children: Colin, who is married to Amanda, Shane, Lauren and Kristin. They have two granddaughters; Peyton and Delaney. Mayor, will you administer the Oath of Office of chief of police.

At this time, Mayor Perciak administered the Ceremonial Oath of Office.

(Applause)

Administration of Ceremonial Oath of Office to newly-appointed Police Lieutenant, Ronald M. Kubacki, Jr.

Mr. Goss – And now to fill Tom's vacancy that he left among the ranks of lieutenant, I'll call up Ron Kubacki and his family.

Ron is a 2004 graduate of John Carroll University where he joined the Army ROTC program. Upon graduation, he entered the Army as a Second Lieutenant serving as a Field Artillery Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division. Ron is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as a platoon leader for 12 months before being promoted to Captain. After serving in the Army for 4 years, Ron was hired in 2009 by the Strongsville Police Department. He was assigned to the patrol division for over 10 years and also served as a field training officer, firearms instructor, TASER instructor and defensive tactics instructor. In December 2019, Ron was promoted to the position of sergeant where he was assigned as a night shift patrol supervisor. Most recently, he took over the duties of rangemaster where he is responsible for the range and all firearms programs for the department. Ron is married to Danielle and they have three sons: Ronnie, Luke and Noah.

At this time, Mayor Perciak administered the Ceremonial Oath of Office.

(Applause)

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

Administration of Ceremonial Oath of Office to newly-appointed Police Sergeant, Jason Miller.

Mr. Goss – And to fill Ron's spot, I'll call up Jason Miller. Jason came to us from the Cleveland Browns organization – he was not a middle linebacker, he worked in the security division, in 2001; and for the past 22 years, he's focused his career on pursuing violations of illicit drug use and trafficking in and around The City of Strongsville. He spent two years assigned to the FBI drug task force, assisting with several high-profile cases. Jason has assisted in organizing group investigations to target drug trafficking in Strongsville, earning an "Officer of The Year Award" in 2014 for his efforts with his partner, Officer Jason Glover. Jason has also received several blue-collar awards, and also holds a bachelor's degree. Jason may be best known in our community due to his partnership with K9 Storm – whose noticeably absent, I'm disappointed Jason. Storm, a dual-purpose Police K9, has been with Jason for the past 7 years. Jason and Storm have been involved in countless pursuits and Storm has successfully apprehended several fleeing felons. Storm has been responsible for assisting in many arrests for trafficking in drugs, weapons offenses, and drug possession. Jason finds the time Storm spends with students at the Strongsville Early Learning Center and other Strongsville City Schools to be the most satisfying time of all. Storm will remain in service with Sergeant Miller until Storm retires in a few years. Tonight, Jason is joined tonight by his wife, Elizabeth, and his three children: Ryan, Kennedy and Delaney and his father.

At this time, Mayor Perciak administered the Ceremonial Oath of Office.

(Applause)

Administration of Ceremonial Oath of Office to newly-appointed Patrolman, Ryan Kaetzel.

Chief Goss – Finally, to fill the vacancy that's left among the patrol officer ranks, I'll call up a new member of the Strongsville Police Department, Ryan Kaetzel, and his wife up front.

Ryan is a graduate of Brunswick High School. He is a second-generation police officer with his father Joseph is a retired Middleburg Heights Police Officer. Prior to coming to Strongsville, Ryan worked as a police officer in Northfield for approximately 5 years; and most recently, a Bedford Heights Police officer for 12 years where he served as the department's K-9 Officer with his German Shepherd Partner, Bosco. As a Bedford Heights Police Officer, Ryan was the recipient of two departmental awards: The first occurred when he and his K-9 partner were credited with tracking and apprehending a wanted homicide suspect, and the second award stemmed from an incident where he noticed that a fire had started in an apartment building while on night shift patrol. He aided in getting the occupants evacuated out of the units to safety. Ryan lives in Valley City with his wife Stephanie, who is a school teacher, and their two Children Ella and Ethan. He's joined by other family members as well.

