SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026.

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 19, 2026, at 7:20 p.m.**

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

Council President Gordon C. Short called the caucus to order at 7:24 p.m.

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

Public Safety & Health Committee:

Chairman Kaminski – Public Safety and Health has one ordinance this evening. Ordinance No. 2026-099 is an ordinance ratifying and approving the filing of an application for financial assistance with the Ohio Traffic Safety Office for a Traffic Safety Grant program and traffic and OVI enforcements - that is $53,977.00, and is based upon reimbursement. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt on that this evening. Also, I would like to make a motion to approve the Public Safety & Health Committee meeting minutes of October 5, 2026.

Motion made by Mr. Kaminski, second by Ms. Roff to approve the Public Safety & Health Committee meeting minutes of October 5, 2026. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Chairman Kaminski – Alright, minutes are approved. That concludes my report.

Mr. Short – Thank you, Mr. Kaminski.

Public Service & Conservation Committee:

Chairwoman Kosek – Thank you, we have one ordinance tonight. It is Ordinance No. 2026-100. This is an ordinance that would authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract to purchase a Vermeer Brush Chipper for our service department—this would be without public bidding. This is an ODOT-approved state contract term with this company, Vermeer All Roads. It would be, not to exceed $89,306.00. The current wood chipper is in poor condition and unsafe for further use. I would ask that we suspend and adopt this, but we will need all seven because it is without public bidding. Is everyone good? Okay, thank you. That's all I have, Gordon.

Mr. Short – Thank you, Ms. Kosek.

Committee of the Whole:

Chairman Short – We have Ordinance No. 2026-101. This is to authorize the administration to enter into a new...supplying of electricity for the city and all municipal facilities starting in 2027. This was originally passed by us back in 2022. Given the current rates of electricity, and anticipated movement of rates in the future, it is recommended that we renegotiate and enter into a three-year contract with Dynegy Energy Services, LLC through Kinect Energy, Inc. for a three-year period beginning April 2027 to 2030 at current rates. Again, we expect the electricity rates to continue to move upwards. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt. This is also without public bidding, this evening, so we will need all seven. Are there any questions on this?

Mr. Clark – No questions, just a comment. I asked Eric to look into this. He was the one that brought this forward to us in 2022—an amazing recommendation at the time. Looking back in hindsight, it was a very good decision compared to back in 2022. His efforts and us following that lead saved the city a significant amount of money. He shared that with you all in an email. Eric, great job, and thank you. It's easier to look forward when you have a track record like that, so thank you.

Ms. Roff – I kind of feel like the question that I will get you to answer is that I know that we ask our residents to be part of a different energy source. Can you go over that, Eric?

Mr. Dean – Yes, absolutely.

Ms. Roff – NOPEC...I know that is what we put out for our residents for cost-saving.

Mr. Dean – Yes, absolutely. The residentials...the city voted to join NOPEC, at one point, years ago, which is an aggregate for all residential property owners to get. One, an electric supply rate. They can opt out or they can get into a contract that is a preventive. It is opt-out, so they are automatically enrolled into NOPEC. What happens is if you look at the bigger users of electricity, and we are one of them, we are almost considered light manufacturing or manufacturing. We use a lot more electricity than an average home. What we can do is we can actually go bid this out through a broker. We get a lot better rates because we use so much more electricity. That is what we have been doing. Looking at the last contract, I think we timed it really well, so we are paying about $0.06 per kWh. We almost use about 5 million kilowatt hours per year. It's about $540,000 in electricity costs for the city. We are calculating what we would have paid. To Tom's point, it was almost $450,000.00 we saved on our last contract because we had a really good time and we got it before rates rose and we locked it in for four years. What we are looking at here is another lock-in for three years, and on budget, we don't want to see these rates go up and hurt our budget...our annual budget. That's another thing as to lock these in. It is separate than what the residents can get through NOPEC just because we are such a big user and we can bid it out.

Ms. Roff – Thank you for going over that - I understand. I just wanted to make sure that was clarified for our residents.

Mr. Short – Just for the record Eric, our original contract does expire April 2027, and we are just negotiating this early to get a better rate, correct?

Mr. Dean – That's correct. You always want to avoid the winter months because that's when prices spike, so that's what we are trying to do. We were actually going to do this earlier, but we were expecting rates to go down, and they haven't. I think these are good rates and, hopefully, we can save some more money going forward.

Mr. Clark– To be clear, we remain at the rate that we are at, which is about half of the current rate until April of 2027—is that correct?

Mr. Dean – That's correct, yes.

Mr. Short – Any other questions on this?

(No questions)

Mr. Short – Again, the recommendation is to suspend and adopt, and we will need all seven. I do have one question for the finance director and the administration. Next Monday, October 26th, is our Finance Committee meeting here. Is it okay if we make that at 5:00 p.m., here, in the Chambers as opposed to 5:30 p.m.?

Mr. Dean – Five O'clock is good.

Ms. Roff – Do we still...do we have any information, or any of our...?

Mr. Short – I just spoke to Mr. Dean about that. We will be getting some information here. I told him sooner rather than later, but we will definitely have it before the weekend.

Ms. Roff – I know it's a lot for us to go over, so I just want to make sure that we have the time to do that.

Mr. Dean – I understand. I feel like, maybe, if you get it, before, obviously, this weekend...I'm still waiting on a couple of departments, and we have that meeting where I can go over it with you. I'm not opposed to having another meeting if you had questions because you didn't have time to do that, but that's up to you. I will do my best to answer all your questions at that meeting.

Mr. Short – Okay, thank you. So, it will be at 5:00 p.m., next Monday, October 26, 2026, here, in Council Chambers. Do you want to do it here, or do you want to do it in the conference room?

(Unintelligible background conversation)

Mr. Short – Okay, we will do it here, great. Any questions?

Ms. Roff – Gordon, do you just want to keep us posted, maybe though, just in case? I don't know how soon we will get that information just so we have the time to go over it.

Mr. Short – As soon as they are available, I will let you know.

Ms. Roff – Yes, we are at a week now.

Mr. Short – Any questions from the administration for Council?

(No questions)

Please note – The legislation discussed above on tonight's agenda can be viewed in entirety at: https://www.strongsville.org/government/city-council/minutes-agendas by clicking on the October 19, 2026 agenda link. *

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Gordon C. Short called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 5, 2026 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Mayor Perciak – Yes, good evening, Mr. President. At this time, Dr. Cameron Ryba has a presentation for us.

Dr. Ryba – Thank you, Council and thank you, Mayor for the opportunity to come to share not only to this group, but our community with what is going on in our school district and what is going to be on the ballot this upcoming November. I had the privilege of becoming superintendent of this school district twelve years ago and twelve years ago, we set a purpose and a mission for our school district. One of those key aspects was to become a premier district in the region and in the state; and over those last twelve years we have delivered on that promise. We have delivered a premiere school district for community that meets the needs of our students and the expectations of our parents and committee members. Most recently, we were awarded a five-star rating by the State of Ohio. That's the highest rating that you can receive that says, "You significantly exceed state expectations." We not only did that overall, but we did that for achievement of our students, growth of our students, graduation of our students, and how our subgroups performed as a school district. Not only did we achieve at high standards, but if you take a look at the cost by which we did that with in the county…in Cuyahoga County, it was the second lowest per pupil cost.

