

**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024.**

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in the Caucus Room at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6:45 p.m.**

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

Council President, James E. Carbone, called the caucus to order at 6:50 p.m.

**\*\*Note - Councilwoman Kelly A. Kosek entered caucus at 6:58 p.m.\*\***

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

Recreation & Community Services Committee:

Chairman Spring - Thank you very much. We will start with Ordinance No. 2024-160; this is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a service agreement with the City of Berea for certain services. It looks like they are going to operate the Senior Wheels Transportation program, which gives rides for seniors in each of the communities to attend doctor's appointments, various shopping centers, and other related activities. The recommendation is to....

Mayor Perciak - We've been doing that for years.

Chairman Spring - It will be a continuation of the same thing; it's a 3-year contract. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt. Next is Ordinance No. 2024-161; this is an ordinance ratifying and authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept funding from ODNR (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) for the Town Center Enhancement and Walkability Initiative. This one is for appropriated funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 for the City of Strongsville for the completion of the project.

Mayor Perciak - Just for the record, this is not additional money, this is the balance of the money that is due to us - (part) of the \$1.2 million dollars.

Chairman Spring - The recommendation is to suspend and adopt, and that will be it.

Public Safety & Health Committee:

Chairwoman Roff - I have two items today. I have Ordinance No. 2024-162; that is for us to have a price adjustment with our contract for our dispatch center with Middleburg Heights. The recommendation for that is suspend and adopt. Ordinance No. 2024-163; that is for the Mayor and the city to purchase a total of four pieces of new equipment, or just two?

Mr. Jamison - Two.

Chairwoman Roff - Just two...two pieces of new equipment for our firefighters. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt.

Mr. Carbone - Any questions....

Mayor Perciak - That is going to be \$105,000.00, and yes, this is all through the GSA (general services Administration) contract.

Mr. Carbone - Any questions for Ms. Roff?

(No questions)

Finance Committee:

Chairman Short - Thank you, President Carbone. We have two ordinances tonight that will be both placed on first reading. Ordinance No. 2024-164 is to create a TIF improvement district on Pearl Road around the area of the newly created Dunkin Donuts. Ordinance No. 2024-165 is also to create a TIF fund for the new Sheetz on Royalton Road. The recommendation there...no recommendation tonight, sorry. First reading for those, and we will place those on three readings before we vote. Any questions on those new TIF funds?

Mr. Jamison - I would just reiterate, as we've said in all the years we've done these, the schools are made whole. This is really to help the city build up its infrastructure, and again, the cities and Polaris are made whole through this process.

Chairman Short - Are you just saying that because our superintendent is in the audience tonight?

Mr. Carbone - Dr. Ryba in Mr. Jamison's defense, he always mentions that on the record.

Chairman Short - For the Finance Committee, everyone should have received their 2025 budget book. As a reminder, we are meeting here next Monday at 4:00 p.m. to review the budget in the Finance Committee meeting for 2025. Please take your time to review and formulate your questions. If there is anything you want to talk about ahead of time, I'm sure Mr. Dean, you'll be available for that; we will be ready then. Everybody should have enough information for next Monday's meeting. I believe we all are in attendance there, correct?

Mr. Carbone - Yes.

Ms. Roff - Was there anything out of the ordinary in the budget that stands out at all?

Mr. Dean - Not really; you know obviously, this is a union contract year, so we do not have new contracts yet. We are estimating some numbers in there, which we are going to get into. That and some capital projects that we know of, but nothing crazy.

Ms. Roff - Okay, thank you.

Chairman Short - I hope Mr. Dean that with the head of the city being a former banker, that I'm sure our interest revenue is probably less...budgeted less than what it was in 2024.

Mr. Dean - That's correct, yes. We have a breakdown in the schedules there; and we are predicting less money.

Chairman Short - That concludes my report.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you, and again, you're encouraged as you're going through the book, any questions call Mr. Dean. He is always available prior to the meeting; we appreciate it.