At this time, Mayor Perciak administered the Ceremonial Oath of Office.

(Applause)

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

Chief O'Deens – Thank you very much, I'm not much of a speaker so I'll keep this short. I want to thank the Mayor and safety director for trusting me to take this position. I want to thank City Council for trusting me also. I look forward to running the department. I am humbled to be in charge of these men and women. I just look forward to working with them. We have a great department. I'm going to try and keep the bar high for us and just continue the excellence that I know our department provides for the community, the businesses, the schools, the churches, etc. We're going to work hard to earn your trust; and really, I'm humbled to be in charge of these men and women. They're fantastic and I look forward to it. That's all I have to say.

Mr. Carbone – Before you guys all leave, I'd like to make a comment. It's unbelievable looking out, and I might be a little biased being in the profession, seeing the men and women – the brotherhood and the sisterhood here. Make no mistake, what these men – whether you're a police officer, a dispatcher, a fireman, a corrections officer, a clerk, what they have to deal with on a day-to-day basis...it makes it more understandable – the brotherhood and the sisterhood; but also, a large part of the burden here goes on the family members that are in this audience. What they will see, and what they have seen, and what they have to deal with is unbelievable ; and then come home and be a mom or a dad. That's why I want to be very clear that this administration, this Council and this community backs our men and women of our first responders and our safety forces. Thank you and God Bless you in everything you do.

(Applause)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark: Thank you President Carbone, I will start with the school board. There was a Strongsville City School Board meeting on Monday, September 25, 2023. We always have the ability to watch these meetings live, or after the fact on SCSTV (Strongsville City Schools TV). That's good because you will hear a report later about another meeting that happened on that evening. I did get a chance to watch it back on SCSTV, and this was the first meeting where our treasure he got to report on the month ending August 2023. It was a heavy financial meeting because they also have to finalize their permanent appropriations by the end of September. A lot of information was shared from a financial stand point. I won't go through all the details, but our Strongsville City Schools remained financially sound; everything is in order. They are on a path that is a journey, and requires the continued support of our community. They also...after the financial report for August 2023, they had the fiscal year 2024 permanent appropriations, the fiscal year 2024 annual budget, and the five-year forecast. All of which is available on our school board website. There was some general business that took place during that meeting; but I do want to really focus on the strong financial position. The schools requested that we continue as we did in our last meeting to support our schools as they move forward. The next Strongsville City School Board meeting is on Thursday, October 12, 2023. That will be at the administration building on 18199 Cook Ave. I will also share one save-the-date: The Strongsville Education Foundation has an event coming up on Saturday, November 11, 2023, at our Strongsville Recreation Center. I think all the sponsorships might be gone, but you could check with their board. Certainly, tickets are available for that event; again, on Saturday, November 11, 2023. I will take any questions, but that concludes my report on Strongsville City Schools.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark (cont'd):

Mr. Kaminski – Just a statement, one of the first steps in this journey is the passage of the renewal levy. We want to make sure we remind voters of the renewal levy that is coming up on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Mr. Clark – Thank you.

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Clark: We have one ordinance on the agenda this evening, and it's Ordinance No. 2023-121. That is going to be placed on second reading, which we talked about it during caucus. If there are no questions, that will end Building and Utilities.

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:

(No report)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short:

Mr. Carbone – We did have an Economic Development meeting last Monday. We had Mr. Painter, our Economic Development Director, do a phenomenal presentation. I am going to save that for Mr. Short when he comes back to report on it.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio: There is nothing before this docket tonight in the agenda. As many of you know from being here over the years, and the Mayor I know will change the colors again for us, (Clock Tower); It is Breast Cancer Awareness month. I wear this tie in honor of my mother, my aunt, my grandmother, my sister, and my cousin. Every time I get an opportunity to say how proud I am of them for being champions and leaders, I have to say it...I really do. I think that my mother was a very big part of my life and many people's lives and as was my grandmother, my aunt, my cousin; so on and so forth. Kelly is smiling because she always, and she will do it again, she will call me tomorrow and thank me for saying that. That is not why we do it here. I think there's always different parts of each of our lives that is so very important. Anyone that is struggling with this horrible disease, you have to remember there are so many people that pray for you; please remember that. Whether you know them or not, they are out there. That's the time I have, and I just again, would like to have a moment of silence for all the families that are directly and indirectly affected by this disease if we could.