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

Dr. Ryba (cont'd) - We are not only getting extremely high achievement results, but we are doing it at a very efficient cost compared to our neighbors. What I wanted to share with you are some highlights on our Plan to Protect Our Core. We know that over the course of time, a few years ago, we had a levy on the ballot in 2023 and 2024—it was a renewal levy and our community did not vote to support that. During that time, our community said loud and clear, "Are you out of cash reserve? You need to spend down that cash reserve." Over the last two, we have spent down that cash reserve. The other feedback that we received is that, "Times are tough—everybody needs to tighten their belts and reduce their budgets, and that we need to do the same thing as a school district." We have reduced our budget. We will talk a little bit more about that, but we have reduced it by over $5,000,000.00 every year moving forward, while still trying to protect the student experience and preserve our core; which means all of the great things—the services, the support, the opportunities, and experiences that our community expects for our students. The third thing that was shared in that levy loss, after spending down your cash balance and reducing your expenses, was, "Come back to us when you do those things with a reasonable ask." The board and the administration have come to the community with the smallest ask for a new revenue that we possibly can that can get us over the next five years to be financially stable. If we take a look at the average home in Strongsville, somewhere between $300,000.00 and $400,000.00, that additional ask for our community is between $350.00 to $450.00 a year, or $30.00 to $40.00 a month. What we need to understand, though, is we have lived off of our cash reserves, but those cash reserves don't last forever. We are deficit spending—we started a few years ago. Last year, we deficit spent by $10,000,000.00 where we used that cash reserve by $10,000,000.00, and that will continue to increase moving forward. Our current revenue source...our most recent revenue source is from 2007. We are operating a school district in 2026 now off of 2007 revenues. When I talk to groups, sometimes they want to see..." Hey, we trust your numbers and we trust what you are doing, but is there an outside source looking at your books?" A few weeks ago, we got a letter from the State of Ohio. At this time every year, our Treasurer, George Anagnostou, has to submit a financial forecast. He submitted the financial forecast and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce sent us a notice, basically saying, "Hey, Strongsville, we see your financial books, and you need to figure things out in Strongsville." By "figure it out," the state is not going to come in and give us more money. The state is not going to come in and save us. We advocate, we lobby, and we do all of those things to get adequate funding. What they are saying is, reduce expenditures, generate revenue, or do both. That is what we are doing and have been doing in Strongsville. Our Plan to Protect Our Core is really comprised of three components as we talked about: spending reductions, moving of funds from one account to another—which I will talk about in a few minutes—and a reasonable ask for new money for the community. The first part is those reductions. As I said, we want this levy to be as low as it possibly can to keep us financially stable for five years. This year we've implemented $1,800,000.00 in reductions, and have eliminated 15 positions. Those positions were eliminated by attrition—people retired, and people resigned. We did not refill those positions, and those savings are being realized by the district currently this year. Next year, we have already implemented an additional $3,000,000.00 of reductions. That will eliminate 34 positions that come from all facets of our employee group—administrators, teachers, and staff positions. These are people that currently work for the district. These are team members that will no longer have jobs next year to make these reductions, and to make these expenditure cuts. These are hard cuts to make and they are going to have a negative impact on the services, support, and resources we have for our students, but we feel we could do that and still offer the premier educational experiences that we do. The second thing that we are going to do is that we are going to dissolve one of our financial accounts.

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

Dr. Ryba (cont'd) - The board, a handful of years ago, created a cash balance policy—it's a great policy to have. Basically, what it says is, if you have so many days of cash on hand, you can create an 070 Fund, and you can allocate funds there for capital improvement projects. We allocated $25,000,000.00 to that fund, as we did just that. We replaced the roofs on two of our elementary buildings, we replaced an HVAC unit in one of our elementary buildings, and we've allocated some of those dollars to replace an aging and challenging outdoor facility in our baseball and softball fields. Our community continued to give us feedback that they didn't like this account. They felt that we were trying to play a shell game, hide money, or put money in two different accounts. So, the board last month dissolved that account. All of that money has been shifted to our General Fund, so everybody can see that all of our money in our cash reserve is in one place. By doing that, that $16,100,000.00 that is being transferred—that will buy us one additional year of financial stability—$16,100,000.00 is a lot of money. Our annual budget is $95,000,000.00. As we take a look at that, we have to look at that in perspective and see that it is not going to save us, but it's going to help buy us one additional year. The last part of our plan is to put a reasonable levy on the ballot. So, what's on the ballot is a 6.7-mill five-year limited levy, which means it will be on the ballot every five years for the voters to consider. The one part that I want to make sure that our community is aware of, and this is the main point of confusion that we hear, is that we want people to understand that this levy is actually a combination of two issues. It's a renewal issue that has been around since 2002—every five years it comes up. It was slated to be on the ballot this November, but instead of doing two separate issues, or...and I will explain why we couldn't really do what we wanted to do, but this 6.7-mill levy...the easiest way to explain it is half is what people are currently paying and half is new. So, as I have shared, I said between a $300,000.00 to $400,000.00 house, people are going to be asked to pay more taxes, and that more taxes is going to be between $350.00 to $450.00 a year. If you go into the auditor's website and you type in what's on the ballot for Strongsville, it will say, "Hey, for a $300,000.00 house, you are going to pay $703.00 a year extra," but what the tax implication is as a homeowner is half of that because you are already paying the half in a current tax. What we did is that we put on there that half is going to be what you are currently paying and half is going to be a new operating levy that is going to help support us for the next five years. The other important thing is, if passed, the tax rate in 2027 would be less than 2024. The reason being...remember the levy I talked about in 2024 that failed? That was collecting $9,700,000.00 a year. The new portion of this is only asking for $7,500,000.00—a $2,200,000.00 reduction. Again, if passed, the tax rate in Strongsville in 2027 would be less than it was in 2024. This is just a graphic we use to show visually per $100,000.00. The renewal portion is $118.00, and the new cost is $117.00, and the total would be $235.00. This is a chart, again, if you go to our www.SCSMustangs.org/Issue9 website—our website—we have all sorts of charts on our Issue 9 website. This is one of them that, again, I shared. I will use that $300,000.00 house example. You are already paying $353.00, and the new ask will be $349.00—about $29.00 a month—and the total will be $703.00 a year, as I shared. Now, here is the part where the state made a new law that made things a little more confusing and a little bit more challenging for voters. What they said...and they only carved out school districts, they said school districts can no longer do a renewal plus additional money. What we would have liked to put on the ballot to make sure it was explicitly clear for our community is to say, "Hey, we are going to renew this 2002 levy plus we are going to add this 3.3-mills of new money," so people could see it. The State of Ohio said, "You no longer can do that." You're not allowed to do the renewal plus anymore. So, what people will see on the ballot is this exact language, right here, and it is going to say additional. It is going to be phrased and voted on as a completely new levy. As I said, we had that renewal levy that's on the books, and the district is not going to renew that.

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

Dr. Ryba (cont'd) - That will fall off the books, and that's how we are able to say what you were paying on the old issue will transfer to this new issue and you will be only paying half more. The bottom sentence that starts with, "The County Fiscal Officer has certified that the amount by which..." That is another legal change that was made. Basically, you had to say if you are going out for a levy, does your cash balance exceed a year of expenditures? That's not the case for us, and that's why it says $0, which is 0% of those expenditures to make it even more confusing than ballot language already is. If Issue 9 is passed, what does this mean? An additional operating revenue will start to be collected in January of 2027. As I am sure this Council knows, but for everybody's benefit, the way levies work is whatever year it is passed in, you start collecting funds in the next calendar year. If it passes in November, we would start collecting funds in 2027. We will get those funds in 2027, and we will continue on with those reductions. Those $5,000,000.00 of reductions that I shared—they are not going away. They are going to be there for the next, at least, five years to ensure that we are financially stable. I will talk a minute about some additional cuts. We have some additional cuts up to $15,200,000.00 that wouldn't be needed in this scenario; and then, our district would operate within its approved budgeted revenue and we would be financially stable for the next five years. If it's not approved in November, this goes back to my earlier example—May would be the next opportunity the board could decide to put it on the ballot. May is in 2027; even if the levy would pass in 2027, we would not receive new funding until 2028. We would lose a year of funding, which would generate more reductions that we would have to make. Two things that are important: First of all, that levy that failed in 2024, that reduced about $10,000,000.00 of revenue for the district. This Issue 9, that is on the November 3rd ballot, has an $8,000,000.00 renewal baked in as we talked about. Ten million dollars plus, if this Issue 9 fails, that's another $8,000,000.00 of revenue lost that we have to plan for. That is $18,000,000.00 of total revenue—it's a simple math problem. If we have $18,000,000.00 of lost revenue, we have to make $18,000,000.00 in reductions to keep the school district operating and moving forward. We got the $5,000,000.00 from the previous cuts we've talked about and we need to cut up to an additional $15,000,000.00. As I have shared with the board, I have looked at every possible place we can cut - we have come up with $13,900,000.00. Basically, $18,000,000.00 of lost revenue, $18,900,000.00 of reduced expenditures. However, those reduced expenditures come at a severe cost. Our Plan to Protect Our Core would no longer be able to be fulfilled, and we would need to move to state minimum standards to continue operating the school district. The other part that I would like to mention before I go on, is the majority of the staff in the school district is union based. Union contracts have specific language as to when reductions could be made. I cannot wait until May to determine what those reductions are. Those would start effective immediately, so we can plan accordingly for the upcoming school year. If Issue 9 fails, we have to put into effect those phase 3 reductions, and that would encompass all aspects of our organization. As you can see, in addition to the roughly 50 staff we have already reduced, we would reduce an additional 120 teachers, 70 support staff, 13 administrative staff...basically, 26% of our staff would be reduced. As a school district, most of our expenses are in people, so that's where you save the money. We would reduce transportation to state minimum standards, which would be no transportation; unless you are beyond two miles—K through 8, and no high school transportation. That high school transportation also applies to parochial partners that we provide transportation to. If we do not provide transportation to our public school students, our private school students that get transportation would not be afforded that service either. We would not provide food services at two of our elementary schools. There is a law that says, if the rate of free lunches for socially economically disadvantaged students is less than 20%, you actually do not have to provide food.