Public Service & Conservation:

Mr. Carbone - Ms. Kosek is at a work function on a flight right now that was supposed to land but it was delayed. I will take over Public Service and Conservation for her. We have Ordinance No. 2024-166; this is to apply, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) agreement with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA). This is for the planning, design, and construction of improvements for the city's Wastewater Treatment Plants Rehabilitation project, designating a dedicated repayment source for a loan. The recommendation here is going to be to suspend and adopt. Neal, do you want to add anything else to this?

Mr. Jamison - This is an attempt by us to get further resources to help pay for this project, which is going out to bid this Friday, and will be coming back to Council in November to award to the low bidder. This is estimated to be like a \$30,000,000.00 to \$32,000,000.00 project. This is just another attempt to try and get some more financing to help defer the cost.

Mayor Perciak - Eric, do you want to tell them what we are going to do with them?

Mr. Dean - Absolutely, this project, we have some multiple financing for it. We already have an OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) loan...zero percent loan. We are contributing \$10,000,000.00 of that total. This is for the balance with the Ohio EPA and the Ohio OWDA. I was told that this is the best rate we can get for a loan through the state. OWDA does have a loan program, but this one is actually better. We should get a good rate once it's approved.

Mayor Perciak - You're going to see our cash depleted by about \$10,000,000.00 because we are going to go into the sewer fund, which there's adequate dollars for. We don't want to finance this whole thing. That might stand out in the budget, and you can say, "Well, where is that coming from?" Well, it's a designated fund and we can't use it for anything else. It's specific and it's designated, so it is what it is; it's for the wastewater plants.

Mr. Clark - Did I hear you say Eric, it's zero percent? Is that only on a portion of it?

Mr. Dean - The OPWC loan, that we've already received, is a zero percent loan through the state. This loan is going to have an interest rate to it; but it will be lower than market rate. It's a federal loan, actually.

Mr. Clark - Thank you.

Mr. Carbone - We also, under Communications, Petitions, and Claims, need a motion for a conditional objection.

**\*\*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 21, 2024 agenda link. \*\***

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**CERTIFICATION OF POSTING:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present: Council Members:** James E. Carbone, Gordon C. Short, Kelly A. Kosek, James A. Kaminski, Annmarie P. Roff, Thomas M. Clark, and Brian M. Spring. **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 7, 2024 were approved as submitted.

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

***Dr. Cameron Ryba, Superintendent for Strongsville City Schools, was present to discuss the upcoming school district levy on the November ballot.***

Mayor Perciak - At this point, I would like to call up the superintendent of the schools. I'm sure he is here for a reason; if that's okay with you, Mr. President.

Mr. Carbone - Yes, sir.

Dr. Ryba - Thank you, Mayor. Good evening to City Council and our fellow community leaders. Imagine with me, if you would, a beautiful fall morning, maybe like one we had today, where a young student named Emily walks into her classroom - eyes bright with curiosity and potential. Emily represents thousands of kids in our school district – each with dreams, each with challenges, each deserving our unwavering support. In just 15 days, we face a pivotal moment that will shape Emily's future and that of her 5,700 classmates. On November 6th, we will wake up to a new reality – one that will either nurture or one that will potentially dim the light in Emily's eyes and the eyes of all our kids. Issue 53 isn't just a levy on a ballot. It's a statement about who we are as a community, what we value, and what we stand for. If Issue 53 passes, we're saying yes to a continued investment in our children's futures. We're affirming our commitment to our purpose - to inspire and empower today's learners to build tomorrow's leaders; the leaders our community needs them to be.