At this time, a moment of silence was observed.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you so much.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you Mr. DeMio.

FINANCE – Ms. Kosek: Yes, we have one ordinance tonight. It's an appropriations Ordinance No. 2023-139. This is to reflect an increase in our budget of about \$2.2 million dollars compared to the prior budget which was Ordinance No. 2023-111. This includes allocations for continuing the Town Center Improvement project including the playground equipment that we will talk about in a little bit. We did receive a memo from the finance department that everyone should have gotten today. Hopefully, there are no questions, but if you have any questions, myself and Mr. Dean will be happy to answer them.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

FINANCE – Ms. Kosek (cont'd): I would ask that we suspend and adopt this; and I want to remind everyone that we are doing our Finance Committee meeting on October 23, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Mayor, do we have your conference room for that, or do you want us to be here?

Mayor Perciak – Conference room.

Ms. Kosek – Okay, we will be over at the conference room then. With that, I will give it back to you Mr. Carbone.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you.

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski: Planning, Zoning and Engineering we have two ordinances this evening. Ordinance No. 2023-131; this is an ordinance enacting a new section of the Planning and Zoning Code in connection with short-term rentals in residential districts. This will be on second reading this evening, and we will set it up for public hearing on November 6, 2023. We also have Ordinance 2023-137; this is for the Mayor to issue and approve a Change Order No. 1. This is a contract between the City of Strongsville and Gilbane Building Company in connection with the Town Center project. The recommendation is suspension and adoption this evening on that.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski: Finally, for Public Safety, we have a pretty straight forward ordinance (Ordinance No. 2023-138) which is authorizing the sale via public auction of obsolete and surplus vehicles that are no longer needed for any municipal purpose. The recommendation is suspension and adoption on that this evening. That concludes my report, but I will be happy to take any questions.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - Ms. Roff: I have two, I have Ordinance No. 2023-140 and that is for us to enter into contract for the playground equipment for the Town Center. Suspend and adopt hopefully for that please.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you very much, any questions?

Ms. Roff – Then one more...does anybody have any questions for that? Then one more...Ordinance No. 2023-141; this is just housekeeping for our recreation department and senior center for them to allow them to disperse or get rid of miscellaneous equipment no longer needed. Suspend and adopt for that. If anybody has any questions, I'll take those.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone: We do have Ordinance No. 2023-142, and this is to increase the public bidding threshold amount for expenditures in our city from \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00 through 2024 and then thereafter, a 3% increase from the previous calendar year. The recommendation here is to suspend and adopt. Any questions?

(No comments)

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Thank you Mr. President, as you are aware Mr. President, I distributed to all the Council Members a letter from Director Marchbanks from the Ohio Department of Transportation which is now, of course, public information. I will read highlights of the letter so that everybody here would have a better understanding as to what's happening with the interchange. Paragraph four, "ODOT is satisfied with the traffic study portion of the submitted preliminary feasibility study, meeting the intent of the fiscal year 2022-2023 operating budget requirements. The study did not provide an obvious solution to reduce congestion and decrease crash frequency. As a result, more detailed modeling of alternatives on the broader network will be necessary to determine if an interchange at Boston Road or another alternative would be preferred. In addition, because of local opposition to an interchange at Boston Road, it will be important to further study other previously studied locations, at the same level of detail, in order to compare impacts, costs, and benefits. This information will be important as to the public involvement part of the project development process. This will need studied further and resolved prior to the below next steps. Next steps include completion of the feasibility study, which will evaluate all alternatives to improve safety and congestion in and around the City of Strongsville. This may ultimately lead to an Interchange Justification Study (IJS) for review and approval by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). These next steps are not currently authorized by the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), as required by the Federal Highway Administration. Once authorized environmental field studies, a public involvement plan, public involvement, development of an Alternative Evaluation Report (AER), and development of an Interchange Justification Study (IJS) for a preferred alternative will be completed. Currently, there is a lack of consensus among the project level governments (See attached the City of Brunswick Resolution 91-2022). Approval for additional federally funded studies was debated and tabled at the NOACA's Planning and Programming Committee meeting held on July 8, 2022. These additional studies include an Alternative Evaluation Report and Interchange Justification Study. In order for a study to mature into a regionally significant project, such as adding an interchange to Interstate 71, local governments will need to concur on solutions and will need to ultimately get approval through NOACA. Respectfully, Jack Marchbanks, Director of the Ohio Department of Transportation." That ends my report.

Mr. Carbone – Anything else Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Perciak – That's enough.

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: All ordinances and resolutions are in proper legal form; that concludes my report.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Nikky Freeman, 18490 Howe Road, Strongsville, Ohio, 44136: Good evening, my name is Nikky Freeman and I live at 18490 Howe Road. The reason I am here tonight is...I live right next to a ravine that is owned by the development behind me. I have spoken to both their...it's not really a Homeowner's...what they told me is they're both president of this non-existing Homeowner's (HOA). They said when they built their development, the City of Strongsville did not require them to make a Homeowner's, so now some of their...there's 41 houses that some pay the fees that they requested and some don't. The problem this is causing me, is the money that they collect from these people, take care of the ravine next to my house. All their run-off from their houses run through this ravine. The grass has not been cut all summer; except for one time when my husband cut it. The water that goes through there is now...there's weeds and everything has overgrown. I can email...I have pictures of the ravine. I have gone back and I know I have pictures of when it floods; because it does flood. When the water is running through, it gets as high as over the street and up our drive-way. My worry is, now that all this grass is there, this water is going to go into our home. I lived there for 26 years, and I have never had a problem; this is the first time. The presidents of this non-existing Homeowner's are quitting; they told me that. They said they're sending a letter, and I don't know what they're going to do. I...nobody is taking care of this. I have reached out to Mr. Gallagher, and he sent a request to the building department and that was, I just looked, September 5th was the last communication I had. Nobody...I have spoken to Ann, and Ann is trying to help me. She has reached out to people as well. I really need some help in this matter. When I first moved in there 26 years ago, the field was full of cattails and water. They did go in and clear it all out. It's really becoming a mess. The trees are all overgrown, there is poison ivy everywhere, and I'm worried about the water being like at a standstill. What is that called when water doesn't move?

Council – Stagnant.

Ms. Freeman – Yes, and I just need some help.

Ms. Roff – I actually just spoke with our law department earlier regarding this. Maybe Neal can go back...Do you want give her some information and then some ways to get in touch with you as we keep working on this issue if we could do that? If that's okay Ms. Freeman, and then you can get back with me and I'll keep working with Neal too regarding this.

Ms. Freeman – Okay.

Ms. Roff – I appreciate you coming in though to address this.

Ms. Freeman – Thank you, then I should go talk with him?

Ms. Roff – Yes, he will talk with you, and thank you Neal for this. I know that this is just kind of like...we're just in the beginnings of this somewhat Homeowner's Association that was there and not there.

Ms. Freeman – Right.

Ms. Roff – He is trying to figure out what areas and what we are going to do from here now.

Ms. Freeman – Okay.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Roff – I appreciate that.

Ms. Freeman – Thank you.

Ms. Roff – I'll keep you posted, and you keep me posted.

Sue Mazzola, 3440 Boston Road, Brunswick, Ohio 44212: Sue Mazzola, 3440 Boston Road, Brunswick, Ohio. I am thrilled about that transportation study...that we were aware of that, but are you telling me that there's was going to be no further studies right now...it stops?

Mayor Perciak – As of today.

Ms. Mazzola – As of today it stops?

Mayor Perciak – All I can do is read the letter as to what the director has indicated.

Ms. Mazzola – Okay.

Mayor Perciak – If it changes, it's not anything we are doing here. As I suggested to all of you, anything else that you would want to accomplish needs to happen through your State Legislators.

Ms. Mazzola – Which we are working on that, and we would ask that you support that then to repeal this.

Mayor Perciak – Get to them. I can't...and I think someone mentioned to me earlier that we need to remove that...

Ms. Mazzola – Provision, yes.

Mayor Perciak – ...from House. I can't do that here. This is something that has to be done legislatively.

Ms. Mazzola – Well maybe Senator Patton...

Mayor Perciak – You started the process with them...

Ms. Mazzola – Maybe Senator Patton who put this in to begin with, could now help with the repeal of it. This will hang over our heads if we don't get this out. Everybody on Boston...it will just hang over their heads. Although I'm grateful for the study, none of you should be taking credit like, "Hey, look we listened to you," because you didn't. The study just proved otherwise, but I do appreciate it.

Mayor Perciak – At the end of the day, we will do what ODOT instructs us to do and NOACA. This is a part of the federal highway system and that's where the money comes from. That's the bottom line to it all.

Ms. Mazzola – Right...okay...alright, thank you.

Mayor Perciak – Hey, how's your new street?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Buckley Wilford, 18583 Benbow Road, Strongsville, Ohio, 44136: My name is Buckley Wilford, 18583 Benbow Road, and I very much like my new street.

Mayor Perciak – Okay.

Mr. Wilford - Benbow looks better than it has my whole life...born in 1973, and always been in there. Parents bought in 1962...it's nice...

Mayor Perciak – Thank Ann.

Mr. Wilford – What's that?

Mayor Perciak – Thank Ann.

Mr. Wilford – Alright, well I'm glad that new street is there.

Mayor Perciak – She really put the pressure on the administration to get that done.

Mr. Wilford – Well, I'm very happy about this new street, but I could use some speed bumps or some more police on the street.

Mayor Perciak – Hey, hey, hey...(laughter).

Mr. Wilford – We do have a lot of speeders going through...

Ms. Roff – They are going to take care of that also, yes. That's a concern.

Mr. Carbone – They were all here tonight, you could have asked.

Ms. Roff – That is a concern of ours too, and that will be something that they...knowing that there's a new road, and it's nice and smooth, that people are going to want to make sure that it's nice and smooth by increasing their speed. We had already kind of addressed that a little bit too.

Mr. Wilford – That's good. I love the police thing...this was great, and I'm so glad I came tonight. I know I came for opposing things, but I am glad I got to see the police. I think the police in Strongsville are top notch number one. I knew Mark Fender personally; a top notch guy. I'm so happy to see everything that went on here tonight as well too. I want to also emphasize what Sue said. If you guys could write a letter to Tom Patton. There's a vote going on tomorrow that will be moving forward to repeal that law. Right there where Tom Patton, I'm sure, will be voting as well. If people would move to...it's already...it's in the ballot. It's in motion and we already have it going. If it would come from anybody here, that would be a big powerful thing; especially somebody who knows Tom Patton. That would be a great help for everybody. I personally don't want to see an interchange at Drake Road, I don't want to see one at Shurmer Road, and I don't want to see one anywhere in Strongsville. I don't want to see one at Grafton Road either. I think that the thing that should be done, is we widen some of our roads. I know it will be rough on the folks at Howe Road, but then they won't have a big ditch on each side of the road. They can have maybe a sewage thing and have that suicide lane or something. No, let's not call it a suicide lane...let's call it an improvement. There's other things that could be done. I think that there shouldn't be an interchange, we should do everything we can to stop this.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Wilford (cont'd) - We have been through it 20 different times now, and it has cost the city a fortune of money. We should do something to solidify this now. We were at a Medina County Commissioner's meeting recently, and have been taking a lot of days off of work, and a lot of time myself for all these things. One guy talked about Wally (Walter) Ehrnfelt and the Mayor of Brunswick, and how at one point in 1990 or something, that was a good idea to put an interchange at Boston Road, but then when all the buildings came, and all the different things came, he said, "Now it's not a good idea and this is what we see." That is why they made a decision, as well, to block it. We have places all over the place blocking this idea...the interchange. I think this is something that would be much more powerful if some of you guys were to write somebody an email and let them know that this idea...

Mayor Perciak – Well Buck, again, this is out of all of our hands including...I have to step up for the Council. This is...Director Marchbanks is appointed by the Governor, and this is now a legislative issue in Columbus. We will follow the instructions of ODOT and NOACA. That is the card we have been dealt here, so we have to comply. We are going to comply with the director's wishes.

Mr. Wilford – I'm glad about that; because it looks like it's all going for this thing to fold in. One other thing I want to say is, we should be more careful as we look forward to the future, for things like this that are going to deeply upset neighborhoods. I was going to read some stuff and really get you Ann, but I'm not going to do it because I'm glad I have my new road. We know from the past, that this was a bad idea, and we shouldn't go with it. I tell you, I myself have like 7 or 8 political signs in my yard right now, and I never had that many in my yard before. All my neighbors have all these political signs in their yards right now. I have gotten more political, and it's crazy. It's not good for you guys who are running for office because you guys were opposed to this interchange. I hope it never happens like this again. My wife even told me, in other parts of my life, I'm a pastor of a church, and that I'm going street preacher crazy sometimes. I'm like, "It must be all this stuff going on in my head...it's not good." I want to try to step away from it all. I hope that this gets finalized, and that it's like put out that no more interchange is going to happen. That it's NOACA transportation, which right now they are not going with that, and that we don't have to come to anymore meetings. There is peace, and there is no more troubles. I know it's not an easy job to do the job that you guys do...the City Council. I admire you, and I'm glad that you do the job that you do. I support you 100% with everything that you guys do; even though you might think I have only been against you. I just want to see this interchange go away because I think it will be such an important thing for our community. Those are all the things I want to say, and I will leave it be. Thank you for all your time listening to me.

(Applause)

Sue Krejci, 3365 Sliding Rock Trail, Brunswick, Ohio 44212: Good evening, Sue Krejci, 3365 Sliding Rock Trail. I spoke at the last meeting about the results of your study and the dangers of trusting feelings over facts. I am glad to hear the update tonight, but I'm not 100% that it's actually going to go through...that it's actually going to die. I've got some facts. I spent some more time with the study. One thing I wanted to note was a copy out on page 94 that states; basically that it's the analysis that indicates better performance than what is observed in the field. So, the poor/failing rating that we are anticipating seeing for the Howe Road/Route 82 Interchange...intersection for all of the proposed interchange designs on Boston Road, is actually going to be worse in real life than it is on paper. Keep that in mind as you look at this data.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Krejci (cont'd) – “Appendix K” compares each of the five proposed interchange options on Boston Road to doing nothing. Did you know that it shows a degradation in level of service by at least one grade for nearly all interchange options? That’s right, building and interchange at Boston Road will slow down traffic on I-71, making it worse than it is right now, including north of Ste. Route 82; unintended consequences I suppose. Additionally, traffic at the Howe Road and Boston Road intersection will be worse...degraded by 2 or more levels in some cases with each interchange option. Ms. Roff, you represent this area and you were very vocal during the slip ramp meetings about putting an interchange in at Boston Road instead. Do your constituents know that the traffic on Ste. Route 82 and Howe Road will still be poor/failing and that the Howe Road/Boston Intersection will be significantly worse if this interchange gets built? Also, since your estimate of the traffic being mostly Brunswick people is not accurate, most of the cars who will use this intersection, will double back north onto Howe Road to get to their residences south of Drake Road in Strongsville. Meaning, that’s right, more traffic on Howe Road. This is not a win for your constituents. What are you doing to provide them the facts and realities of these unintended consequences? The people that I talk to who support the interchange, have no idea that it is actually going to have these kinds of unintended consequences. I think it is really important to talk about that; every action has a reaction. As an aside, it was really disappointing to see you liking comments on your Councilwoman Facebook page about putting up barriers at Boston Road and Howe Road to block people from using Howe Road, the road that you live on. Some of your constituents who live on Boston Road in Strongsville are here tonight. I wonder what they think of their elected representative who is running for re-election; not only forsaking them when it comes trying to save their home, but then liking a hateful comment about blocking them from using Howe Road in their own city. It’s just not appropriate. It’s not a good look for an elected official. We know who that comment was really talking about though; those pesky Brunswick residents. I was reading through the minutes of meetings from back in the slip ramp days. It was interesting because the comments were mostly from Strongsville people, including you Ms. Roff, saying, “It’s all the Brunswick people causing these traffic problems. It’s 80% Brunswick traffic. You need to put an interchange on there, and we should have done that years ago.” That’s not what the facts have shown. I wondered, does that make a difference to you in pursuing of this? I’m really glad that ODOT saw the light. I hope all you guys have well; because that false narrative of “Blame it on Brunswick,” was kind of the whole purpose of putting this interchange on Boston Road. Again, 8% of the traffic is Brunswick traffic, not 80%. Mr. Carbone, in emails about the interchange on your website, you stated, “I’m not convinced with the amount of traffic that travels on Ste. Route 82 and Howe Road currently, and then moving 75% to the slip ramp, that we don’t create another issue. I see the traffic backing up to I-71 from the slip ramp which puts us back at square one. Now, we move the issue from a state route to a residential neighborhood.” Doesn’t this seem like the same result? I’m not sure where the 75% of the traffic estimate comes from except maybe Tom Patton, but I’d like to remind you that your own studies show only 23% of those exiting Ste. Route 82 west ramp continue on to Howe Road until Drake Road. Again, only 8% of those cars continue into Brunswick. When it was brought up that ODOT engineers with decades of experience designed this, Mr. Carbone, you said, “I understand their experiences in highway engineering, but I don’t believe they know Strongsville and are looking for what’s best for our community...feelings over facts. Your study was done by a Strongsville firm, who I’m sure is looking out for the best interest of Strongsville; and even that doesn’t support an interchange at Boston Road. To meaningfully impact Ste. Route 82 traffic with an interchange, you probably need to be looking north of Ste. Route 82 before the backups start. You’re not able to do that because of the limits of this legislation that is outside the narrow geographic area that is defined in Mr. Patton’s language. Just some more unintended consequences of feelings over facts. I wonder when will the facts begin to change your mind, thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Michelle Maitland, 16030 Boston Road, Brunswick, Ohio. 44212: Hello everybody, thank you for giving me this opportunity....

Mr. Carbone – Can you spell your first and last name? Spell your last name and your address.

Ms. Maitland – I'm sorry, I'm a first timer here.

Mr. Carbone – Oh, that's okay, you're fine.

Ms. Maitland - Michelle Maitland, my father is Bruce Maitland, he lives at 16030 Boston Road. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to voice my thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed interchange project at Boston Road and I-71. We can all agree that the matter that lays before us today is one of tremendous importance; not just to me, but also to our community-at-large, and that of the Brunswick community as well. I have seen the concern and upheaval, and felt the tremendous anxiety that this proposed project has stirred among our fellow residents. We have all observed the numerous signs of opposition - silent, yet loud testimonials marking the unity of this community against a project that has proved time and time again to be a potential threat to our harmony and our stability. Among the letters, the emails, the phone calls and the pleas, there lies the voice of a group of individuals in Brunswick and Strongsville bound together by a common thread; a wish to preserve the sanctity and integrity of our neighborhood. Today, I'm here not just to repeat these facts, not just to revisit the statistics, or reiterate the findings of the recent and past studies; but to share something that can easily get muted in the heated debates. Something deeply personal yet universal in its appeal; a story of home, family, and neighborliness. The story of just one home in this community. In 1975 my father, a bricklayer, sold his car to purchase a vacant piece of property adjacent to Howe Road. Across the street, there was a vast expanse of undeveloped farm land...a huge corn field that provided us with a beautiful view. With the help of family and friends, my father cleared the land, broke ground and built a brick ranch. My brother and I, at 7 and 8 years old, worked beside my parents in whatever capacity we could at that tender age. At the same time, the farm land across the street slowly disappeared and a development started to emerge. Next to us stood another brick ranch, long established, that was built by George Craddock. He was a carpenter who happened to be the first baby born in North Royalton in 1900. George worked alongside with my father, laying bricks on the front of our house; and became not only a thoughtful caring neighbor, but a dear friend. My parents invested everything in this home. Last year, we lost my mother; and now my 82 year old father is facing the battle of his life because he has pancreatic cancer. His doctor's believe that he can beat it. Consider for a moment, standing in dad's shoes for the last 7 months, going to chemotherapy every week, and seeing the signs on every lawn opposing this interchange. It's a constant reminder of two precarious futures; his health and his home. My story...my family's story, is not an isolated one in this neighborhood. Every house on Boston Road, every house on Howe Road, Benbow Road and Carpenter Road are homes to similar tales. Behind each door and within each wall, these houses are homes to families who are striving to make a living, raise children and plan a future...all working hard every day, all contributing to their community and adding to enriching the fabric of our neighborhood. For us, this is more than a collection of houses, it's a vibrant community with each family narrating its own unique story. This is the identity and life of our neighborhood, and it risks being over shadowed by the enormity of the proposed interchange project. I implore you all to consider our collective voice and our collective story. This is a residential area. I appreciate the study and the information that you shared this evening, but I just don't believe it. I'll believe it when I see it.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Maitland (cont'd) - There are more viable alternatives to this project; and so, I urge you all today to reassess the impact of this project, and to pump the brakes on the energy that you're expending to push this through in any way that you can. Thank you for your attention.

(Applause)

Mr. Carbone – Is there anyone else that would like to come up this evening?

Shrea Kellums, 3450 Boston Road, Brunswick, Ohio 44212: Shrea Kellums, 3450 Boston Road. I mean no disrespect right now, but I just want to say that I feel like I am being the adult and you guys were all children here, reprimanding you. I do feel that you could, on a state level, tell them that you think that this is a bad idea. Get on our side so we don't lose our homes. I understand it is at state level now, but in the beginning it was not. In the beginning, it was Mr. Patton starting it. I believe you guys talked with him about this; so, it started here. Now, it is out of your hands; but you did start this. I hope you never do anything like this to your neighboring cities ever again. I hope it does get out, because I really don't want to lose my home. It would be many, many homes, thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Carbone – Anybody else this evening?

(No comments)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2023-121 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 1476 OF TITLE SIX OF PART FOURTEEN OF THE BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES CONCERNING SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on second reading and set for a public hearing on November 6, 2023.

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 second reading and set for a public hearing on November 6, 2023.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-137 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR AN INCREASE IN THE CONTRACT PRICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND GILBANE BUILDING COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRONGSVILLE TOWN CENTER 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. 2023-137 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-138 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE AND SURPLUS VEHICLES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE, 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. 2023-138 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-139 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR 2023 AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-111.

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. 2023-139 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-140 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES FOR USE BY THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW STRONGSVILLE TOWN CENTER PROJECT PLAYGROUND AREA; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION 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. 2023-140 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-141 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS UTILIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & SENIOR SERVICES, AND NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

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. 2023-141 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-142 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 238.09 OF CHAPTER 238 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWO-ADMINISTRATION CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC BIDDING THRESHOLD AMOUNT FOR EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY, CONSISTENT WITH STATE LAW, 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. 2023-142 ADOPTED.

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