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

Dr. Ryba (cont'd) - To me, personally, this is a horrific thing to put on a slide that we are not going to feed our children in school, but that is the stage that we are in to try and make the budget meet if we lose that revenue. We would, basically, across the district go to state minimum standards. We would move 8th grade from the middle school to the high school, the 5th grade would go from elementary schools to middle school, and the high school students would only be permitted to school for five periods a day and then they would have to leave. The middle school would have two study halls every day because we would eliminate electives, and we would eliminate gifted services at the elementary level. We would take special education services, max out how many students are on a caseload, and max out class sizes. All of those things help reduce people to reduce cost; they are all catastrophic for our district. In addition to that, anything that we would expect—clubs, activities, music performance, athletics—would be eliminated, and supports that we use for our students for mental health services—counselors and social workers—would also be significantly reduced. So, this summarizes some of the things that I have talked about already: that if passed, Issue 9 will preserve the student experience, protect our core, have us financially stable for the next five years, and it will have reasonable reductions in place. This levy does not solve all of our financial issues. We will continue to have to use our cash reserve moving forward, but we will use it at a much slower rate and be able to be financially sound for the next five years. What I have talked through today, this presentation is on our website, so if you go on the Issue 9 website, all of the slides can be found there. Mr. Micko and Ms. Housum—two of our board members are here, and they've passed out a bifold which, basically, gives the information for this. Every Thursday night, I have office hours—people could call, or do virtual...board members are always willing to talk. Council, I am here to answer any questions that you may have. I just want to...before I pause...or stop, I want to say thank you for your support and thank you for your advocacy on behalf of the school district and the partnership. I truly believe together, with the Mayor's leadership and your leadership, we have built something special in terms of what we have as a community, what we have as a school district, and that works in harmony together. I appreciate all of your leadership and support to be a part of where we've gotten today; and, hopefully, we can see this continue after November 3rd. Any questions that I can answer for anybody?

(No questions)

Mr. Short – Thank you, Dr. Ryba. Any questions for Dr. Ryba?

Ms. Roff – For the lunches for Kinsner Elementary and Surrarrer Elementary...what about the free and reduced? It would not be available for them at all?

Dr. Ryba – Correct. If it's below...they are both around 18% - that would not be eligible. We would look internally to see if there could be bagged lunches, or things that we could bring for those students. Everybody would have to pack and bring their lunches.

Mr. Short – Any other questions?

Ms. Roff – Actually, one more question. Can you explain just for...I know that I know a little bit about it, but once you...if a levy passes, how does that work as cost of living goes up and the value of somebody's house goes up?

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

Dr. Ryba (cont'd) - That's a great question that we get asked a lot. There's a law from the 70's called House Bill 920 that says, generally when property values go up, we do not collect more funds. I know everybody's property values have gone up - my value has gone up. In terms of what happens with your taxes, the schools do not receive additional funds - it is level set across the community. If your taxes go up, somebody else's taxes went down a little bit and it offsets. The reason why I say generally, is there are things called inside millage in other aspects that there is some additional revenue that comes to the district, but it is not a one to one correspondence. We've talked about the 2023/2024 levy that was up for renewal, that generated $9,700,000.00. Basically, the law says, you're not going to collect more than $9,700,000.00 a year. So that's how it goes.

Ms. Roff – Thank you, and that's why it shows a lower amount that would be coming in?

Dr. Ryba – Correct.

Ms. Roff – Thanks.

Mr. Short – Dr. Ryba, thank you very much. I think it's imperative that we vote yes on Issue 9; either early voting, absentee voting, or at the polls on November 3rd, correct?

Dr. Ryba – Correct. Thank you very much for the time, I appreciate the opportunity.

Mr. Short – Thank you.

Dr. Ryba provided Council and Administration with a handout that is attached to the back of these minutes

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY – Ms. Roff:

(No report)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Clark: There are a couple things I want to share. First, I will talk about the recent business expo that happened last week at our recreation center. This is known as the Strongsville Business Expo. Actually, of the over the 100 businesses that were represented and had tables there, 39 of them came from beyond Strongsville. I think when I heard it on the radio from the Mayor and Bill Wills (WTAM), it is really growing into a regional economic development event. It is nice to see that other businesses want to come and meet with other vendors and meet with our residents and those that attend that event. That was last week. Again, over 100 businesses, vendors, entities, and organizations were there. Our police force was there and some of our school students...the STEM students were there and different things. A lot of great stuff that happened. It was a great event. Last year, you may recall, we couldn't have it because the recreation center was going under a remodeling project, so it was great to have it again. I continue to anticipate the bumblebee. There was a business here in Strongsville – a relatively new business that reported to our economic development director. That event was like their coming out party. He went to visit them a couple days later; they had a ribbon cutting last month. He went to visit them and see it a couple days later, and the place was packed.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Clark (cont'd): The owner said, "It seemed to have taken off just since the expo." Looking forward, I want to share a couple of things. The Chamber has a Chamber Business Networking Breakfast coming up on November 5th. You can register on the Chamber website for that. The Aerozone Alliance, which we are a part of, has a networking event coming up on Thursday, October 29th, here in Strongsville. That is going to be at one of our businesses very near Foltz Phase II. I'll be happy to share some information on that. That is going to be at CMIT Solutions, and there will be other businesses from beyond Strongsville that are there sharing some information. There will be a presentation from 10,000 small businesses and other entities. There will be a bus for anyone that wants to go visit and see where they could bring their business to Foltz Phase II. That is at 4:30 p.m., on Thursday, October 29th. On Thursday, October 29th, I think the Mayor has a presentation that he is going to give along with Brent Painter and that's to Moody's. We will hope that they continue to do their magic there, and continue to keep the city in good standing. I feel like there was one other upcoming event - I have a long list here. That's all of them. That concludes my report, but I will happily take any questions.

Ms. Roff – Is there an event coming in December?

Mr. Clark – I think we are going to hear about an event coming up in December, later.

Ms. Roff – I was just thinking for the...they put that on also, right? Our business group...no, is it...? I'm sorry.

Mr. Clark – The Chamber recently had a clambake, but I believe that the Strongsville Historical Society is going to speak about an event coming up. I don't have...I'm not prepared to share the details of that, but I will be surprised if we don't hear about that before the end of the meeting.

Ms. Roff – I'm sorry, I got the two mixed up.

Mr. Clark – It's all good. Any other questions?

(No questions)

Mr. Short – Thank you, Mr. Clark.

PLANNING, ZONING & ENGINEERING – Mr. Zacharyasz:

(No report)

PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski: Yes, there is one ordinance this evening. Ordinance No 2026-099; this is ratifying and approving the filing of an application for financial assistance. It's for a Traffic Safety Grant program, which is reimbursement for traffic and OVI enforcement. It's a reimbursement based on $53,977.00 that were approved. I want to suspend and adopt that this evening. Also, I want to thank all the volunteers on Saturday - we had Halloween at Safety Town – that is a program that is run by the Strongsville Police Department and The Strongsville Rotary Club. It was just a great day. The sun came out, and it was really nice and the kids just had a lot of fun. It was great to see all the smiling faces. I wanted to thank all of the volunteers from the police department and The Rotary Club for putting that on. That completes my report.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski (cont'd):

Mr. Short - Any questions for Mr. Kaminski?