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

Dr. Ryba (cont'd) - If Issue 53 fails, what message are we sending? I fear the headlines might read: "City of Strongsville Decides Its Children Aren't Worth the Investment – Even at a Discounted Rate." Let's have that sink in for a minute. We're not asking for more money; we're not asking for the same money; we're asking for less money. Issue 53 proposes to reduce the tax burden while still allowing us to provide a premier educational experience. It's an unprecedented opportunity to support our schools at a cost effective rate. I won't sugarcoat it. The stakes are high, and the message we send with our decision will resonate for years to come. It will not impact just this year's kids, but a generation of our students. This isn't about budgets and bottom lines; it's about Emily and every other child in our school district like her. As your superintendent, I wear many hats; but none of them is more important than being the chief advocate in our community for our kids. So tonight, I stand with you and stand before you to stand up for our kids. I'm here for us to stand together for our kids with disabilities who need targeted services and support to access the same opportunities as their peers. We stand together for our athletes, our musicians, and our artists who find their passion and purpose in our extracurricular offerings. We stand together for our children who rely on our schools for a safe environment, for meals, and for a chance for a better future. We stand together for high achievers who need challenging courses to reach their full potential. We stand for our kids struggling with social-emotional and mental health challenges, who find solace and support in our school counselors. We stand for every child who might not have someone else standing in their corner. Our community has always valued education. We've made strides, we've made improvements, but our journey isn't over. Issue 53 isn't about maintaining the status quo – it's about continuing our path of progress; and about being better tomorrow than we are today. The beauty of a strong school district extends far beyond the classroom. It uplifts our entire community, it attracts businesses, protects property values, and builds a skilled workforce. When we invest in our schools, we invest in the very fabric of our community. As we approach this critical decision, I ask of each of you – Mayor, Council members, community leaders and members to consider your role in shaping our future. Our children are watching. They're learning from our actions more than our words. What lesson are we going to teach them on November 5th? Imagine again that beautiful fall morning, but now it's November 6th. Emily walks into her classroom, and her eyes meet those of her teacher. In that moment, will they share a look of hope and possibility? Or one of disappointment and missed opportunity? The power to decide rests in our hands – in your hands. Please, let us send a resounding message to Emily, and every one of our kids in our community and our district: That you are worth it, that their dreams matter, and that their community stands with them. Thank you for the time. Thank you, Mayor, I appreciate it.

(Applause)

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Clark:** Thank you, President Carbone. Our last Economic Development Committee meeting was on September 23rd, and I shared highlights at our last meeting on October 7th. Last week, we had the Strongsville Business Expo and we had...The Chamber had the Mayor, and a mid-year update. Both events were tremendous. The Business Expo was once again sold out with approximately 200 businesses at tables exhibiting. During The Chamber luncheon, the Mayor shared many of the exciting things that are going on in our city including on an economic development front. I want to stress that nearly everything we do in this community impacts economic development; and economic development impacts our bottom line. Therefore, nearly everything that we do; it truly is an ecosystem.

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Clark (cont'd):** That ecosystem has been nurtured and cared for by the Mayor and by our Economic Development Director, Brent Painter. They have been superb stewards. I didn't know that Dr. Ryba was going to come up here and talk about the interdependence. I mentioned the word ecosystem; and I kind of made a note as he talked about the community. I'm talking about economic development, and he was talking about the schools. I truly think that it's an ecosystem. October is manufacturing month. It's time to celebrate the success of U.S. manufacturers, promote the industry and inspire a generation of innovators. Now, I have been celebrating Strongsville manufacturers for about two or three months now highlighting one every month, so you know what's coming. The one manufacturing company that I want to highlight tonight, and the Mayor talked about it during his Chamber...during the update at The Chamber luncheon last week - Momentive Technologies. If you drive down one our business parks, the Strongsville Business and Technology Park, you go by 22557 Lunn Road, you would look and would see a manufacturing site that's been there for years - Momentive Technologies. Now, today if you drive down that street and you look to the right, you see another Momentive sign across the street in what was once a vacant office building for many years. Today, you'll see that sign and will know that growth in our city is going to continue. Momentive is expanding and they are expanding here in Strongsville again to fill out an office building that was previously vacant. Momentive Technologies talks...their theme if you will, is purity that inspires progress. They design and manufacture ultimate high performance quartz and ceramic products. They chose Strongsville to do that and they are growing. I think it's exciting for the ecosystem of Strongsville, so I wanted to highlight them today. That concludes my report. I will share that we will not have an October Economic Development Committee meeting on the 28th. We are making room for the Finance Committee meeting that we have that day. I will share the next meeting update in a future report. Any questions on Economic Development?