(No questions)

Mr. Short – Thank you, Mr. Kaminski.

PUBLIC SERVICE & CONSERVATION – Ms. Kosek: Thank you, I do have one for Public Service and Conservation. Ordinance No. 2026-100; this is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for the purchase of a Vermeer Brush Chipper, which would be used by the service department. We currently have a brush tree chipper that is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. This would be through Vermeer All Roads, which is a state contract so that it would be at state pricing. This would be for $89,306.00. It is without public bidding so we will need all seven to agree. I think that this is an important thing for us to have, and certainly so that it is safe for our workers. I'd ask that we suspend and adopt that. If I can just thank Dr. Ryba for coming and speaking today. I moved to Strongsville in 2014 largely because of the schools. I have a son who is a Sophomore and I have a son who is in fifth grade who are receiving a very good education at the schools. It is very important to my family that they continue to have that opportunity as it is for all of the other kids in town. I am really excited to hear the facts so that everyone is very clear on what is on the ballot this year. I offer to anyone who has specific questions, obviously, Dr. Ryba is available, and certainly members of the school board, but I am happy to talk as just a parent based on the experience that I have had just as a parent in the district. So please, if you want to, please reach out to me. That's all I have today, thanks.

Mr. Short – Thank you, Ms. Kosek. Any questions?

(No questions)

Mr. Short – Thank you.

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Kosek:

(No report)

BUILDING & UTILITIES – Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Carbone: I want to thank Dr. Ryba, as well, for coming here and sharing a Plan to Protect Our Core. They will continue tomorrow at the Community Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. at the middle school to continue to be as transparent as possible and to be available to answer any questions. I know we have Richard Micko and Laura Housum in the audience as well. They have been all around town along with the other board members really trying to answer any questions as possible. I want to mimic with Ms. Kosek - I also have three children in the district, but it also goes beyond that. As Tom Clark talks about our economic development, our business, and how much the schools impact that.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Carbone (cont'd): I know the Mayor, over the years, has talked about the impact of that brand new middle school and the technology there that we brought to our community. It was a selling point to continue to bring business into this community. We really have to look at multiple levels—home values, children in the district, and families looking to move into the community. Also, to continue to drive our economic development and bring in those jobs into our community that is...80% of our income comes from the payroll tax from those jobs. They all go hand in hand. This is what separates our community. If you are still on the fence, and you have a question about it, please ask those questions. We are all available—the board is available. They have the Community Town Hall tomorrow. We've had people in the neighborhoods, and people at events throughout the community...the outreach this time has been amazing. It says a lot about our city. Lastly, I just want to touch on House Bill 920. House Bill 920 locks in, like Dr. Ryba said, the last levy was $9,700,000.00. Whether your appreciation goes up or goes down, that income stays the same. In most cases, that valuation goes up. We are only...the last I knew, one of three states that operate under that mechanism. Is that still correct? That was challenged many years ago that it was unconstitutional and against the law, but it still operated. Now, the district has to, every...in our case, because they are so fiscally responsible, every five, ten, or twelve years, go back to the community at a much higher rate. Where other states are, as there's a little increase in home values, that increase goes to the district. They don't see that here. Like Dr. Ryba said today, we are operating under 2007 income, so I think that says a lot there. If you are on the fence, ask the questions—we are all available. That will be mighty appreciated, thank you.

Mr. Short – Thank you, Mr. Carbone. Any questions for Mr. Carbone?

(No questions)

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:

(No report)

FINANCE – Mr. Short: We don't have any ordinances or resolutions on tonight's agenda. However, as a reminder, next Monday, October 26th at 5:00 p.m., we will have the Finance Committee meeting, here, to discuss the first review of the 2027 budget for the City of Strongsville. As soon as the packets and booklets are done by the finance department, I will have the clerk reach out so we can all pick those up and review for next Monday's meeting. Again, it will be here at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Any questions for Southwest or Finance?

(No questions)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Mr. Short: In Committee of the Whole Committee, I do have one ordinance tonight. It is Ordinance No. 2026-101; this is to renew early the city's electrical contract to provide electricity from Dynegy Energy Services for a three-year period starting April 2027 through April 2030. Again, we are renewing this early as the prior contract we approved in 2022, was set to expire in April of 2027; however, given the cost of electricity and the rise in electrical rates, it is prudent that we approve this now. This is without public bidding, so the recommendation is to suspend and adopt. We will need all seven this evening. Any questions?

(No questions)

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Thank you, Mr. President, and good evening, everyone. Just to update everyone as far as our schools are concerned. There is going to be a rally on The Commons on Halloween from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you want to support our kids and our teachers, we ask you to be there. It is from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on The Commons on Saturday, October 31st. In addition to the budget meeting on Monday, the 26th, on Tuesday, the 27th is our NOACA meeting, here, at our own recreation center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Everybody that is here in the audience, you are going to have your chance to speak to them and voice your opinion. It will be here in our recreation center starting at 6:00 p.m. that evening. They will have all of the representatives here and they will also have a moderator here, so come prepared. I am going to be there. We are going to have a good time—I mean that sincerely. We are going to let them know what we think too. That ends my report.

Mr. Short – Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

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

Mr. Short – Thank you.

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

Mr. Short – Thank you, Mr. Jamison.

Ms. Roff – Sorry Gordon. Because I got those mixed up, I know the Chamber replaced their scholarship dance with the clambake. The dance will be done, like Tom said, by the Strongsville Historical Society.

Mr. Short – I think we might have someone speak about that.

Ms. Roff – Okay. Also, the pool opens back up I believe on the…

Mayor Perciak – This weekend, I think.

Ms. Roff – Okay. Also, you can sign up for the senior snow removal - it's based off age and income. You can find that on the website for Strongsville.

Mr. Short – Thank you, Ms. Roff.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Short – We have reached the portion of the meeting for audience participation. Audience members are allowed to address Council for no more than five minutes. You must state your name, address, and spell your last name for the record. This is not a Q&A with the Council. This is not a debate with the Council. We are here simply to listen to your comments. In light of last meeting's discussion by some non-Strongsville residents, I want to make it very clear that this is a place and institution of respect, and this is your government institution. I will not tolerate nor accept disrespectful, rude, slanderous, and vulgar comments in this Chamber. If you cannot speak respectfully, then please don't speak at all—this is a warning to everybody. I will ask you to leave this Chamber if I feel that you are not addressing this Council in the appropriate respect to the people here that it deserves. If you choose not to leave, I will ask our Sergeant-at-Arms to escort you out. Furthermore, audience members are not to shout down or shout comments from their seats. Only those addressing the Council from the podium will be recognized. If you choose to scream or yell, or try to drown out speakers from your seats, I again will ask you to be removed. With that, I also am going to ask Madam Clerk to have those who signed in to address us that are not talking first about anything dealing with NOACA or the I-71/State Route 82 interchange study.

Scott Maloney, 19532 Stoughton Drive, Strongsville, OH. 44136: Good evening, I'm Scott Maloney. I live at 19532 Stoughton Drive, here, in Strongsville. I'm here this evening to represent the board of the Strongsville Historical Society. Just for the record, their address is 13305 Pearl Road, here, in Strongsville. I will share first for the benefit of the audience and anybody who may watch this in the future. It's amazing we still, almost every day, run into folks who say, "I have lived here for twenty or thirty years, and I had no idea we had a historical village in the middle of Strongsville." The Strongsville Historical Society has been here since 1962. We have a campus of three acres just a little bit north of here right across from the new library next to where the old library was. We have eight buildings on the property. We are always out there trying to be cheerleaders for getting people over there to check that out. A little bit of history: fifty-eight years ago, Mike Kalinich and others initiated an annual tradition of having a Chamber dance to start off the holiday season every year—first Friday of December. After time has passed, and we all know things changed with the passage of time, the Chamber organization decided this year to no longer continue forward with that tradition. So, the Strongsville Historical Society said, "Well, we love history, we love tradition and we think it was a great opportunity to carry that forward and continue to do that for the Strongsville community." We have taken over that event. We are doing it on the same day, same time, and same place. It's going to be the first Friday in December—December 4th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Encore, which was formerly Michaud's. It should be a great night of fun activities. We will have a D.J., we will have a photo booth, raffles, auctions, and all the usual things that we've had in the past. There will be heavy appetizers and an open bar. We brought the price down from what it's been in recent years. It will be $75.00 a person, which we hadn't seen since back in 2021. If you reserve a table of eight for $600.00, you'll also have naming rights for that table like we have done so many years in the past. I just want to take the opportunity. We are trying to make the rounds throughout Strongsville to let everybody know that the event will continue. It will just be hosted by a different entity. The funds for this year will be going toward...we have a project to put a wrought iron fence around the entire perimeter of our village to be in keeping with the fence that has been installed at the cemetery, and that has been installed at The Town Center. It will bring even more of a cohesive look to the center of town and really dress up the perimeter of our village. We have received quotes from several different companies, and it looks like it will be about a $120,000.00 project.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Maloney (cont'd) - It's nothing to sneeze at, so we are doing fundraising and pursuing grant money and hope that we will be able to bring all that funding together to start working on that project here in the next year or two. Thank you for your time, and I will answer any questions. I guess we are not doing Q& A, so thank you for your time.

Mr. Short – Thank you, Mr. Maloney. We appreciate you keeping that tradition alive.

Mr. Maloney – Alright, have a good night.

Ms. Roff – Sorry, I stole some of your thunder. I didn't know you were coming in to talk about it.

Mr. Clark – Gordon, before we move on, given that the speaker represents the Strongsville Historical Society, I would like to take a minute and thank the Strongsville Historical Society for not only taking that over and keeping history alive, but they recently took part in the Hometown Heroes event that happened last month that Councilman Jim Kaminski and Councilman Anthony Zacharyasz were fundamental in. I think it was a great event. When we talk about what makes Strongsville great, it's those community organizations, it's our schools, and it's our economic development. We have all three legs of the stool, and all three are doing really well. We want to continue to support and make sure that all three continue to do really well. Again, our community organizations, our economic development, and our schools. I wanted to take a minute to thank, even though he departed, I wanted to thank on the record, the Strongsville Historical Society for their support of that recent event.

Mr. Short – Thank you, Mr. Clark.

Gene Moore, 15271 Walnut Creek Drive, Strongsville, OH, 44136: Good evening, I am Gene Moore, I live at 15271 Walnut Drive in Strongsville. I am a retired teacher of 39 years, and I am a 50 year resident of Strongsville. It's probably longer than some of you have been alive. I am here to address the reckless use of E-bikes and E-scooters on our city streets and sidewalks. Patrolman Alex Kurowski has worked throughout the summer months with me on this safety issue. Before continuing, I want to recognize his diligent efforts to address this serious problem in our neighborhood. His dedication, professionalism, and reliability reflects his strong commitment in serving our community. Last spring, in our initial conversations, Alex informed me that the city was developing legislation to address this problem. I patiently waited all summer to see some concrete actions. Unfortunately, a lack of administrative action is apparently handcuffing police enforcement and preventing them from effectively addressing this very serious and dangerous situation in our city. Two weeks ago, as my daughter was backing her van out of our driveway, a second E-bike incident occurred that could have easily have caused serious injury or death. Four E-bikers were, again, on our street speeding, doing wheelies, and running stop signs. As she backed into the street, one rider came down the wrong side making him nearly impossible to see. He ran the stop sign at high speed, and upon finally noticing her backing out of our driveway, he swerved sharply at the last possible moment, barely maintaining control, and narrowly avoiding a rear-end collision. It was the second near-fatal this past summer in front of my house. Just recently, Patrolman Alex Kurowski parked his patrol car in front of my property; while we, again, discussed the neighborhood E-bike situation. Incredibly, an E-biker rolled down our street and failed to even slow down for the stop sign. Of course, that ended our conversation as Alex went after the offender, but that's not the first time the same scenario has occurred.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Moore (cont'd) - Just last fall, as another patrolman and I stood in my driveway, a group of four E-bikers came speeding down the street passed his parked cruiser, parked right there where they could see it, and ran the stop sign at full speed as we watched. A rapid U-turn, and the culprits were caught. This is the type of lunacy that occurs daily on our streets putting lives at risk. As a teacher, I learned that correcting a problem behavior requires discipline that is sure, that the problem is handled swiftly, and its penalty is severe enough to deter the offender from ever repeating that unwanted action. Strongsville needs some swift, sure, and severe now. This issue should have been resolved long ago. These are not children's toys; they are neither bikes or scooters, and they go up to 30 plus mph. These are motorized vehicles; and as such, must be regulated and kept off the sidewalks where they are extremely dangerous to pedestrians. As motorized vehicles, there must be a minimum age of 16 to operate such vehicles on city streets. We can no longer have mentally under-developed juveniles operating them in city traffic; that's just plain lunacy. Our streets and sidewalks are not a playground for wheelies and trick riding. As a motorized vehicle, they should be licensed by the city and assessed an annual fee, which can then be used to develop programs to educate our youth on the laws and their proper use. Common sense dictates the requirement that operators under the age of 18 must be required to wear helmets. It also dictates a licensing process that tests applicants on traffic laws, and their ability to operate an E-vehicle just as it is currently required for motorcycles. It is imperative that E-vehicle lights be required to always be on to increase the chance of actually seeing them. We need immediate and targeted police enforcement efforts to identify, track, and ticket violators. Penalties and fines must be severe enough to deter future violations. I keep hearing about repetitive arrests on the same bikers over and over again from the policeman that I've talked to. For example: Substantial fines for a 1st offense. Repeat offenders should face confiscation, community service, and/or even detention. A night or two in the slammer for repeat offenders would help out a quick end to this madness. If a repeat offender is a minor, enforcement should also include fines for the parents. It's time that the parents were held accountable. Such basic measures are simple, yet essential.

Ms. Pientka – Five minutes, Mr. President.

Mr. Short – You're at your five-minute limit.

Mr. Moore – I got…

Mr. Short – Really quick, yes.

Mr. Moore – I'm trying to go fast. I knew it was a five minute… This is not complicated. These are our streets and sidewalks and our drivers and pedestrians should be able to use them safely. I thank you for your time.

Mr. Short – Thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Bonnie Thoennes, 9407 Brushwood Lane, Strongsville, OH 44136: Bonnie Thoennes, 9407 Brushwood Lane. I am here to talk about the levy from the residents' point of view. We heard from the leadership, but I would like to add something from the residents' point of view and what I think should happen, and it might be (unintelligible). It looks like the bulk of the decision, when it comes to this levy, was made by the Board of Education members as a result of the feedback they received from two meetings they had with leadership of this community—that's what was said at the Board of Education. So, here are the results from that meeting: ninety-day cash, long-term stability, which is 5–7 years. It was a minimum reduction, and a combined issue on November 3rd. Based on the comments posted on Facebook, many residents are against these two levies being combined. Many of them would not have a problem with a 2002 renewal levy, but they do have a problem with this one because it sounds big—it is big. The explanation about it too, being combined, it really does not matter. It is the dollar signs that people see; they see $15,000,000.00. I see the same thing. If I separate $8,000,000.00 and $7,000,000.00, I say okay, $8,000,000.00 passes, then $7,000,000.00 passes—it's not as bad anymore. One passes and the other one doesn't, we don't have this $15,000,000.00 problem. We just heard that if this levy doesn't pass in November, and it doesn't pass in May, then it is going to be a $15,200,000.00 additional cost. Now, why would anyone take the chance and put those together if we can have a 2002 levy that didn't expire yet? It will expire next year, so it still can be put in May of 2027. It can be put on the ballot, so instead of seeing $15,200,000.00 in cuts, it could be only $7,000,000.00 in cuts. In addition to that, because the levy would be delayed, that means this $15,000,000.00 would not have to be collected this year. The $8,000,000.00 would be renewed, and then put a smaller levy on the ballot—a continuous one—not a renewable levy. This district needs a continuous levy so it doesn't have this big yoyo, and constant problems every four or five years. Now, in November, if there would be put a $9,200,000.00 continuous levy in addition to that $8,400,000.00 renewable on the May ballot, that levy would add together to those two levies. At least, people would be more willing to vote on it next November than voting now on these big issues because the reappraisal would be done. Also, the cuts...right now, the cuts are on paper. The reductions are on paper...people want to see the actual reductions. In the past, there were reductions, but they were always on paper. People would like to see some reductions. In addition to that, the teachers' contracts are expiring in 2028. Right now, it was 3%, and it was the biggest increase since many, many years. That's a problem when we are asking for a $15,000,000.00 levy; and then, 3% is really not the increase—that goes up to 12%, or more. If you are talking educational, it goes up to even a 15% or 16% increase, so it's not 3%. If that contract would be renewed, and it would be maybe for a 1.5% base, then people would see that the district cares and the district lowers it, people would be more willing to vote for the continuous levy. It happened in 2006 and 2007. In 2006 was a renewal levy, and in 2007 was approved a continuous levy. It could happen again, but it has to be the right amount at the right time. The district has to show that they do really make the right cuts and make the right adjustments so people would pass the levy. Now, another thing is...it's about this $15,400,000.00. It's really not $15,400,000.00. We have an overlap. One year is overlapping, which means the district is collecting the 2002 levy at the same time as it is collecting the new levy. When it says that the residents...