(No questions)

Mr. Clark - That concludes...thank you.

**BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Ms. Roff:**

(No report)

**PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH – Ms. Roff:** I have two items tonight. I have Ordinance No. 2024-162, and that is an ordinance for the Mayor to enter into an updated contract with the City of Middleburg Heights for our dispatch center; adjusting the price for that. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt. Then I have Ordinance No. 2024-163, and that is an ordinance for us to approve the two pieces of equipment for the fire department. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt.

Mr. Carbone - Any questions for Ms. Roff?

(No questions)

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

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Mr. Spring:** Thank you, President Carbone. First off, for Recreation and Community Services, we have Ordinance No. 2024-160; this is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a service agreement with the City of Berea for...to operate Senior Wheels transportation program which provides rides for seniors in each of the communities to attend doctor's appointments and various shopping centers, and other related activities. As we said before, it's a continuation - this is a 3-year agreement. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt. We also have Ordinance No. 2024-161; this is an ordinance ratifying and authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, which the money is going to go as a capital improvement for the Town Center Enhancement and Walkability Initiative. As we said, it's \$500,000.00 as a second payment for the \$1,000,000.00 that was coming to us. That is definitely a suspend and adopt recommendation.

**SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Spring:** We had a school board meeting on October 9th. Some highlights from the school board meeting - the school received a \$10,000.00 donation from the Strongsville Community Theatre in order to form the middle school drama club, and the production of their musical. We definitely want to say thank you to the Strongsville Community Theatre for their donation to the school system. Also, at the school board meeting we went over the state report card which had fantastic results for the 2023 and 2024 school year. It was a five-star report. Five-star means they significantly exceeded state standards - out of 600 plus districts, 68 of those schools received five-stars; and out of twenty similar sized schools to our size school, there is only eight of them that did that. It was a pretty big deal for the school to get a five-star. If you have any other reason to support our schools, they are a five-star school system. You're getting a good deal out of your money. I want to give a big congratulations to Dr. Ryba and the administration, staff, teachers, school board, and students for such an important accomplishment for sustained success and exponential growth. Very good, and that's all.

Mr. Carbone - Any questions for Mr. Spring?

Ms. Roff - Was that the same also where they broke it down by how much is spent on each student and stuff compared to the other schools?

Mr. Spring - It was broken down like that, yes.

Ms. Roff - That's definitely another note for that. We do a lot with a lot less money and still keep that five-star. I was just pretty impressed with that.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

**FINANCE – Mr. Short:** Thank you, Mr. Carbone. For the Finance Committee, we do have two ordinances tonight on the agenda. Ordinance No. 2024-164, which under the tax incremental financing program in the State of Ohio, we will establish a new fund known as the Pearl V Fund for payment in lieu of taxes for the improvements around the new Donkin Donuts that was built on Pearl Road. We will place that on first reading tonight. Ordinance No. 2024-165, again, a tax incremental financing project for improvements around the new Sheetz at State Route 82 just outside next to the hockey arena there for improvements around that district as well. These will be placed on first reading tonight and referred to the committee. Note that at the end of this program, the taxes in lieu...there's payments and additional taxes that will be made in lieu to the city for improvements around there; however, the school districts are made whole from this.

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

**FINANCE – Mr. Short (cont'd):** Just the city portion of that is what will be diverted to these funds for future improvements. Any questions on that?

(No questions)

Before I move on to Southwest General Health System, a reminder that we do have a Finance Committee meeting next Monday, October 28, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in this chamber to review the 2025 budget, which you all should have received tonight from our finance director. Please review the booklet - any questions, you can reach out to Mr. Dean prior to. Then, we will also discuss at the meeting the 2025 budget for the City of Strongsville. Any questions?

(No questions)

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:** For Southwest, we have not had a board meeting since our last meeting; however, Southwest General Health System as well does have an issue on the Strongsville's ballot on election day - Issue 41. This is to renew our funding for that from the residents. It is not a new tax, and it does not raise tax. It's something that, as a community hospital, we support through our tax dollars to support the health system up there and the services that they provide to the City of Strongsville, our community, and our residents. There's no new taxes; it's just a renewal. Mr. Mayor, this has been probably going on for 50 years?

Mayor Perciak - As long as I have been here for sure and even when I was on the board at the hospital. An important factor there is - in any one of our emergency calls, unless for some reason Southwest General can't take them, the majority of all of our ambulance calls go to Southwest General. That's what's more important, and that the people need to know. This past year, our safety forces, our fire paramedics...was over 7,000 runs...7,000 calls that they made. The majority of them all went to Southwest General. It's important that we know that; and then people will understand how important Southwest General is to us.

Mr. Short - Thank you, Mayor. I always say that this is a great asset in the community. This is something that is a small cost to us for the services they provide for the healthcare of our residents. I encourage the citizens of Strongsville to vote yes for the renewal. Again, not a tax increase; it's something that we have been funding for the community hospital for at least 50 years, if not longer. That concludes my report; but I will happily take any questions.

(No questions)

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Kaminski:** I have no report this evening, but I do want to thank Dr. Ryba for coming out this evening and talking to us. I also want to stress that if you have questions about Issue 53, please reach out to one of your school board members. If you can't get a hold of them, please call one of your Councilmembers, and we will be happy to get the information for you; it's very critical. There's a lot of information out there that is not accurate, and we do need your support on Issue 53. Please, if you have any questions, you have time to give us a call, thanks. That concludes my report.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you, Mr. Kaminski.



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

**PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Ms. Kosek:**

(No report)

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Ms. Kosek:**

Mr. Carbone - We have Ordinance No. 2024-166; this is applying for, accepting, and entering into a Water Pollution Control Loan Agreement (WPCL) with the Ohio Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) and the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) on behalf of the city planning...for planning, design, and construction of improvements to the city's Wastewater Treatment Plants Rehabilitation project. Part of this we are looking at is to get a very low interest rate. Currently, this is going to be north of a \$30,000,000.00 project. We are going to designate some of our money from our...sorry Mayor, the water treatment fund?

Mayor Perciak - The sanitary sewer fund.

Mr. Carbone - The sewer fund, that's it. Then, we have a zero percent loan through the PDC (meant to say OPWC) loan. We are looking to get a low interest rate here as well so we can continue improvements to those wastewater treatment plants. The recommendation here is to suspend and adopt. Myself or somebody, could answer any of the questions pertaining to this.

(No questions)

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Mr. Carbone:**

(No Report)

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

**MAYOR PERCIAK:** Thank you Mr. President, no report.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

Mr. Short - Mr. Mayor, as we have Halloween coming up, any...

Mayor Perciak - It is going to be Thursday, and it is going to be October 31st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Short - I just want to make sure because I always get that question.

Mayor Perciak - Our police will be in every neighborhood. Please...the children unfortunately don't pay attention to sidewalks and don't pay attention to whether they are walking in the street or not in the street. When you're driving through the streets on Halloween evening, please be super careful. Our little ones will be out there celebrating Halloween going from house to house. In some cases, they are at grandma's and grandpa's neighborhood so they really don't even know it's not even where they go to school or anything. Keep your eyes and ears open, please.

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

**Mayor Perciak (cont'd):**

Mr. Kaminski - Speaking of Halloween, I just want to give a thank you to the Strongsville Police Department and The Rotary Club of Strongsville. Last Saturday, they had trick- or- treating at Safety Town. We had over 450 kids and their families come; it was a great event. Just a shout out to those groups for putting that on; thanks.

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

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

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Carbone - We have our School Board President, Richard Micko.

Richard Micko, 20520 Wildwood Lane, Strongsville, Oh. 44136: My name is Richard Micko, 20520 Wildwood Lane. President Carbone and Mayor Perciak, thank you for allowing me the time to address you again. I want to start with just a question for those of you who have students...who have young people. How many of you have juniors and how many of you are saving money for their college or after high school education? Mr. Clark?

Mr. Clark - A Sophomore...let's not move it any faster than it is.

Mr. Jamison - Mr. Micko, I would remind you that there's no interaction with Council during this part. We are going to stick to the rules.

Mr. Micko - I'm going to assume Mr. Clark is, but I appreciate the reminder; thank you. I know Mr. Short is also, but my point is if I asked any of you, not one penny of the dollars you are saving has been spent on your student's education—if they are a junior, if they are senior, or if they are younger. You're all wise enough to save that money for when it's needed. There is a lot of talk in the public by organized opposition and by people who say they want to get the Strongsville levy facts out. One of the things they talked about is how not one dime of our previous levy has been spent on the children. Hopefully, my illustration shows you how silly that thought is. We aren't spending that money today because we are saving it for our student's tomorrow—that's message number one. Number two, Dr. Ryba highlighted our five-star rating. Mr. Spring and Mr. Clark also highlighted our five-star rating; and we are rightly proud of it. It takes good students, it takes good parents, it takes good teachers, and it takes a good school district and a good community to have a five-star rating. We are one of only 68 schools in all of Ohio that have a five-star rating, and we've done it twice in a row. As many of you know, I like to dig into the numbers. The numbers I'm really proud of are two: 1). There is something called the growth index, which is a fancy word for progress—bright kids doing well; you would expect bright kids to do well. Progress measures how well every student improves in a year. Our high school is the number 3 high school in the State of Ohio out of over 3,025 high school buildings for progress—for getting our students to go that next step to be ready for college, a career, the military, or whatever we want out of our students. That's something that just five stars doesn't explain.

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

Mr. Micko (cont'd) - That's an incredible number, and we should be proud of it. The other number that I'm really excited about and proud of is our early literacy percentage—85% of our young learners are ready to learn. It means the 15% we still have to work on. What is stunning is that in 2021, over 30% of our young learners weren't ready to learn...weren't ready to read. We've gotten that number down to 15%. Mr. Spring gets to watch the board meetings; and the entire board is laser-focused on getting that number down even more. Those are the things we are proud of. Those are the things that we do when our school district is financially stable; and those are the things that we are able to deliver to our community and our students. If Issue 53 passes, it will put us in one of the strongest financial conditions the school district has been in 30 years. It's where we should be, and it's not nice to have; but it's what we should want for all the students and all of our children in our community. We would be in a position to eliminate the majority of student fees. We would be in the position to eliminate pay to participate in athletic trainer fees. We would be in the position to eliminate the half tuition for full-day kindergarten; and we would be in the position to maintain the \$4.2 million dollars in operating budget for student opportunities. That \$4.2 million dollars is how we get the results on our report card. It's also about Emily; it's also about all of your children; and it's also about all of our children. What happens if Issue 53 fails? It's a reduction in course offerings and an increase in class sizes; it's staffing reductions at all levels. It is increases in fees, a reduction of student extracurricular opportunities, and it's a reduction in transportation services. Whenever we do this, we will get the feedback that you're threatening the parents. On the other hand, the school board and myself want to be clear with the community what the consequences are of every decision that we make. If Issue 53 passes, we can continue with the progress, and we can continue to support our students the way we all want to. If Issue 53 fails, the school board will have to budget for that amount. We are not asking for an increase. There are other communities that are asking for an increase, and I don't begrudge them that; I care about Strongsville. We are not asking for an increase. That's another part of the misstatements. There is a combination of the reappraisal plus our levy that is being sold as an increase in taxes. Our levy is a reduction in millage, and our levy is a reduction in taxes. I'm going to close. The one other criticism that the opposition makes is that they've offered and we haven't listened. We have listened, and we listen every single time. The reality is the offering is not financially stable. The discussion does not put the school district and our homeowners in a position to maintain their investments. I will say the idea that the school board can solve the problems of inflation by adjusting a levy...in one hand, I'm a little bit...Wow, I can solve inflation, and Mrs. Housum and the rest of the school board can solve inflation. Mr. Mayor, don't talk to Bernicky and don't talk to Janet Yellen; talk to the Strongsville school board because somehow fixing the reappraisal is reasonable to attempt to do that on the backs of our children. I'm here to say that's wrong, and I'm here to say it's not a smart idea. Issue 53 is essential for us to continue the good work we are doing in the school district. It's essential for the ecosystem that Mr. Clark talked about because of the balance between what the school district does and what the city does. I'm going to end by thanking City Council for always keeping the school district whole with TIFs. That partnership means a lot. Please remember: honor before Issue 53; vote yes. Thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Roff - Really quick, is there...I know that at the school board meetings, there are always people that are present that may be part of the opposition, or driving this "non-fact" agenda. Would there be an opportunity to have them debate out in the open; so that they can answer where their numbers are coming from and look at clear facts instead of made up facts? You don't have to answer now; I know that would be a lot. I just...it's hard to counter everything that is said sometimes when you don't have the opportunity to do that in the public. Alright, thank you guys.

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

Ms. Kosek - I just wanted to thank School Board President Micko, Vice President Housum, and Superintendent Ryba for coming and talking about the levy. I think it's very important. I think you guys made some very good points tonight. I want to let you know that I fully support what you are doing - the way that you have been fiscally sound and managing, so that we don't have to have an increase in taxes. You are paying towards what we need by keeping money in the bank so that we don't have to increase. I think it's incredible what you're doing and the results that you're getting; I thank you. I want you to know I fully support what you're doing, and I want to be on record with that. Thank you.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Ordinance No. 2024-160** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BEREA FOR CERTAIN SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED AT THE WALTER F. EHRNFELT RECREATION & SENIOR CENTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-160 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2024-161** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO COMPLETE A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY RECREATION PROJECT KNOWN AS THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE TOWN CENTER ENHANCEMENT & WALKABILITY INITIATIVE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-161 ADOPTED.**

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

**Ordinance No. 2024-162** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND THE CITY OF MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, IN CONNECTION WITH AN ADJUSTMENT OF FEES COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-162 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2024-163** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN UNITED STATES GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) STRYKER POWER PRO COTS AND TWO (2) STRYKER POWER LOAD SYSTEMS WITH RELATED APPURTENANCES, FOR USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT; 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 Mr. Short to suspend the rules requiring every ordinance or resolution to be read on three different days, second by Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

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

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-163 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2024-164** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCELS, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCELS TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING A PEARL V MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40, 5709.42 AND 5709.43, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

***Placed on first reading and referred back to the committee.***

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

**Ordinance No. 2024-165** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCELS, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCELS TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING A SHEETZ 82 MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40, 5709.42 AND 5709.43, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*Placed on first reading and referred back to the committee.*

**Ordinance No. 2024-166** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND ("WPCLF") AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ("OHIO EPA") AND THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FOR PLANNING, DESIGN, AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS B & C IN CONNECTION WITH THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS REHABILITATION PROJECT; DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-166 ADOPTED.

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:**

*Application for Permit: TRFO – D1 - D2: To: Shaha Strongsville LLC; DBA: Shaha Halal Food, 14228 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 10/23/2024.*

*Motion by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff to file a conditional objection to the application for permit based upon the applicant's lack of compliance with the City's Building, Health and/or Safety Codes; provided that when and if compliance is confirmed by the Building Department, the Clerk will withdraw the objection in Columbus. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.*

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

(None)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Carbone adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

*Marialena Beach*

Marialena Beach  
Council Secretary

*11/04/24*

Date