Ms. Pientka – Five minutes, Mr. President.

Ms. Thoennes – Is it over?

Mr. Short – Yes, it's five minutes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Thoennes (cont'd) – Okay, I just want to say that the residents needs to know that the 2027 year is going to be collected for two levies not just one levy.

Mr. Short – Thank you.

Ms. Thoennes – That's because they are overlapping and people don't know about that and they may be upset.

Mr. Short – Thank you.

Richard Micko, 20520 Wildwood Lane, Strongsville, OH 44136: I am still Richard Micko, and it is still spelled M as in Mark, I-C-K-O. I am still proud to serve on our school board. I wanted to thank Bonnie for bringing up some points that...

Mr. Short – Your address, please.

Mr. Micko – I still live at 20520 Wildwood Lane.

Mr. Short – Thank you.

Mr. Micko – The reason that I came forward is that I wanted to compliment our Superintendent, Dr. Ryba, but I wanted to clear something up. If you listened very closely, you noticed that he didn't tell you how to vote—that's by law, and that's the correct way for him to operate. He is charged to give you and the public the facts, but it is illegal, and he won't do that to actually tell you what to do, or how to react. It is his charge, and we have charged him with it, to make sure that the voters understand the decision that they are being asked to make and understand the consequences of a yes or no. As a school board member, I don't have that restriction. I can ask, and I am asking, for your support for Issue 9. A couple of facts: Bonnie talked about the overlap and how that affects it. There is an overlap and we have been very transparent about it. We haven't been hiding it—it is in our frequently asked questions on our website. Would I have liked to have designed a levy that doesn't have an overlap? Sure. The reality of it is that we are at a critical point where time is not on our side. Cameron alluded to it by talking about how Issue 9 passes in November means the revenue will start coming in 2027. Any issue passed next year means revenue does not arrive until 2028. One of the things that is a challenge, as a board member, is to make those decisions. To respect the voter, to respect the taxpayer, and to recognize that the economy is what it is today. That, for some people, there are some hardships. That is one of the reasons as a board, we make the decision to say, "How can we balance these different needs? How can we balance the needs of the students...of our children for a great education along with the needs of our taxpayer?" We reduced our budget. We tightened our belt to the tune of $5,000,000.00. We felt that Issue 9 is a reasonable ask. It doesn't solve the problem, but it does let us be financially responsible and balanced for 5 years. We made it a five-year limited levy because the majority of the comments that we received were that we want to be able to repeat this question. As an individual board member, I am always happy to earn it. I look forward that Issue 9 is the conversation that we are going to have now; it will balance the budget, it will allow us to educate our kids, it will allow us to protect the core for five years, and then in five years we will have this conversation again. As a reminder, we like to talk a lot with anybody who wants to talk to us to get information about Issue 9, or anything about the school district. We do have a Town Hall tomorrow at the middle school starting at 6:00 p.m.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Micko (cont'd) - If you do have questions, we are happy to answer them. Ultimately, what we want the voter to understand is that this is a reasonable ask, and you should support it. I want to thank you publicly, I want to thank Council, and I want to thank the Mayor. You have been nothing but supportive. I think that goes a long way to show what we have been doing together as a partnership. I think it goes a long way; because again, Cameron can't tell you how to vote, but you can tell people how you think they should approach the issues and vote. I thank you for your energy. Remember, on November 3rd, at the ballot box, absentee, or however you want to do it, please vote yes for Issue 9.

Mr. Short – Thank you, Mr. Micko.

Ms. Pientka – Is there anybody else in the audience that would like to address Council that does not pertain to the interchange right now?

Tracy Graham, 19211 Timber Creek Circle, Strongsville, OH. 44136: I came here from Maple Heights tonight. I take care of my parents. I had a resident in who lives in Strongsville who felt like she was going to be alone. She should never feel alone. She lives on Boston Road. She...we fought for that bill to be out of the law. No one from Strongsville should lose their homes. No one should lose their land. You guys decided to have this great big industrial parkway. We didn't...you did – it's fine. If people want to come and work here and live here, they know the traffic – it's not that bad. I don't understand what the push is. I respect you. You have always been honest with me...straight forward honest. I didn't want it on Boston Road – it is too close to my house. I don't want to hear the traffic. I didn't understand the reason to be honest with you. All I kept thinking was of the industrial parkway. So, what's the difference with Drake Road? You're not for Drake Road if I am not mistaken. Are the people behind me supposed to believe that you don't want it on Drake Road, but you do want it on Boston Road? People are going to lose their homes. I would not let somebody sit here alone thinking that this might be brought up again on Boston Road. I stand for everyone. I say no to everything. I say no to Boston Road. I say no to Drake Road. I say no to Grafton Road, I say no to it all. If people don't like the traffic, then don't live here, and don't work here. Somebody from the SOS group (Save Our Streets), I don't know who it was, which I am not a part of anymore, made a great comment. She said, "We are not the corridor for everybody. We don't have to make it easy for everyone to get home. We just need to be able to get home ourselves." We will always be the ones who get home earlier than everyone else. That goes for North Royalton, Brunswick, Columbia Station, Medina, it all...it goes for everybody. This is our city - we don't have to cater to everyone else. This is our city. I think you guys need to stand up for us. We don't want it. They don't want to lose their properties – they don't want to lose their homes. They don't want to lose any...you don't want to lose any part of your property on Howe Road. Why should we have to lose anything? This is somebody else's problem - it is not Strongsville's problem, and it is not that bad. I have been in bad traffic; this is nothing...this is laughable. That is why I made some comments on Facebook. It's laughable literally. It's not that bad. No one behind me wants to lose their property because a couple of people complained. I don't know who complained, but there should be a record somewhere of people who complained and where they live. I don't think it's Howe Road – that isn't the problem. Those people are not the ones complaining – it's people outside of this city that's complaining. You guys need to start standing up for us. We don't want it. I am going to be behind every single organization that says no to every single street that you guys want to put it on. NOACA is just giving us solutions, but you guys decided. You're the feet that's going to go to the fire, so stand up for us for once. Thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Daniel Smith, 14510 Drake Road, Strongsville, OH. 44136: Daniel Smith, 14510 Drake Road, Strongsville, Ohio. I just want to make a couple of comments about the Interchange comments, or the interchange possibilities that had been circulated. I haven't been able to get really good information on any of it. I think most of them...in fact, all of them are bad. No matter what you do, you take the traffic whether you take it off at Howe Road and Drake Road, call it the Drake Road exit east, west, or south on Howe Road. No matter what it is, you are going to put a bigger road in and it's going to end 2 miles, or 3 miles later, and one lane south. If you think you have congestion now, what are you going to do then? It just doesn't make sense. The other thing is the...evidently the preferential location would be east on Drake Road. That means...and it says three lanes. If it has one east, one west, and one turning lane that means it's still one lane going east. When you take the traffic off of I-71, and it goes up to 130th, nobody is going to try to turn north and come back the same way they came from. Everybody is going to try to turn right to go south into Brunswick. That will be one heck of a traffic jam. It's just going to be a mess. I'm not sure that whoever put these down really took a look at what the different possibilities...detriments that are going to show up when that would happen. The other item is that the sewers...the sanitary sewers on Drake Road were just put in ten years ago on the north side of the street. Where is the road going to go? You are not going to go south on the southside because that's where the waterline is. If you go on the northside, that's where you just spent millions and millions of dollars on that sanitary sewer. Where is the road going to go? It just doesn't make a whole lot of sense. Thank you.

Mr. Short – Thank you.

Norm Beznoska, 18235 Fern Canyon Drive, Strongsville, OH. 44136: Norm Beznoska, 18235 Fern Canyon Drive, Strongsville, Ohio. For the past 48 years, I have attended Strongsville City Council meetings when matters of utmost importance involving the safety and financial concerns of Strongsville residents and our families were at stake. Never have they been more at stake with the threats from our friends at NOACA – a non-government organization, that has set its sights on the City of Strongsville. NOACA wants to totally change our way of life in Strongsville. They want to tear apart our infrastructure, our neighborhood streets, and put over 500 city residents and homes in harm's way. One of the policies that I respect most about our President Trump is his ongoing concern for the safety and the well-being of American citizens; and specifically, our country's borders. We have our borders, too, in Strongsville. Our borders include North Royalton, Columbia Station, Middleburg Heights, Hinkley, Berea, Olmsted Falls, and Brunswick. To the best of my knowledge only one of these cities' residents have taken it upon themselves to come and attend Strongsville City Council meetings. Meetings that we residents of Strongsville pay for with our tax dollars as well as the salaries of our City Councilman. The word attend; however, can be misleading. Especially, when some non-residents from Brunswick come to criticize, vilify, harangue, and attack our City Councilmembers over matters that do not necessarily involve them. As a resident, and as a taxpayer of Strongsville, I feel very strongly about this. Questions about the fiscal and the operational health of Strongsville, our city, should not be of any interest to them. I do not attend Brunswick City Council, or any other City's Council meetings for that matter. It's none of my business. So, if residents from Brunswick, or any other of these cities wants to attend Strongsville City Council meetings, I highly recommend that they move into Strongsville. But if you do, mind your manners. We residents in Strongsville like to speak to our City Councilmembers, not at them. Thank you.

Mr. Short – Thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Justin Ramey, 17386 Greenbriar Drive, Strongsville, OH. 44136: My name is Justin Ramey, I live on 17386 Greenbriar Drive. I am here to add my support to these fine folks that are opposed to the interchange. My backyard is right on that area, so this would be a big impact to me. I know it is not all about me, and we have a lot of other residents her; but I really don't want Strongsville to become known as a thoroughfare to another city. I want Strongsville to be a place where we want to live. I am currently at a point in my life where I am trying to decide where I want to spend the rest of my life. I would like that to be Strongsville. I grew up in Medina, but I have called Strongsville my home since 2012. I am 38 years old, and I have been traveling down to Bowling Green Kentucky where my grandparents live all my life; and I have watched that community transform. We would get off the highway, go onto a nice four-lane road, and find my grandparent's neighborhood. That is now an eight-lane highway...it's not even a highway, it's just a residential area. There's eight lanes and it is the worst traffic that, I think, I have ever been in. They have those eight lanes plus sub-streets, and it just keeps getting worse. We can add these lanes in and hope that it solves the current problem, but what it's going to do is invite more traffic. You line the lanes and more cars want to go that way. I really don't want our neighborhood and everything that our neighbors have worked so hard for, to go to waste. If this goes in, it's not really a place I am going to want to live very long in. I would rather see the support of City Council go to oppose this. That's all I really have, and thank you for listening.

Mr. Short - Thank you.

Joseph Tooman, 16561 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, OH. 44136: Joseph Tooman – the last name is spelled T-O-O-M-A-N. My address is 16561 Shurmer Road in Strongsville. I just wanted to make a short statement to implore the Council to reject the traffic study conclusions; especially, if the affect the streets around Shurmer Road. We don't want a regional traffic problem to become a neighborhood traffic problem. Our street is just two lanes and if they introduce the slip onto I-71 at the end, we would have a lot of congestion – we have stop signs. We are at the end of the...our driveway is right at a stop sign, so we would have problems getting out of our driveway. I really just don't want the traffic headache. That's all I had to say, but thank you.

Mr. Short – Thank you. Is there anybody else, from the audience, who would like to address Council this evening?

(No comments)

Mr. Short – Again, for those who are here for the Interstate 71/State Route 82 study, next Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the recreation center, you can address NOACA and your concerns directly to them. I highly recommend that you are there to help us when we make our discussions with them as well as to our thoughts to their traffic studies.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2026-099 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE OHIO TRAFFIC SAFETY OFFICE IN CONNECTION WITH FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE FFY 2027 TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM FOR TRAFFIC AND OVI ENFORCEMENT; AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2026-099 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2026-100 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A VERMEER BRUSH CHIPPER, FOR USE BY THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT, WITHOUT PUBLIC BIDDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2026-100 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2026-101 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR'S ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY'S PURCHASE OF SUPPLYING ELECTRICITY FOR ALL MUNICIPAL FACILITIES AND STREETLIGHTS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, FROM DYNEGY ENERGY SERVICES EAST, LLC, THROUGH KINECT ENERGY, INC., FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD, WITHOUT PUBLIC BIDDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2026-101 ADOPTED.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

(None)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

(None)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Gordon C. Short adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Marialena Beach
Council Secretary

11-02-26
Date



The Plan to Protect Our Core

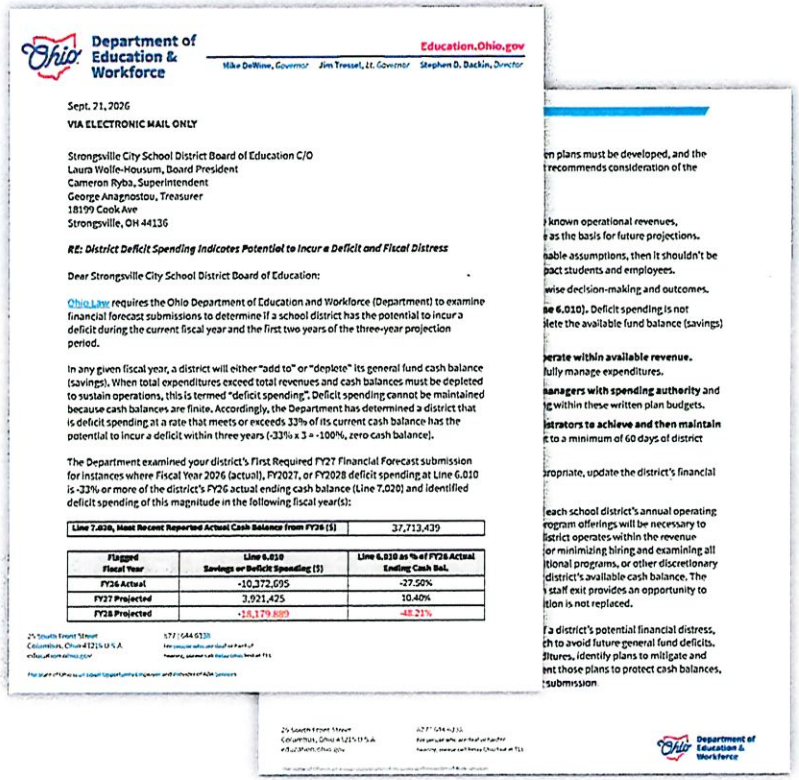
STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

In 2024, a levy generating $9.7 million a year was not renewed by voters, sending a clear message: **Spend down our District's cash balance before returning to voters.**

Our District listened, and, since then, **has spent down cash reserves and reduced spending** while working to protect the educational experiences Strongsville families expect, **including instructional support for reading and math, special education and gifted services, a variety of AP and honors courses, mental health resources and robust music, arts, and athletic programs.**

The Plan
TO PROTECT OUR CORE
STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

While our cash reserves have been essential in providing our students with an excellent educational experience, **those reserves are limited and can't sustain operations long-term.**



Department of Education & Workforce

Education.Ohio.gov

Mike DeWine, Governor Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor Stephen D. Dackin, Director

Sept. 21, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Strongsville City School District Board of Education C/O
Laura Wolfe-Housum, Board President
Cameron Ryba, Superintendent
George Anagnostou, Treasurer
18199 Cook Ave
Strongsville, OH 44136

RE: District Deficit Spending Indicates Potential to Incur a Deficit and Fiscal Distress

Dear Strongsville City School District Board of Education:

Ohio Law requires the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (Department) to examine financial forecast submissions to determine if a school district has the potential to incur a deficit during the current fiscal year and the first two years of the three-year projection period.

In any given fiscal year, a district will either "add to" or "deplete" its general fund cash balance (savings). When total expenditures exceed total revenues and cash balances must be depleted to sustain operations, this is termed "deficit spending". Deficit spending cannot be maintained because cash balances are finite. Accordingly, the Department has determined a district that is deficit spending at a rate that meets or exceeds 33% of its current cash balance has the potential to incur a deficit within three years (-33% x 3 = -100%, zero cash balance).

The Department examined your district's First Required FY27 Financial Forecast submission for instances where Fiscal Year 2026 (actual), FY2027, or FY2028 deficit spending at Line 6.010 is -33% or more of the district's FY26 actual ending cash balance (Line 7.020) and identified deficit spending of this magnitude in the following fiscal year(s):

Line 7.020, Most Recent Reported Actual Cash Balance from FY26 ($)	37,713,439

Flagged Fiscal Year	Line 6.010 Savings or Deficit Spending ($)	Line 6.010 as % of FY26 Actual Ending Cash Bal.
FY26 Actual	-10,372,695	-27.50%
FY27 Projected	3,921,425	10.40%
FY28 Projected	-18,179,889	-48.21%

25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215 U.S.A.
education.ohio.gov

877 644 6338

Department of Education & Workforce

The Plan
TO PROTECT OUR CORE
STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

In September of 2026, our District received notification from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) that District deficit spending indicates a potential to incur a deficit and fiscal distress.

The Plan to Protect Our Core Combines Three Primary Elements:

1

Targeted spending reductions

$1.8 million in 2026-27 and $3 million in 2027-28

2

Movement of funds

from a capital improvements fund to operating funds

3

A proposed levy

6.7-mill, five-year operating levy on the Nov. 3, 2026, ballot

1

PHASE 1 (2026-2027)

- $1.8 million in reduced spending
- Elimination of 15 positions

PHASE 2 (2027-2028)

- $3 million in additional reductions
- Elimination of an additional 34 administrator, teacher, and staff positions

2

HAPPENING AT THIS TIME

- Dissolution of Capital Improvements Fund (070)
- Net $16.1 million returning to general fund
  - The net amount is due to a portion of Fund 070 being allocated to other projects, including renovations to the baseball and softball fields.
- Provides one additional year of financial stability, but does not change our District's long-term financial need

3

WHAT IS ON THE Ballot?

6.7 mill, five-year limited levy (returns to voters every 5 years)

3.4 Mills Renews Operating Levy Originally Approved In 2002

Approximately $8.3M/year

Money the community already contributes

3.3 Mills Of New Operating Revenue

Approximately $7.5M/year

Replacing 2024 renewal voters did not approve that generated $9.7M

This combination of mills reduces tax revenue collected by $2.2 million - representing a lower tax rate in 2027 than in 2024

Estimated Cost to Homeowners



RENEWAL PORTION
Residents already pay 3.4 mills of the 6.7 mill levy, or $118 per year for every $100,000 of home value.

LESS THAN
$10
PER MONTH

NEW REVENUE
The new 3.3 mills of the 6.7 mill levy would cost homeowners $117 per year for every $100,000 of home value.



**For every $100K home value*

NOVEMBER 2026 LEVY

Homeowner Cost Per Home Value

Home Value	Already Pay (Yearly)	Add'l Yearly	Add'l Monthly	Total Annual Cost
$100K	$117.95/year ($9.83/mo)	$116.55/year	$9.71/mo	**$234.50/year** ($19.54/mo)
$200K	$235.90/year ($19.66/mo)	$233.10/year	$19.43/mo	**$469.00/year** ($39.08/mo)
$300K	$353.85/year ($29.49/mo)	$349.65/year	$29.14/mo	**$703.50/year** ($58.63/mo)
$400K	$471.80/year ($39.32/mo)	$466.20/year	$38.85/mo	**$938.00/year** ($78.17/mo)
$500K	$589.75/year ($49.15/mo)	$582.75/year	$48.56/mo	**$1,172.50/year** ($97.71/mo)

Issue 9 Ballot Language

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

Strongsville City School District

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of the Strongsville City School District for the purpose of current expenses that the County Fiscal Officer estimates will collect $15,427,256 annually, at a rate not exceeding 6.7 mills for each $1 of taxable value, which amounts to $235 for each $100,000 of the County Fiscal Officer's market value, for five years, commencing in 2026, first due in calendar year 2027. The County Fiscal Officer has certified that the amount by which the carry-over balance in the district's general operating budget from the preceding fiscal year exceeds the district's general fund expenditures made in the preceding fiscal year is $0, which is 0% of those expenditures.

IF ISSUE 9 is approved

- Additional operating revenue will begin collection in 2027
- $1.8 million in reductions from 2026-2027 will remain in place
- $3 million in reductions from 2027-2028 will remain in place
- Up to $15.2 million in further reductions **will not** be needed
- Our District will operate within its approved budget based on available revenue and reductions in place, a plan projected to sustain operations for five years

IF ISSUE 9 is not approved

- No additional revenue will be collected in 2027
- Combined with the levy that was not supported in 2024, the District must prepare for $18 million in revenue lost
- Up to $15.2 million in further reductions **will be** required, totaling up to $20 million in reductions
  - $1.8 million in reductions from 2026-2027 remain in place
  - $3 million in reductions from 2027-2028 will remain in place
- Our District will move to state minimum operating standards, impacting the core academics, athletics, and arts experiences, while also eliminating the services, supports and opportunities that make a premier Strongsville City Schools education

The Plan
TO PROTECT OUR CORE
STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

If Issue 9 fails and Phase 3 becomes necessary,

the District must reduce expenditures to match revenue and will no longer have the financial capacity **to protect the core** and preserve the student experience.



ACADEMICS



ATHLETICS



ARTS



SERVICES & SUPPORTS

What Phase 3 Means

If Issue 9 is not approved, we must plan to implement all three phases in 2027-28, resulting in:

120+ teaching positions eliminated (roughly 30% of teaching staff)

13 administrative/leadership positions eliminated + step freeze (26%)

70+ support staff positions eliminated, including bus drivers (22%)

Move to state minimums for academics, electives, gifted/special education

Reduced honors and AP courses

College Credit Plus on-campus courses eliminated

Reduced mental health services, including counselors and social workers

Transportation **reduced to beyond 2 miles for K-8 students; no HS transportation**

Food service eliminated at Kinsner and Surrarrer Elementary

Music programs reduced

All extracurricular clubs and activities, **including athletics**, eliminated

The BOTTOM LINE



OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Strongsville City Schools has a responsibility to be transparent about the choices and consequences facing the community. **We have developed budget plans for either outcome of Issue 9.**



THE FINANCIAL GAP

With continued levy failures, our District would realize a revenue reduction of **$18 million**, or **19%** of our total revenue, requiring **up to $20 million** in expenditure reductions.



THE PROPOSED LEVY REDUCES THE GAP

The proposed levy doesn't eliminate the financial gap, but **reduces the level of further reductions necessary.**



OUR GOAL

Combined with reductions already in place, it is projected to **sustain operations for 5 years** while maintaining programs and opportunities students and families expect.

For more information, visit

SCSMUSTANGS.ORG/ISSUE9

SCHEDULE A VIRTUAL MEETING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Every Thursday from 4PM to 6PM through Election Day to ask questions, discuss your thoughts and get the facts.

TINYURL.COM/DrRyba

The Plan
TO PROTECT OUR CORE
STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS