

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2023.

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in the Caucus Room at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Monday, December 4, 2023, at 7:40 p.m.**

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

Absent: Mayor Thomas P. Perciak.

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:41 p.m.

Ms. Kosek made a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing the purchase of real property. It was seconded by Mr. DeMio to adjourn from open session into executive session [Article XI, Section 9, City Charter]. All members present voted aye and the motion carried. Council adjourned into executive session at 7:41 p.m. Also present from the Administration: Law Director Neal Jamison. Mr. Jamison left the executive session at 7:55 p.m. The executive session concluded at 8:09 p.m. and reconvened into open session.

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

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2023-159 is to amend sections 1252.15 and 1252.16 of the Codified Ordinances concerning accessory buildings and projections into yards in residential districts. Planning Commission gave this a favorable recommendation. This was placed on second reading and set for a public hearing on January 16, 2024.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2023-169 is to enter into a contract for the purchase of a 2023 Chevy Tahoe PPV police vehicle. The contract is with Tim Lally Chevrolet in a total amount not to exceed \$ 43,752.00. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Finance Committee: Chairwoman Kosek advised Ordinance Nos. 2023-165 and 2023-166 are TIFs (tax increment financing) for Chieffalo's and Herzog, respectively. Both will be placed on second reading this evening. Ordinance No. 2023-170 is the 2024 general salary ordinance for city employees. This was placed on first reading.

Public Service & Conservation Committee: Chairman DeMio advised Resolution No. 2023-171 is to grant permission to repurchase certain certificates for burial rights in the cemetery. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Mr. DeMio advised he has received calls from concerned family members regarding the contractors working near the cemetery and the mess it is creating. Mr. Jamison advised he will bring this to the service director's attention.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Carbone advised Ordinance Nos. 2023-172 and 2023-173 are both purchase agreements to purchase property located on Howe Road and at 16028 Shurmer Road, respectively. Mr. Jamison advised that recently, these two properties have come up for sale. The city has reached an agreement with the realtor and the seller to acquire both properties. Looking at that area and intersection, this provides the city flexibility, moving forward, for potential options to improve it. Currently, there are no plans for this area and intersection.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2023 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 8:14 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING:

The Clerk of Council certified that the meeting had been posted in accordance with Ordinance No. 2004-273.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Mayor Thomas P. Perciak.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 20, 2023, were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

(None)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark: Thank you President Carbone, there was a Strongsville City School Board meeting on Tuesday, November 21st. At that board meeting, Treasurer, George Anagnostou presented the 5-year forecast and outlined the Strongsville City Schools' cash balance with the inclusion and exclusion of the renewal levies. Based on the financial outlook presented, the board of education approved the first of two resolutions to place the 5.9 mil renewal levy on the March 19th ballot. This renewal levy generates approximately \$9.9 million dollars for the district, if collected, at 100%; and provides funding for district operations. A couple of things to note just quickly, healthcare costs went up 15% the year prior; and that 5-year forecast includes a 10% increase each year. Without the renewal in Fiscal Year 2025, the district would be in a negative cash position.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark (cont'd): Based on the failure of Issue 14 and the need to address the operating funds at this time, the board previously recommended bond projects for elementary buildings, athletic upgrades and performing arts facilities has been tabled. The calendar committee met and presented that evening and shared the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 calendars. Those have been sent out but they're still drafting those; and those will get approved at the January meeting; but you can see if you're in the district you can get a copy of that and that was shared with other communities in the district and St. Joseph and John School. The next Strongsville City School Board meeting is this Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Strongsville City School Administration building. That concludes my School Board report.

Ms. Kosek – I was just going to say if that anyone...I know that they are taking comments on the draft calendar also; so there's an opportunity for parents to make comments on that; so look for that in your email.

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Clark:

(No report)

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: Thank you President Carbone, the Southwest General Health System Board will meet next Wednesday, December 13th, on campus. I'll have a more robust update at that point; but a couple of things I want to touch on from the CEO's monthly update regarding Southwest General. They continue to have a culture of zero patient harm – more than 478 days without a central line-associated bloodstream infection; 130 days without a catheter-associated urinary tract infection; and 30 days without a hospital-acquired C-diff infection over there at Southwest. Some awards and recognition that the health center has had in the past 30 days. Southwest was recognized by the American College of Surgeons as a "Surgical Quality Partner." This designation means that the system is considered to be an institution dedicated to maintain the highest standards in surgical care. The emergency department (pharmacy team) was recognized with the, "Best Practice Advancement Success Award" from the Ohio Society of Health System Pharmacists. This award is in recognition of the collaborative practice between the emergency department's pharmacists and the providers who give emergency medication to the department to be presented to the patient bedsides while they're in the emergency room. Finally, as many of you know, the bariatric surgery practice in the old St. Vincent Hospital was moved to Southwest General. That program has now been fully accredited by the National Bariatric Institute as a bariatric program. Finally, we always recognize some of the great nurses that we have on staff there. We have 3 DAISY Award winners in the past month. This is an award for extraordinary nursing in compassionate care, that is nominated exclusively by patients and their family members. The award winners this month were: Nicole Fleming, Amy Bondsteel and Mary Kay Palotta. Again, I will have more of an update after our board meeting next week for our next Council meeting. That concludes my report, but I will happily take any questions.

(No questions)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short: We have no December meeting. The next meeting will be held in early 2024; however, I do want to say that back on November 16th we had a successful luncheon with the Director of the Ohio Department of Development. Lydia Mihalik was here and spoke to a luncheon that was hosted by the Chamber and the city. I think that her talk on the economic development plans for the state, both across the state and here in Northeast Ohio, was very well received, and had some good insights for there; so I want to thank her for coming, thank the Strongsville Chamber for hosting that, and the Mayor and Brent Painter as well for efforts in coordinating a successful lunch. That concludes my report, but I'll happily take any questions.

(No questions)

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio: Thank you again, Resolution No. 2023-171 is a repurchase of a cemetery (certificate for burial rights). I'd like to suspend and adopt that. There are no other ordinances or resolutions before this committee, that's it.

FINANCE – Ms. Kosek: Yes, we have 3 ordinances tonight. We have Ordinance No. 2023-165 which is going on second reading and regarding a Chieffalo's TIF. We have Ordinance No. 2023-166 which is also going on second reading which is a TIF for Herzog. Then new tonight, we have Ordinance No. 2023-170 which is a salary ordinance; and to allow everyone additional time to review, I would request that we put that on first reading tonight. I am happy to take any questions that you may have; but otherwise Mr. Carbone, I'll kick it back to you.

(No questions)

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski: All right, as I mentioned earlier, Planning, Zoning and Engineering, we have Ordinance No. 2023-159. It is amending sections of the planning and zoning code. What this does is help to clean up the language and provides a clear difference between enclosed and unenclosed structures which was needed. This went to the Planning Commission and was approved; so we'll go ahead and put this on second reading and we'll have a public hearing here on January 16th. That concludes my report for Planning, Zoning and Engineering.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski: Just the one Ordinance – Ordinance No. 2023-169 which is we will be participating in the Ohio Department of Administrative Services for the purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe which will be used by the police department. The recommendation is suspension and adoption. That concludes my report this evening, I'll be happy to take any questions.

(No questions)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - Ms. Roff: I do not have anything tonight, but if all of our seniors could keep in mind that our two programs that we offer at the recreation center are Silver Sneakers and Renew Active. Those fall under the category of their Medicare...whichever program they pick; so if they could just look through those programs if they are wanting to have the access to the recreation center under those programs and have their insurance pay for them and have their memberships covered. Keep that in mind when they're picking their Part B and C, if I'm not mistaken. Take a peek at those so that you are eligible to use the recreation center and join the other people up there free of charge, that's all.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone: We have Ordinance No. 2023-172 and Ordinance No. 2023-173. This is to enter into a purchase agreement for property located on Shurmer Road and Howe Road. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt. Also, Aimee, are there any updates with our anticipated, At-Large, vacancy?

Ms. Pientka – Thank you Mr. President, yes, our first ads for our anticipated, At-Large, vacancy have gone out this weekend. We have posted in The Plain Dealer, Cleveland.Com, The Post Newspaper, and it will start this Thursday in The Sun News. We also have it online on our website. This will run for 2 weeks right now, right up to our deadline of December 15th. At our next meeting, I will by then compile and distribute to all of you all of the applications that we receive, so that you guys have some time before Christmas to look them over. I ask Council to maybe look at their calendars the week of Christmas; obviously not Christmas, but December 26th through the 29th, so we can maybe by next meeting try to have all of guys come to some decision on a possible day we can interview the applicants, thank you.

Mr. Carbone – So Christmas is on a Monday, so December 26th- December 28th. We will also include Neal with that because we would like you to be present for those interviews as well.

Mr. Jamison – No problem.

Ms. Kosek – I'm sorry, are we looking at having the interviews in December as opposed to January? I would prefer to have them in January. I don't know what everybody else's schedule is like but Christmas is a difficult time.

Mr. Jamison – So, we talked about this at the last meeting. My suggestion is maybe look at your calendars for the week Ms. Pientka recommended or maybe the first week of January. We can discuss that at the next meeting.

Ms. Kosek – Okay, I would just throw out there that it is easier for people who have children at home to do it when they're in school.

Mr. Jamison – Yes, we had talked about that a little bit last time; so I think on December 18th when we're back here, I think then we have to decide...we'll have a discussion like this in public to decide when you want to do the interviews and things of that nature.

Ms. Roff – I would just like to have the participants too or anybody that puts in an application have the availability; and I know that's a difficult week for people too; so I don't want anybody to be shied away from applying because of when the interview date is.

Mr. Jamison – Just to let you know, we've dealt with that in the past. I know one time we had a gentleman in Florida on business and we did it via the telephone. Technology is such that we could even maybe do some other more advanced means of doing those interviews. We have dealt with that in the past.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

Mr. Carbone – We will definitely by the December 18th meeting come up with a date that works for all of us.

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

MAYOR PERCIAK:

(No report)

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.

LAW DEPARTMENT – Mr. Jamison: You know, I was thinking about this when I was coming in tonight. This is the anniversary of when I made a presentation about air patterns.

Ms. Kosek – Do you have an update?

Mr. Jamison – I don't, but I was tempted to have Mr. Sems pull the screen down and replay that for everybody; but I don't think the audience would appreciate that.

Mr. Carbone – You want to explain briefly to the audience what that was referring to?

Mr. DeMio – Don't do it...don't do it.

Mr. Jamison – Real briefly and years ago, when the airport, more particularly the air traffic controllers were updating the system in terms of traffic ingress and egress to Hopkins. The city as well as other surrounding communities were involved in that process with the FAA and air traffic controllers association. To keep Council apprised, I had a short presentation, some years ago, to advise as to what that process was. To this day, I still get teased, I think is the right way to say it; but it's always the anniversary of the beginning of December when we had that. I'll spare everybody that tonight. A couple of other things though and more importantly to keep Council apprised, the two properties on Howe Road that we are in litigation over in terms of the cleanup. One of them, we've entered into an agreed judgement entry for the property on the northwest corner of Howe Road and Shurmer Road. It's next to the one that we're going to be buying. That gentleman had a certain timeframe to get the exterior into an agreeable condition. He did not meet that for certain items; so this Thursday the city, pursuant to the agreed judgement entry, is going to be entering into the property to cleanup the exterior. I will be there to help supervise that. That is the first step towards helping that gentleman get into compliance. As far as the other property, a little farther south on the east side, we are close to getting the agreed judgement entry signed by all parties; and it will be the same concept. The homeowners will have a certain time period to come into compliance. That one is going to be more substantial and more of a challenge; but if they do not meet those timeframes, then the city again will have the ability to go in there and cleanup the property; and then whatever that cost is, that will be assessed against the property itself. We are moving forward with that in a positive manner; and I thought Council should like to know that. The other thing I just wanted to mention, we discussed this at the last couple of staff meetings, that we're going to most likely have before you at the next meeting an ordinance to adjust the EMS rates. Its been a number of years that we've done that.

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

LAW DEPARTMENT – Mr. Jamison (cont'd): The fire department and the finance department have been working on that. They feel it's time to adjust that, particularly with Medicare rates for that area going up. Just to let everybody in the audience know, for anyone who is a resident of Strongsville, that's not something you would get charged for – if there was a service. Typically, your insurance would be billed and that would be covered by the insurance. For an out of city resident, there might be a cost if you didn't have insurance; but that's pretty rare in our experience. Typically most people, knock on wood, have insurance. The finance and fire department thought it was appropriate that, before the start of the next year, that we get those rates adjusted to be more in line with the going rates in the industry. I just wanted to give Council a heads up to that. Lastly, all ordinances and resolutions are in proper legal form, thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Carbone – Now, we come to the portion of audience participation. I just wanted to make a statement. After our last Council meeting, it was brought to my attention that during audience participation a member of the audience, while exiting the chamber, made a choice to use vulgar language and directed it towards a member in this chamber. I want to make it clear that our meetings are and will be conducted in both a respectful and professional manner for everyone in attendance in this chamber; not only from the members of Council, but our Strongsville Codified Ordinances dictate this as well. Moving forward, I want to make it very clear that we will not tolerate the use of profanity or disrespect of anyone in this chamber. If someone chooses to do so, they will be asked to leave or escorted out of this chamber. We know that there is a lot of passionate people. We just ask you to stay with your belief with whatever your topic is. Don't put down anybody, don't direct it to anybody, and please no profanity as well. With that being said, our sign-up this evening?

Ms. Pientka – Mr. Buckley Wilford.

Buckley Wilford, 18583 Benbow Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: Hello, my name is Buckley Wilford. My address is 18583 Benbow Road, Strongsville. I came up here tonight with my group of folks, as we have been coming since April; and I think I heard maybe we don't have another meeting until January. I hope that's right; that would be nice. We're going to share with all of you the meeting from NOACA that happened this last week. I was not able to go myself; so I heard a lot of things and learned a lot of things – that it was very much in our favor, as the way the NOACA meeting went. We're going to share all those words from these people from the NOACA board that shared things and we're going to say it to you guys; and I hope you listen. I realize that there's trouble; you know, we all believe that it's like a conspiracy theory; but it sure does seem right to us it's about the Foltz Parkway. There are people that are worried about the traffic; and there are traffic issues. I would like to see our city try to work towards something that we could all work together on, rather than a dead-end like we've been working on for the last 8-9 months right here, and has become even more of a dead-end with NOACA absolutely against it. The transportation department, it seems like they're absolutely against it. It seems like there's any hope at all that this thing is about to come out of law. Both of those things are about to be voted on soon, the Senate Bill and the House Bill. Maybe we should be going and looking at a way that we can make peace with one another and all work together. I don't know why we're buying the property on Howe Road. I can imagine maybe we're looking at another freeway intersection off of there; but I'm sure all of a sudden, everybody from Howe Road will be over here at that time. If that's the case, I sure hope not; but I think that we can put our heads together.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Wilford (cont'd) - We're all intelligent folks right here and we can find some answer to this. With this, I'm going to start this off and the people following me will go in sync; so it will all go together right here.

John Plecnik (Commissioner, Lake County), he said, "Mr. President, as I saw the picture of the bill signing ceremony for the transportation budget, I reflected that I am grateful Mayor Justin Bibb is not here today because it means that as assistant secretary, I'll be able to sign this resolution rebuking the state legislator for the historic overreach. As a conservative, I believe in federalism; and at the local level, that means local control. Every city should be able to decide it's own fate. Every local community should say whether or not an interchange or highway is going to be running by and through their community. It's amazing to me that this process has come to this point where we're forced to say "No" to something that has been universally rejected by the impacted communities. My heart goes out to the folks who come out today to this morning's meeting, on a Friday, to express their concern; and I sincerely hope that the legislature and the Governor will hear us with what I believe should be a unanimous vote by NOACA. We need to say no as powerfully as possible; not just to this, usurpation of the MPO and legal requirements that ensure regional consensus, but the usurpation of the people of Brunswick's ability to set their own future. It's amazing to me it's gotten this far and I'm grateful that our director has gone down to Columbus multiple times to say, "No." Now, it's time for all of us to say, "No" in a unified, powerful way so that the legislature repeals this nonsensical legislation; and I agree if this succeeds in the Boston interchange, I can only imagine what will happen in my City of Willoughby Hills, your City of Cleveland and all local communities going forward. The state legislature has the wheels coming off if they think they're going to tell our local communities how to live our lives. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to sign this resolution; and I sincerely hope it will have a unanimous vote."

Mr. Wilford (cont'd) - It's some pretty strong words; and there's more to follow, kind of like "The Christmas Story" – it goes from past-present-future. I tell you what, I would put money on right now, and I'm not a betting man, this thing is not going to happen on Boston Road. I mean, this is kind of the sealed deal. That's why I say I implore you all to think of something different; to work together; to find something that everybody can be at peace about that doesn't destroy peoples' homes, doesn't destroy neighborhoods. We're a lot of smart folks right here. You guys have had a lot of time together working at your jobs, at your life...all kinds of things. We can work together on something here. It doesn't have to be going down this dead-end road. With this, we'll go on to the next person.

(Applause)

Robert Hamm, 15728 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: Robert Hamm, 15728 Boston Road.
This was said at NOACA's meeting:

Dale Miller (Cuyahoga County Council Ward 2 Representative), he said, "So, I represent Lakewood, Brook Park and two wards in Cleveland in the County Council as part of Cuyahoga County. But as a representative to the NOACA board, my job is not just to look out for my district in Cuyahoga County, it is also to look out for the well-being of the region and for NOACA. What Strongsville is trying to do here is to tear down houses and build an interchange in Brunswick for the purpose of diverting business from Medina County to Cuyahoga County and to do it through a subversion of the proper process for deciding these things; and it's just wrong. We have to forcefully speak out against it; and I strongly support the resolution that's on the table, thank you." That's all I have to say.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Sue Mazzola, 3440 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: Sue Mazzola, 3440 Boston Road.

Aaron Harrison (Commissioner, Medina County), "Mr. Chairman, thank you, Commissioner Aaron Harrison from Medina County. I just want to acknowledge both the comments of my colleagues who have spoken already; but also specifically, the efforts of NOACA staff because I think they did a nice job of presenting the issue and framing the issue and kind of supplementing what we heard from our friends; not just in Brunswick by the way, but for some folks in Strongsville as well who have taken up the mantle. Even though they did such a nice job, I'm not going to miss an opportunity to share some additional thoughts. I hope everybody will give me the indulgence; but most of the comments we've heard today have been specific to this interchange and Boston Road; and that makes sense. I mean, there's many impacted people; but I think we've heard a little bit of that; but I just want to reiterate the issues go beyond just those affected residents. The Brunswick city officials, and then also the Medina County interests that are kind of the focal point of this discussion. So far, this goes I believe more directly to the relevance of this entire organization. There's plenty of practical arguments that you can make from opposition standpoint to this proposed interchange. Obviously, the human impact is chief among those. The fact that the interstate highway system isn't really intended to be a solution to local traffic situations. The fact that Boston Road's rating by this very organization is not consistent with any other urban or suburban interchange exit. All those things are really compelling reasons in their own right; but I think the real issue is NOACA's "Interchange Policy." This is a vote to reassert, reaffirm, and I think was the word that we used, and protect the existence of the interchange policy. That policy, I wasn't here obviously when that was established, but my understanding is it exists to avoid the very dispute that we are seeing play out right now in NOACA's "Vision Statement." I don't think I need to remind anybody; but it begins with commitment to strengthening regional cohesion; and that idea was the focal point of the interchange policy itself. After this morning's testimony, and all things that's been spelled in other resolutions, also statements that have been made about this over the past month. I think it's very clear and obvious that any vote against this resolution will do exactly opposite of strengthening regional cohesion. We need to proceed with that in mind. This is not about supporting one community's interests over another. In fact, I would argue House Bill 23 did a pretty good job of that. I think this vote today is really about reiterating, re-establishing, reaffirming, whatever words you want to use, NOACA's relevance and the relevance of MPOs across our state in communicating clearly to the general assembly that this organization intends for its existing policies to be followed on these kinds of matters. I appreciate the comments that have been made and any comments and support that are coming; but I just kind of wanted to reframe that because I do think this is an issue that goes beyond the issues; specifically today at Boston Road, although these are the ones I think that motivated a lot of people to be here, thank you very much."

Ms. Mazzola (cont'd) - I just want to add that for people that have been pushing this and standing behind Tom Patton. None of you came to the NOACA (meeting) to defend yourself, except for Ms. Roff – though I will add she hid in a back room. Now, here's the thing, you put this into law, you're going to end up having to force ODOT's hand. It's not going on Boston Road. You're going to end up putting it on Drake Road or Shurmer Road. You're going to blindside your own residents yet again. You need to back up these two bills. Mayor Perciak, who told us all it was over, needs to open up and tell them that. I'm glad, by the way, Nick Hanek didn't come to the last Council meeting. Why would he sit here with your misinformation? It would look like he's supporting you.

(Applause)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Nancy Frognowski, 465 Pembroke Cove, Brunswick, OH 44212: Good evening, I'm Nancy Frognowski, my address is 465 Pembroke Cove, Brunswick; and I will be reading what Michael Dylan Brennan, the Mayor of University Heights said at the NOACA meeting:

Michael Dylan Brennan (Mayor, University Heights), "Michael Dylan Brennan, the Mayor of the City of University Heights. As the Mayor of the second most densely populated community in Cuyahoga County, you might expect or think that I would support this interchange at Boston Road on behalf of Strongsville; but I do not. The overdevelopment of one city, Strongsville, should not be to the detriment of its neighbor, Brunswick. Now, we have processes; and these processes were not followed here. You know that FHWA, ODOT, NOACA – they were all bypassed here. They were all circumvented; and the hubris of that, the chutzpah of that, and we're here to stand up for process. We are here, you know, to respect the processes and the procedures. On those grounds, I can easily oppose the Boston Road interchange and support the proposed resolution; however, if we also look at the merits and the things that we should be standing for as an MPO, we work to oppose urban sprawl. We work towards sustainable development; and this is the antithesis of that. You know, Brunswick should not bear the brunt of the mistakes of its neighbors. Hinckley should not, the neighbors of this community should not, with all due respect to my friends and colleagues in that community. Both on processes and/on as a matter of substantive matter of this, we can support this resolution. We can oppose this interchange; and to the people of Brunswick, especially those who are here today and spoke, you know, I want you to know that you've been heard, that I hear you. A lot of my colleagues here have heard you; and I hope that we will all be joining together to support this resolution and oppose this interchange, thank you."

(Applause)

Shrea Kellums, 3450 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: I'm Shrea Kellums, 3450 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH. First, I want to say how pretty it is in here, very nice.

Andy Conrad (Medina County Engineer), "Good Morning, Andy Conrad, the Medina County Engineer. I would first like to thank Grace and the staff for putting this forward, and Commissioner Harrison for being a very important part of hearing the people of Brunswick. You know, this study was being undertaken by Euthenics. Traditionally, I would think that they would contact the county engineer. I was not afforded the opportunity to have any input in this study. There's a number of things that we could have discussed; but for whatever reason, they chose not to contact myself. I would like to say that I represent the folks of my county; and did not have the opportunity to do so at that point, but we do today. I want to make sure that everybody understands that I would agree with the bulk of the conversations that have taken place today; and I would appreciate your support in passing this resolution, thank you."

Ms. Kellums (cont'd) - I want to say one thing, I keep hearing from some of the Council here that we are mean, we are picking on you; but what we're doing is we're trying to save our homes and we're fighting. It's not picking on any of you. Ms. Roff, you did the same thing when they were trying to slip the slip ramp in...exactly the same thing. I've been reading some of your stuff on Facebook; so don't snicker at me, thank you and have a nice evening.

(Applause)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Cindy Meadows, 3896 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: Hi, Cindy Meadows, 3896 Boston Road. I'm going to be reading Kerry McCormack's statement from the NOACA meeting:

Kerry McCormack (Ward 3 Councilman, City of Cleveland) – "Kerry McCormack with Cleveland City Council. I wanted to speak in support of Resolution No. 2023-045, as well as in support of the delegation from Medina. This has been a long conversation; and you know, I'm not going to reiterate a lot of what's already been stated; but the idea of one member of the state legislature usurping the entire authority of this board, the folks of Medina County and the residents that have spoken out today on what seems to be a very loose data and evidence – I think is just a completely wrong way to do this. We experienced some of these conversations in the City of Cleveland over the past year. Thankfully, those did not come to fruition; but once again, to the delegation from Medina. The folks that came today, I want to thank them. I know Medina is not two minutes away from here; so I appreciate you coming down. Again, I just wanted to speak in support of this resolution. It seems like the idea of losing your home, after 10-20-30-40 years for a large piece of infrastructure that does not seem necessary, would just be devastating. Hearing the testimony today again, you can imagine the home that you buy, you work so hard for, you may raise your kids or your family in, and the idea of losing that because of this project is just hard to imagine. I want to thank the director for advocating in Columbus on this; and once again based on the testimony, based on how this has not followed a proper process, and the testimony from the delegation from Medina, I just wanted to speak in support of Resolution No. 2023-045, thank you."

Ms. Meadows (cont'd) – I would like to add that the board, and I'm sure all of you know, the board voted unanimously for the resolution. I think it's important for the people listening here in Strongsville to...you know, that maybe don't know about that, that they should hear that. Also, at the last City Council meeting with the PowerPoint from the gentleman from NOACA, he used data from 2017; and I feel that was very misleading on your part. When is enough, enough?

(Applause)

Sherri Hamm, 15728 Boston Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: Sherri Hamm, 15728 Boston Road, Strongsville, OH. I have the last one, and this is from a public speaker, not a current board member:

Mr. Paul Barnett (Service Director, City of Brunswick) – "Thank you Mr. Chairman, director and board members. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Paul Barnett. I'm a registered, professional engineer in the State of Ohio and Florida and I've been doing this for 39 years. I'm the service director for the City of Brunswick. In my 39 years working as a professional in the transportation field in Ohio, I've never seen such an overreach of legislative authority in an attempt to push personal agenda to force an unwanted issue from one community to an adjoining community. As was discussed, you're all aware of what happened with House Bill 23. What you may not know, is that at the 11th hour, the day before that House Bill was voted on – that was put in by Representative Patton, the next morning before the vote was taken, Patton told the junior representative who represents Brunswick, "We just threw this in. Strongsville likes it, Brunswick likes it, it's no problem, they'll love it. Go ahead and vote for it." So that's the process that it went through. It's just amazing to me that it goes through that type of process. Previously, last year, when I sat on the board, I vigorously fought to not approve the study that was going to be done by Euthenics. The board voted to approve that. It was \$100,000.00 in ODOT funding, which is everybody's money. It's not just one community's money; and they put together another \$216,000.00 of their own money in Strongsville to do that report.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Barnett (cont'd) – “Now, what ODOT had expected in that report was a transportation study from St. Rt. 82 to St. Rt. 303. That’s not what they got. Strongsville hired Euthenics which is an engineering firm that is in Strongsville. They wrote the specifications, they wrote the scope, so the only thing that Euthenics could look at was Boston Road. They were to look at different intersection configurations of Boston Road alone, nothing else. They didn’t look at Shurmer Road, they didn’t look at Drake Road – nowhere else, just Boston Road. So, you have to ask yourself, why Boston Road? Why are they keying in on Boston Road only? It’s not for safety reasons; it’s absolutely not for safety reasons. About 10 years ago, Patton’s son-in-law sat on the Strongsville Council and said in an open Council meeting that he wants to see and Strongsville wants to see an interchange at Boston Road to feed traffic down to the Foltz Industrial Parkway. Foltz Industrial Park is the largest industrial park in Cuyahoga County. It currently only has access to St. Rt. 82 and to Drake Road. It does not have access to Boston Road. So they said in an open Council meeting that’s what they want. That’s what they want that to service. So we step on a few more years, while we come up, Mayor Perciak is stating in an open Council meeting, to all these good folks behind me, “We are not considering extending Foltz Parkway to Boston Road. We’ve never considered it. It’s not even in the design phase.” So, we got on the website and their economic development – they’re advertising 146 acres, Foltz Industrial Parkway, showing an extension of the roadway to Boston Road. That’s why they want it. It’s not a safety concern. Years ago, there was a project – Shurmer Road offramp. This is an offramp that was going to go off of I-71, just south of St. Rt. 82, and was going to take that traffic that goes and gets off of St. Rt. 82 onto Howe Road, and move it further down. Now, the studies indicated that would solve some of the problems at I-71 and St. Rt. 82. So, the study said that would solve a lot of their problems, they had the money, it was allocated, they decided, “No, we don’t want to put all that traffic into a residential neighborhood. We’re not going to do that. The residents are very upset. We’re not going to do that.” So, they turned the money away and that was a way to solve part of the problem. The study that Euthenics did, hats off to them, that they did it the way they did it; because as an engineer – and the engineers around this table will acknowledge this also, as a professional engineer we take an oath. We take an oath to be in the public interest, we cannot lie to the public, and we cannot sway them in a negative fashion; and that’s what Euthenics did not do – so hats off to them. They did not do that. They came out with a report and stated that there would be no level of service change if an interchange is built at Boston Road and I-71. As a matter of fact, with some of the options, it would actually slow the traffic down and cause greater backups on I-71 heading southbound. I’m glad that the report was done. I’m glad that it showed that this is not the place to put an interchange; but now, Strongsville is starting up again. There saying, “Well, you know it’s a law now, so now we have to do it. We don’t have a choice. We have to do it. It’s a law.” So, I encourage each of you to vote for this resolution to send a clear message down to Columbus that this won’t be tolerated.”

(Applause)

Sue Krejci, 3365 Sliding Rock Trail, Brunswick, OH 44212: Good evening, Sue Krejci, 3365 Sliding Rock Trail. What powerful statements you just heard, wow. Those are the words of your peers in NOACA... Mayors and other elected officials who see through the actions you have taken in order to force your will on your neighboring community. It was a wonderful day on Friday, many of us were there from Brunswick and Strongsville. These poor folks behind me have taken more vacation days to fight against this injustice. I wish you all would have been there. Miss Roff, I understand you were there, but I didn’t see you. I heard later you were in a back room by yourself. If you support this and made the trek all the way down there, I don’t understand why you didn’t sit in the main room with your head held high.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Krejci - You have no trouble advocating for this interchange from up there, but I guess you didn't want to face the anger of the board members. Or maybe you didn't want to face the people whose homes you are trying to take, including those you allegedly represent but have forsaken throughout this process. One thing that I've learned through this whole debacle is that you need to have the courage of your convictions. It was disappointing to see cowardice instead. I'm so thankful to NOACA for passing the resolution and holding the wolves at the door. The vote condemning this action was unanimous and should send a signal to you all to stop trying to force this interchange, but I have little doubt that you will. I'd like to go back for a moment to the last Council meeting. The option Dr. Makarachi recommended from his 8-year old data was to build a partial interchange without widening Boston Road, something your own study states is impossible. From the 2023 Euthenics study, which it's clear none of you have actually read, on page 7 it states, "Widening Boston Road is integral to an interchange with I-71 and the proposed work on Boston Road for each alternative as presented in this report includes improvements to Boston Road to handle additional traffic from a new interchange." Integral...necessary. So, you brought this gentleman in to present prehistoric data and recommend a solution that isn't actually buildable. What a waste of time and energy, but that is just par for this course. Mr. Carbone, you spoke about transparency at the last meeting. Dr. Makarachi got more than 20 minutes to review his ancient report and present his unbuildable recommendation before you shoved him into the lobby to take questions. The gentleman from Euthenics got what, maybe 5 minutes? None of us even had the opportunity for lobby questions for him. Why was there no deep dive on that updated report, for which you spent \$320,000.00 of taxpayer funds? It doesn't support your argument, that's why. Mr. Carbone, you said last week to direct our anger at you, and I will. For you to falsely claim during the last meeting that, "There's been a lot of questions about where NOACA stands on this." and you invited them here to, "hear their point of view" was patently untrue. NOACA's position could not have been any clearer. It's impossible that you were unaware of Grace Gallucci, the CEO of NOACA, her statements in the press against the state bill, as well as her testifying at least three times in Columbus against it in the House and Senate. Last Friday, we heard from your peers on NOACA's board, who all stood with us against your strongarm approach to circumvent NOACA to get your interchange. Mr. Carbone, for you to state at the end of the meeting that these 8-year old numbers, "...are all accurate, up to date with 2023 as well" without any evidence is a lie. Let's not forget, your own Mayor withdrew the proposed Shurmer Road slip ramp in 2016 because 8-month old data was "stale", this is 8-year old data. If you could just use that old report, why didn't you? Why did you spend \$320,000.00 of your taxpayers' hard-earned money if these old data are "all accurate, up to date with 2023 as well?" Because that's not actually true, is it? To be able to make that claim, you would need to do a whole new study utilizing updated data, which you all did. But for some reason, no one wants to talk about that study. I wonder why? Maybe because it doesn't support any of what you are trying to do here. Mr. Carbone, your actions last week were disingenuous and misleading. I have to say I'm shocked and disappointed that you would engage in this type of deception. Your word as a sworn police officer should be held to a higher standard, and it should be unimpeachable. You have to testify in court for your job. How do you expect anyone to take you at your word after the misdirection and outright lies you spouted last week? You have traded your integrity, and for what? A clumsy attempt to obfuscate? It's tragic, because once your integrity is gone, it's gone. What do you do when you have a neighboring city who will stop at nothing, resorting to misleading, misdirection, and even outright lying in order to get what they so desperately desire, even after they have been told "no" over and over? I now understand why cities used to build walls; because they had Strongsville's next door who wanted to take what wasn't theirs and would stop at nothing in order to do it.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Krejci - One of the criteria of NOACA's Interchange Policy is 2B: "Identify how the new or modified highway interchange does, or does not, support the relationships among the impacted communities". We could write a book on that one, couldn't we? Look at the damage that has been done to both of our communities as a result of this. Look at the damage to your own integrity, Mr. Carbone. I wonder how we will ever recover, and that's the real shame of all of this. I just want to go on record to say, I really hope no one ends up losing their home. We don't want folks on Drake Road or Shurmer Road to lose homes either. I hope that you guys will listen to Mr. Wilford and work together to find a different way, thank you.

(Applause)

Gary Sanderson, 67 Wellsley Place, Brunswick, OH 44212: Good evening, my name is Gary Sanderson. I am a resident of Brunswick and I live at 67 Wellsley Place and I am the one that passed out this handout.

*****A copy of this handout is attached to the back of these minutes.*****

You all have it...you're all looking at it. What you're looking at is from the Euthenics study that was recently done. It's the diagram of the Boston Road full interchange. When I first saw this, I couldn't believe it. If you look at this, I know these people are familiar with it...I don't know if the other side is or not, but what you're looking at is the full interchange. On the lower left quadrant, there is a development called Boston Knowles. Coming in from the south, that redline, is North Carpenter Road. It goes all the way from Boston Road up to...or down to St. Rt. 303. It's a very busy arterial road. What your plan does, it takes that road, dead ends it at Boston Road, and turns it directly into a residential neighborhood full of like eighty homes. I have never seen anything like this in my life. Every day in the summertime, I see ten-year-old kids riding their bikes down Shurmer Road which is where you are going to divert North Carpenter Road onto. They don't wear helmets a lot of them. They are talking to each other. They are going through stop signs, and are crossing the road at-will. If you do this, the traffic throughout a development, is going to look ridiculous. It's going to increase exponentially and safety is going to go down the drain. Here's my question for you. It's rhetorical, I know because you won't answer it. Would you ever do this in Strongsville? Would you take a residential neighborhood and run an arterial road right through the middle of it? You guys say this is all about safety. You're getting minimal improvement at St. Rt. 82 and the interchange...minimal; but yet, you're willing to go down Boston Road and turn it into a safety nightmare...both Boston Road and our neighborhood. You're going to increase crime there too. Criminal access at an interchange is undeniable. They go on and off of it...they love it because they can go on and off the freeway in no amount of time. What does ODOT think of this? All you have to do is look at "Appendix P"...all the ODOT comments. I'm going to read this one to you. Comment 33, they are talking about this geometry where they are going to divert North Carpenter away from Boston Road. "This geometry and layout of a ramp, through the middle of a cul-de-sac"...because they would have to create a new cul-de-sac here where the dead end is. There's like three homes there that are going to be trapped between one side of the cul-de-sac and the ramp. How would you like to live there? It says, "This geometry and layout of a ramp through the middle of a cul-de-sac is extremely abnormal." Those were ODOT's words. What does the residential street look like after the ramp is installed? In my words it's terrible. They are asking you or the people who did the study. Who would want to live there? Would you want to live there? Finally, the traffic at St. Rt. 82, the Strongsville interchange, is at your invitation and nobody else's. Your massive business and industrial growth over the years is at 896% since the 1960's. It's a long time, but that's a big percent.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Sanderson (cont'd) - At the same time, cities like Cleveland have gone down in tax base by 66%. I really don't have a problem with growth...I really don't. It sounds like I do, but I don't. I love to shop in Strongsville; but if you create a problem, isn't it your responsibility to fix it? Don't blame others and don't put your dilemma on them, thanks for your time.

(Applause)

Jennifer Levin-Batenchuk, 18246 Howe Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: My name is Jennifer Levin-Batenchuk, I live at 18246 Howe Road. I don't really have an answer for this; but I do want to say as a Howe Road resident, the traffic for me really isn't an issue. We have lived there for five years and it does get backed up, but not to where I don't like living there. I can say when we had the construction going on over the past summer, it was a little quieter. So clearly the traffic was diverted somewhere else, and they were finding their way somewhere else. I don't really think Howe Road is the issue or Strongsville traffic is the issue. I don't know where all those people are going. I work in Richfield and I travel on St. Rt. 303 in the mornings. They have their own issues in Brunswick on St. Rt. 303. If there is a traffic backup there, I would always get stuck in it in the morning. It's on both ends. I can't say that it's a Strongsville issue and I can't say it's a Brunswick issue, but there is a problem everywhere. I think more on Howe Road it's more of a speed issue, than traffic. At 3:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. in the morning, there are people flying down our road. I would like to see that taken care of before the traffic issue, thank you.

(Applause)

Michael Batenchuk, 18246 Howe Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: Michael Batenchuk, 18246 Howe Road and I just had a couple of notations for Ordinance No. 2023-172 and Ordinance No. 2023-173 in regards to taking home ownership on the Shurmer Road properties. I just wanted to know what the definition of declaring an emergency was, and how often that happens where the city comes in and just purchases property on a quick short-term turnaround? Is there any data records that show that they have done this in the past, how often and where does that stop where the city can just say, "Hey, it's an emergency we want this property and we are going to take it?" There has to be some type of data behind it. What is the definition of "An Emergency?" That seems pretty egregious of a term...emergency when it's just taking land for a future project.

Mr. Carbone – When we are going through our ordinances and resolutions, our law director can speak to you on that.

Mr. Jamison – When all the audience participation is done, I will explain that to you.

Mr. Batenchuk – Perfect.

Mr. Jamison – No problem.

Mr. Batenchuk – Thank you, I appreciate it.

(Applause)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ranee Kramer, 18280 Howe Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: Hi, my name is Ranee Kramer, I live on 18280 Howe Road. I would like to say, first of all, I understand all ends of this. I see Brunswick and I feel their pain...I get it. It's not just a Strongsville issue and it's not just a Brunswick issue. I do sympathize with those people; but I also think that they have no clue what it's like for us who live on Howe Road to watch the traffic head south and fly by. When we had construction on Howe Road, and our road was shut, there was no traffic. It was quiet, it was peaceful and it was nice. Then, when you opened it back up, it was filled with southbound traffic. There's an issue there. I feel as though, in my heart of hearts, again, St. Rt. 303 is a nightmare and there's no in between. We need an in between somewhere and it's definitely not on Drake Road, or it's definitely not going to be on Shurmer Road. Those are not our answers. A roundabout there is not an answer. That's not even going to circumvent a small portion of that traffic. We absolutely need a better decision and a better outcome for everybody. I feel for Brunswick and I don't know that Boston Road is a great place for that either. I don't know what the answers are, but maybe we just put a guardrail up at the end of Howe Road, and we see where the traffic goes from there.

(Applause)

Leslie Hohenfeld, 18183 Howe Road, Strongsville, OH 44136:

Ms. Hohenfeld – (inaudible from seating area)

Mr. Carbone – Audience participation is an opportunity for the community to come out and speak what's on their mind. We don't engage with that, so this is your 5 minutes if you would like to have it.

Ms. Hohenfeld - I don't know if I want it. Leslie Hohenfeld, 18183 Howe Road in Strongsville. Honestly, I am a little concerned about even giving my name and address from what I have seen on Facebook, and the way you guys are responding to Council. I'm actually kind of scared about saying something negative about what you are saying. It scares me.

Mr. Carbone – If you could direct it towards us.

Ms. Hohenfeld – Okay, sorry...Howe Road to me is a big issue; and I find that there's a lot of development going on in Brunswick that Brunswick residents are not considering. From what I have been told and from what I have read, developments have been accepted for a lot of big housing developments in the area. That will increase traffic even more so on Howe Road. I think we all have to take responsibility for what we are allowing in our cities - to a degree. I know that Strongsville fought some of the development that has occurred here; but when somebody owns property and it meets the zoning requirements, there's not much of a way to stop progress. All of Brunswick residents enjoy what we have done. We are the shopping and restaurant mecca that you all seem to enjoy a great deal. I'm not sure how to resolve it. I live far back enough away from the road that traffic doesn't bother me except for when I am walking the dogs, trying to get out on the road, and the speeding. When I first moved to Strongsville, I was happy to see the police cars at the end of my driveway hiding in my woods to try to catch people. Speeding is quite an issue there, and something really does need to be done. A lot of that speeding is going south. I see...because I am south of Drake Road, I see a lot of traffic; and I'm in traffic that goes south. There's more traffic that goes towards Brunswick then splits off to all the developments off of Howe Road, and there are quite a few. Again, I'm not sure how to resolve it.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Hohenfeld (cont'd) - When I came to Strongsville, I was told that there was going to be an exit on Boston Road and there was also going to be acoustic walls; that would have been nice. Neither have happened and it's been like 20 or 30 years. It just does seem to get worse and I'm not sure how to deal with it. I understand the dismay that Brunswick residents are feeling. I felt the same way about the slip ramp and that's why I became active regarding that. All I know is, I was appalled at the last meeting. I was here and I saw all these statistics that NOACA gave saying that the only way to resolve all the traffic issues was Boston Road. That there would be no way to plan a widening of Howe Road or Boston Road that would not resolve any of the problems regarding traffic. Plus, it would be very expensive. I kept on hearing residents from Brunswick saying, "Just widen Howe Road." I have been hearing that from Brunswick residents and Boston Road residents for years, "Just widen Howe Road." It's just as difficult, the idea of widening Howe Road, as it would be for Boston Road. It's not the solution...it's not the solution.

Mr. Carbone – Could you keep it up here please?

Ms. Hohenfeld - Not to widen Boston Road and not to widen Howe Road. Neither is a good way to resolve traffic. That study apparently, even though it's eight years old, that's the top engineer and he knew what he was talking about. He based the studies on facts. The information that he gave us, although it was old, it still applies. The standards still apply, the theories still apply, and the methods still apply. We don't want Howe Road widened any more than you guys want Boston Road widened; and it's too expensive to do that in any respect. Mostly I am here because I don't want to keep on hearing people say, as I have for years from Brunswick, "Just widen Howe Road." It's not the way to resolve it, that's it.

(Applause)

Mike Kellums, 3450 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: Mike Kellums, 3450 Boston Road, Brunswick, Ohio and thanks for allowing me to be here today. I'm not going to rebuttal. I know we are here to speak to Council and not the audience so turning around talking to the audience doesn't make sense. I'm not in favor of widening Howe Road; but I wasn't here to talk about that today. They are talking about widening Boston Road. I don't know if they realize that they are talking about widening Boston Road to five or six lanes at best and moving a high jet fuel line. Whatever they are talking about on Howe Road as far as widening...I don't think it's that drastic. I will rebuttal that. I would like to apologize to Mr. Carbone because I got kind of snippy with him last week...calling him Jimmy, and all that stuff. I apologize for the disrespect; but I was ticked because you brought Doctor Seuss in...Dr. Makarachi. I say Dr. Seuss because he was telling a fairytale. I did have the opportunity to go down to that NOACA meeting; and I had the opportunity to go in there before the meeting started with the city officials from Brunswick and Medina county. I spoke with some of the people down there that know him. They tell me that he is a very intelligent man, he knows what he's doing, and has done it for many years; but they have no idea what he was saying here and they have no idea why he was here even saying that with the numbers and things like that. So, I don't know...did you invite him to say that or did he just say, "Hey, Mr. Carbone, can I come in and say this stuff?" That was ridiculous. That's why I was so heated; because the stuff he was saying was just ridiculous. On a brighter note, I found an article from...well actually, it's a letter that Mr. Carbone wrote to Grace Gallucci back in 2016. I'll give you props because you stuck up for your residents. There was a 4-3 vote for the Howe Road slip ramp and you said, "No". You stood...you took a hard no. You wrote a letter and I won't read the whole letter. Proximity to SR 82, it's a slip ramp, and slip ramps are really close. It would be called the SR 82 slip ramp (Unintelligible).

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Kellums (cont'd) - We call our slip ramp the St. Rt. 303 slip ramp...it's right there. Anyways, I won't call you out on that. You said that you have never seen a slip ramp...you said interchange going into a...that leads into a 25 mph residential zone. I don't know. You took a hard no on that and I give you props for sticking up for your residents...all your residents. Once the proposed slip ramp is constructed and operational, you know what you feared? You feared the negative impact on the value of the homes on Howe Road. Guess what? I already lost probably about 35% of my home value just because we are talking about this and just because somehow Tom Patton got that slipped in at the 11th hour. That makes me a little bit ticked. You stuck up for your people in Strongsville. Then, you go on to say you put 30/40 years...Brunswick, Strongsville, Medina county and Cuyahoga county everybody couldn't get together. ODOT studies say it wouldn't help...blah, blah, blah. Then you go in that, "It would be a great advantage to put it in on Boston Road." You know there's residents of Strongsville that live on Boston Road and some are here in the audience now. They are losing value on their house as we speak. Your concern, 7 or 8 years ago, about the value of people's homes. Now you don't care about them; you just don't. Somehow because of...we couldn't get together, Brunswick, Strongsville, Cuyahoga and Medina we are all in there, somehow the State Representative who represents Strongsville and who lives in Strongsville, got that slipped in there...it was law; so, we don't have to worry about that anymore. That's just ridiculous. I just can't believe it. Then again, like I said, we are all for the Howe Road people. We understand...we totally understand. We don't want it on Howe Road, Drake Road...we don't want it anywhere. That's for...you created the problem you fix the problem in your city. Don't throw it onto us. It just ticks me off when I read this letter, Mr. Carbone. When you just read the top of it and you're sticking up for your residents, "I'm going...that guys something." Then I go down here and you don't care about Boston Road. Is it because there's an intent to put an interchange on Boston Road? It's not a slip ramp on Boston Road...it's an interchange. It goes east, west, north and south. It goes every which way. It takes homes, and it devalues homes. Where my home sits, I don't know what part of it would either...it would definitely devalue. Depending on the interchange proposal, they may take my home. I don't know. Where are you going to find a home at the same value? Interest rates are high and all that. For what? You had that study done from Euthenics and the state gave you \$100,000.00. If I was a Strongsville resident and I found out that my city spent two hundred and some thousand dollars on a study that came back not favoring what you wanted, I would be ticked. You know what \$200,000.00 could do for the city? Are we at 5 minutes?

Ms. Pientka – Yes sir.

Mr. Kellums – Well, thanks for your time, I appreciate it.

(Applause)

Arthur Pusch, 17451 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: Good evening Council and thank you for giving me the time. My name is Arthur Pusch and I'm at 17451 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, Ohio. I have lived here longer than most anybody in this room. My parents bought the first house when they integrated this country in 1959 and I came over from Shaker Heights a few years later. I have seen the entire progress of how this city was built. I have seen dozens of Council assemblies, I have seen dozens of public debates and speeches, and nobody wanted anything then either. People don't want anything now; yet the population is not getting any smaller...it's getting larger. I don't know what the right answer is. As long as you have people movement and you have people that need to get to jobs, want better schools and industrial, it's unfair to pick on all these people. Nobody in the last 40-50 years had the answer...nobody.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Pusch (cont'd) - They have to work collectively together to get the answer. There is no right...we live on Shurmer Road and we didn't want the traffic, but we got the traffic. We have people building gorgeous houses over there; and I don't think we live in a shabby house at all, but it is what it is. You are never going to have less people. They want the amenities, they want the close shopping, they want the close restaurants, they want the schools, and they want everything. Coming out here and bashing on everybody is not going to solve your issue. I really liked the one person that said from the NOACA meeting who was quoting the Mayor of University Heights, whom I know personally. He couldn't be more jealous of Strongsville than anybody else. He might be right in what he was saying - that certain developments could have been moved. We didn't want all the developments. I watch people get up and complain about all the developments, and the crime, and the housing and everything else like that. Those arguments are obsolete and they are not going to get you anywhere. You have to figure out a different manner on how to actually protect...where's that gentleman...protect your home owner valuations. You have to figure out a better system because they are not going to come up with this overnight. To beat up on them, is not going to help you. Vote...get out and vote. That's what will help.

(background unintelligible conversation)

Mr. Pusch – Well, when there is an election, vote for somebody else to do this.

Mr. Carbone – Just direct it to us.

Mr. Pusch - This is a very passionate issue and I understand that. We all worry about our home valuations and this is why...this is nothing new. Don't beat up on people. Ann...sorry. Don't beat up on people. Work with them and try to talk to them and have a lengthier conversation. Go to the legal department to figure out what is right and what isn't right. Somehow this has to work out so we do slow down the traffic. It's never going to be any less, but If we can at least work to slow it down. I'm all for it if you're going to put a roundabout at Shurmer Road, I think it would help. I know a lot of people don't think so; but all you need to do is go over on Avon Lake Road, and see the double roundabouts they did to get around that very tight bridge and see how effective it is to move traffic through there. I think it would be very effective for the Shurmer Road and Howe Road intersection to have that happen. Thank you very much, guys.

(Applause)

Ed Radzysinski, 19 N. Carpenter Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: My name is Ed Radzysinski, I live at 19 North Carpenter Road; and I wasn't intending on speaking tonight. I am one of the individuals that went down and testified in front of NOACA. I think at this point, I would like to read what my testimony was to get an idea of the passion that was put before the board and why, in some small part, the board voted unanimously against this idea. So here we go: "Members of the board, my name is Ed Radzysinski and I reside at 19 North Carpenter Road in Brunswick, Ohio. For reference sake, this is the southeast corner of the intersection of Boston Road and North Carpenter Road. For further reference, because it is the corner parcel of any potential highway exit interchange, it would consume and destroy my home. Without getting long-winded, I am here to encourage you to take a position against any possible highway ramp on Boston Road. This board has repeatedly, over the past 20 years, stood against this project for any number of reasons. All of those past reasons are still applicable today. This is extremely personal to me as I and my wife have spent the last 20 years preparing our home for our retirement.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Radzynski (cont'd) - We have invested our sweat, blood and tears into our home; and now at 70 years old, we have neither the time, energy or the resources to start over again. My mortgage rate is 2.75%; and as recently reported by all major news organizations, the current rates are at 7.5%. Who will pay the difference? At 70 years old, who will pack me up and move me? The force taking of property by eminent domain offers monetary consideration of fair market value. My current homeowner's policy says my home is worth \$380,000.00; but since just the talk of this interchange, Zillow now has my property value at \$223,000.00 which is a massive drop of \$157,000.00. Who's going to make up the difference? Our representatives in Columbus: Senator Romanchuk (District 22), Representative Sharon Ray (District 66), and Representative Melanie Miller (District 67) have joined to introduce legislation in both the House and Senate to repeal the portion of the state transportation budget that applies to this interchange. Why? Because It is wrong on so many different levels. Governor DeWine himself said, "This was inserted into the budget in a way that did not follow standard policy, procedure or protocol. He believes the proper agencies such as NOACA would correct this. This is why I stand before you today, urging this board to correct the wrong and to vote in opposition to this proposal. There are also a variety of safety issues to be addressed. The first is a jet fuel line that runs parallel to Boston Road and is currently just 50 feet from my home. Attempting to move this fuel line brings to mind visions of East Palestine, and the devastation caused there. Then there are the vastly increased potential for human trafficking. It is well documented that Ohio, and the I-71 Corridor, are a major route for this purpose. A highway ramp greatly increases the grab and go conditions that human traffickers desire. They are long gone before a child can even be reported missing. Please don't let this be a part of your legacy. To wrap this up, I would like to mention, that while gathering my thoughts on this testimony, I went to the NOACA website and saw that in celebrating its 50th anniversary (1968-2018), part of its mission statement said that your very existence was, "To enhance the quality of life for all northeastern Ohioans." An interchange on Boston Road would do exactly the opposite. Not taking a stand against this project is allowing the legislature to usurp your authority and lay waste to what an MPO stands for right down to its very core. If it could be legislated into our community, it could be legislated into your community. I urge you to take back your power and stand against this project." One other thing I would like to say is...in driving down Howe Road...and I used to be a resident on Drake Road. I moved from Drake road in 1999 to my current home on North Carpenter Road. In driving down there, I have a hand full of names that might sound familiar to you, how about Pomeroy Blvd., Shurmer Road, Glendale Ave., Cypress Ave., Lanier Ave., Delmont Ave., and Drake Road. Those are seven streets, south of the mall, all that dead end into Howe Road, all going west bound into major housing developments. An interchange at Boston Road is not going to stop that, thank you.

(Applause)

Bill Matthews, 17651 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: Bill Matthews, 17651 Shurmer Road. I want to end the night on an up note. My granddaughter, who is part of Team USA ice dancing, there's an event on The Public Square, on Thursday night from 6-8 p.m. It's Scott Hamilton's "Skate to Eliminate Cancer." Some of the Team USA dancers are going to be there, including my granddaughter and her partner. I just wanted to mention that because again, "Skate to Eliminate Cancer." If you can go, it would certainly be appreciated, thank you.

(Applause)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Joe Lucchese, 16336 Shurmer Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: Good evening Council, Joe Lucchese, 16336 Shurmer Road. I just wanted to come up, and just take a minute, because three years ago I stood at this mic many times. I have been in this position already fighting against you know...but I don't know why, I just feel that the gang from Brunswick has no clue what we went through and why it happened the way it did, and why it was a 'No" vote for Shurmer Road. I just want to explain to them right now. You know what...first of all, when you get on I-71 at St. Rt. 42...I'm sorry you're on St. Rt. 82 getting on I-71 heading south. When you are going up to 60 mph getting ready to get on the highway, 800 feet ahead right by Tracy Lane, is where they wanted to put the exit ramp right there. That little slip ramp...800 feet. If you are going 60 mph, somebody coming down the highway at 60 mph and they have to get over, and this person is coming on the highway at 60 mph, they have to crisscross right there. That's why we were calling it the crisscross ramp. I just want to make it very clear to everybody here because I hear them saying Shurmer Road. Get it out of your mind, and get it out of your head. Shurmer Road is never going to happen. It can't happen because it's a death trap. Any of your people going to Brunswick, because they can't go to St. Rt 303, because they have to get off in Strongsville, they are going to get off right there and somebody is going to have a tragic accident. Then, you're going to come to Strongsville and say, "Why did you do this?" All of you...I appreciate you guys voting "No" last time. We don't want it back here. I think if there's an issue or a problem, let's face it. The majority of the traffic that comes off right now, I watch it. I live right by the corner of Shurmer Road and Howe Road. You could see...I go and sit down there by Howe Road at the end there. I mean how many thousands of cars a day go to Brunswick from Strongsville? For crying out loud, we could alleviate all this. They can be happy, and we can be happy, if everybody in Brunswick goes to St. Rt. 303 and gets off at their own exit. Is that a good idea? I think it's great.

(Applause)

Mr. Lucchese (cont'd) - Thank you...all of you. I'm sure every person on this side of the room has used Howe Road. The gentleman before talked about neighborhoods...going through neighborhoods. For crying out loud. Ann, you've raised your kids on Howe Road, and you guys all live on Howe Road. Howe Road is a neighborhood, and Brunswick people have been going through our neighborhoods for how many years? What's the difference? How is it going to be any different? It's just going to kind of break it up. Maybe not as many on Howe Road, a little bit more...some on Carpenter Road, and some here. If it doesn't work there, don't come to our Council and start pointing fingers and calling names. Mr. Carbone, you have done a phenomenal job here in Strongsville.

(Applause)

Mr. Lucchese (cont'd) - Thank you for your service, and thank you for what you do for our community. If there's a problem, go to your own Mayor, go to your own Council and take care of it there. Don't come to our city and start creating issues and problems. I have a hard time with that. Anyways, with that being said let's go farther down...down North Carpenter ways. Let's put another exit ramp down there then, if that's what it means. They just don't want it here. We have three exits right now. We have Pearl Road, we have a turnpike exit, and we have St. Rt. 82 which goes to North Royalton and Strongsville. For crying out loud, what more do you want? We have 3 now. Give us 4 to 1...no, so that's my opinion. I appreciate what you guys do for our city, and I will leave it with that. Thank you and God Bless.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Cindy Kintop, 3674 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: Good evening, I'm Cindy Kintop, 3674 Boston Road in Brunswick. Just as a quick point of clarification as far as the amount of traffic that comes from St. Rt. 82 and ends up in Brunswick - the studies show it's actually only 8%. It isn't 100% or 40%.

(Applause)

Ms. Kintop (cont'd) - So, here we are again...yes, those upset people in the blue shirts as we've been called. That's okay, some of us have been called worse. I want you to know though, that we are more than that. We are more than those upset people in blue shirts. Depending on which side of the street we are living on, we are either your constituents or we are your neighbors to the south. To make an easy analogy, I see constituents as people you can claim like family members. While those on the other side of the street would be like the neighbors across the street from you in your subdivision. I can't believe you would do to your family or your neighbors what you have tried to do to us in Brunswick - make huge life changing and financial decisions for us without first asking if we wanted or needed those changes. In so doing, you actually have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars; again, without consulting with our city officials in Brunswick or any of the residents of either community that are being impacted by your plans. Over these past months, I have met neighbors that I otherwise might never had gotten to know. These are good and hardworking people. They have pride in their homes. They work now, or have worked in various fields; but interestingly enough, none of them worked in politics to the best of my knowledge. Your plans to take their homes caused them undue worry, stress, and fear; when in fact, your own study shows this was not a feasible plan to address the problem of traffic that you claim was the reason for the interchange. While not well versed in the workings of the political policies, as laymen we navigated our way through the process and we made our voices heard, both here and in Columbus. I would like to remind all of you that you were elected to represent your constituents. I understand ideas for all kinds of improvements and changes come your way as Councilmembers and as administrators. It's your duty to actually consider them, and if they are beneficial to implement them; but when studies show that not to be the case, you should be strong enough to voice your concerns and vote accordingly, not just follow your leader who isn't here tonight. You are entrusted to safeguard your taxpayers' dollars and you failed miserably in doing that with this situation. Those funds that you spent on the studies, hundreds of thousands of dollars, could have benefited your residents, your constituents, and your voters by using it for programs for seniors, for youth, for road repairs and so many different ways. Most of your residents are very much aware of that. I don't know if you are getting the calls, but I know they are talking about it. Those are hard earned dollars that they pay in their taxes, and they are not going to forget it when Election Day rolls around. While most of this group, we are not political animals; but we too will be watching when names are on the ballot whether it's here or in higher offices. Once again, we will make our voices heard, thank you.

(Applause)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Karan Farhat, 16117 Glendale Ave., Strongsville, OH 44136: My name is Karan Farhat, 16117 Glendale Ave. I wasn't planning on speaking but I have been coming, as you guys know, to a lot of the Council meetings. I'm originally from the east side. I grew up in Highland Heights and lived in Mayfield Heights. I saw the congestion, especially in Highland Heights what a freeway did to it on Wilson Mills Road. My parents have had a business in Cleveland Heights and I know the Chief of Police in University Heights. If those two cities had interchanges and freeways like you are proposing to put on Boston Road, their crime would significantly go up higher. The police have a great opportunity to grab the criminals because they do not have exits out of those cities. I'm here with the Boston Road residents of Strongsville specifically, and I'm here to be their voice. I think we should stop and maybe rethink of what we have to do, thank you.

(Applause)

Terry Woods, 3510 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: Terry Woods, Boston Road, 3510. I think something got misconstrued here. We are not arguing with the residents around here. Our argument was with...and actually not to Council. Maybe you because you smirk too much, but it's with politics. It's with the politics of what's going on and a backdoor job that was made on that bill to get the Boston Road interchange. I have never gone to so many meetings in my life like I have in the last year; but these women have gone to hundreds. I don't want to see any animosity between the residents of Brunswick and Strongsville. We are not here to do that. We are only here to protect what we feel is right, and that is not to have trucks running up and down that street. The fact that they would move that line closer to my house just scares the hell out of me because of all the residents. From my house to the freeway is maybe 1,000 feet...I don't know. They told me if that line broke at my house...if it ruptured, it would spray to the freeway and if it ignited, every house on either side of the road would be gone...a fiery bang. It is really scary having to think about moving that line even if it's five feet. I'm sure you can understand...all of you. You've got homes. If you had a line like that in your house...in front of your house, would you want it moved closer? I didn't know the line was there or I wouldn't have never bought the house. They told me it was a gas line and not a jet fuel line. I know you all have gotten the message. We are all ticked off, and we are all upset. Nobody wants to lose their house and nobody likes the devaluation on their house; and after our taxes were raised, by an inflated house. I just wanted to make it clear that we weren't trying to tick anybody off in Strongsville. We respect everyone; especially the people that fought so hard to keep that ramp out of there. We know what you're going through and what you went through, thank you.

Brenda Jamiol, 18051 Howe Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: Good evening gentleman and thank you for listening to me today. My name is Brenda Jamiol, I live at 18051 Howe Road. The reason that I am up here is because I do feel for Brunswick. We went through this with the slip ramp on Shurmer Road and Howe Road. As it is, if you live east on Howe Road, you already have a freeway in your backyard. We don't get to hear the birds, the crickets, and the kids playing because of the noise from the freeway. We have the cut-through in our front yards. I don't care if it's Strongsville residents going down to Boston Road or wherever they are going or if it's Brunswick residents going home. I just feel that putting a slip ramp or a cut-through or an interchange at Shurmer Road, Drake Road, Boston Road or Granger Road is really putting people's safety at risk. Not only that, we can all face it, our homes are our biggest asset in life. That's our comfort place, that's where our families are, and that's where we reside. To put that at risk and let our government put it at risk, is really ridiculous. I just wanted to voice that today, thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Jamison – Mr. Carbone, let me address that one gentleman from earlier if we are done with audience participation. So, this is a common question that comes up and I am probably too close to the mic. Emergency ordinances really get to when they take effect. If you look at tonight's agenda, almost everyone is an emergency ordinance. If we didn't have that language, you would have to wait 30 days for that to become effective. When you put the emergency language in it, if its passed by 5 members of Council...at least 5, then it goes into effect upon signature by the president of Council and the Mayor instead of having to wait 30 days. It's not like everything is an emergency; it's just when it goes into effect. Tonight, we have an ordinance to purchase a police vehicle. That allows us to go ahead and purchase that right away, particularly in this climate when those vehicles are hard to get. That's what an emergency ordinance is; and it's a common question. Don't feel that you are out of the ordinary in asking that. I have had that a lot over the course of my career. It just means when it goes into effect. That's really the purpose. Suspension is the other one that you always will hear...move to suspend. That really just weighs the requirements of having 3 readings for particular ordinances. That's another question that we always get. Hopefully, that answers your question, thank you.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2023-159 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1252.15 AND 1252.16 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWELVE-PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND PROJECTIONS INTO YARDS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS. *First reading and referred to the Planning Commission 11-20-23. Favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission 11-30-23.*

Placed on second reading and set for a public hearing on January 16, 2024.

Ordinance No. 2023-165 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCEL, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCEL TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING A CHIEFFALO'S 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. *First reading 11-20-23.*

Placed on second reading and referred back to the committee.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-166 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCEL, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCEL TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING A HERZOG 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. *First reading 11-20-23.*

Placed on second reading and referred back to the committee.

Ordinance No. 2023-169 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2023 CHEVROLET TAHOE PPV POLICE VEHICLE FOR USE BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-169 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-170 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE GENERAL SALARY ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 5-040, 5-070, 5-074, 5-095, 5-119, 5-138, 6-003, 9-002, 9-003, 9-007, 9-008, 9-009 AND 9-011, IN ORDER TO ADJUST CERTAIN PROVISIONS CONCERNING SALARY AND HOURLY PAY RANGE SCHEDULES; TO FIX THE COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN SALARIED AND HOURLY EMPLOYEES; REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on first reading and referred back to the committee.

Resolution No. 2023-171 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO REPURCHASE CERTAIN CERTIFICATES FOR BURIAL RIGHTS IN THE STRONGSVILLE MUNICIPAL CEMETERY. [Kovacevich]

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2023-171 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-172 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED ON HOWE ROAD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-172 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-173 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 16028 SHURMER ROAD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-173 ADOPTED.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

(None)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mr. Carbone – We have our Human Resources Director, Mr. Stephen Kilo, who is going to talk about our diversity training.

Mr. Kilo – Thank you Council President, I just wanted to, and I didn't want to take up much more time this evening, but I thought it was appropriate to update and invite all Council members that we have been working pretty diligently; not just my office, but with others within the city to really get a hold of and to get in front of us as a community and being a leader community in Northeast Ohio as it relates to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. As a Council, you recently in the last couple of years, passed an ordinance that you also agree with those principles and those things that we put out there. Again, to show that we are serious in how we approach and how we are doing what we are doing within the city, I wanted to extend an invitation to you as Council. Beginning next week, we are going to have a few days where we are going to have an opportunity where we were able to secure a pre-eminent speaker on the topic of diversity. His name is Dr. Milton Perkins and he is nationally recognized in a number of different things. The thing that makes him really good for us is that he focuses a lot on the public sector. A lot of times when you get into this subject matter, it changes a lot as it relates to if you are in the private business world, differing from the public sector. He has very good concepts and he has very good information that I think will be beneficial. We are going to make sure that our leadership from our city employees go through training.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (cont'd):

Mr. Kilo (cont'd) - We are also... Brent Painter is going to invite certain business leaders from the community. At that meeting on December 13, 2023, that morning; I supplied you with that flyer. We are extending the invitation to any of you that can take any time out of your busy schedules to attend that workshop and training that he is going to speak at. I wanted to make sure I reached out to all of you with that as an opportunity to see and try to listen to what really goes on as far as how again, this subject matter relates to the public sector and the lengths that we are trying to go through to make sure that the city is positioned strongly. As we know, so many things these days are... this subject matter is very important; whether it relates to grant funding, whether it relates to how you are going to recruit and train going into the future. A number of different things that... everything that we provide is going to be affected by. So, I just wanted to do that. Secondly, I also provided you with some information in a second hand-out that shows that nothing really happens overnight. I know some time ago, a couple of different Councilmembers have approached me and the Mayor as far as how we do certain type of trainings for our employees, and what we do. Again, with us being... so many of our departments are 24/7 in nature. It's hard a lot of times to corral and get all the employees together and to be able to train or get everybody getting the same messaging or communication when we want to address certain topics that we find are important for our employees. What we've had the opportunity to do... I also have to give a lot of credit to David Sems, our IT Director that he and I have gone through and we have researched and sat down with a number of different training platforms, if you will, and what it would take to try to really get our arms around this - where it's not feasible all the time with police, fire, service, dispatch, corrections, and all these different departments to get everybody together in person. I'm very excited to announce a great partnership that we have established with the Cuyahoga County Library; in particular, their Executive Director, Pam Jankowski. We were able to develop a platform where our employees, using a library card, will have free access through the library system and through their LinkedIn learning platform where not only different subject matters that we want to have our employees fulfill on a training prospective, it also opens a catalog of over 8,000 different types of things that they can learn and take advantage of. Just to give an idea, when we tried, David and I sat down with LinkedIn on our own before knowing about this opportunity. Just to start, it would have been around an \$85,000.00 investment with annual installments of different amounts that we would have had to pay to take on something like that. I just wanted to let you know that's some of the things we are doing. Again, I think it's good and I think it's good that we develop those types of partnerships. To know that we have a very strong branch here in the City of Strongsville that these opportunities that we can work together and provide this, is a good thing for us. That's all I wanted to say to you guys tonight. Let me know if you want to attend next week, if you can. I know that you're busy, but I will stop there.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you being here this evening, and thank you for sharing that.

Ms. Roff – If you can just add me. I would like to; but I won't get there until like 8:45 a.m. or so. All right, thank you.


Mr. Carbone – Anybody who would like to attend, just like Mr. Kilo said, reach out to him. Thank you for being here and sharing that.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Carbone adjourned the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

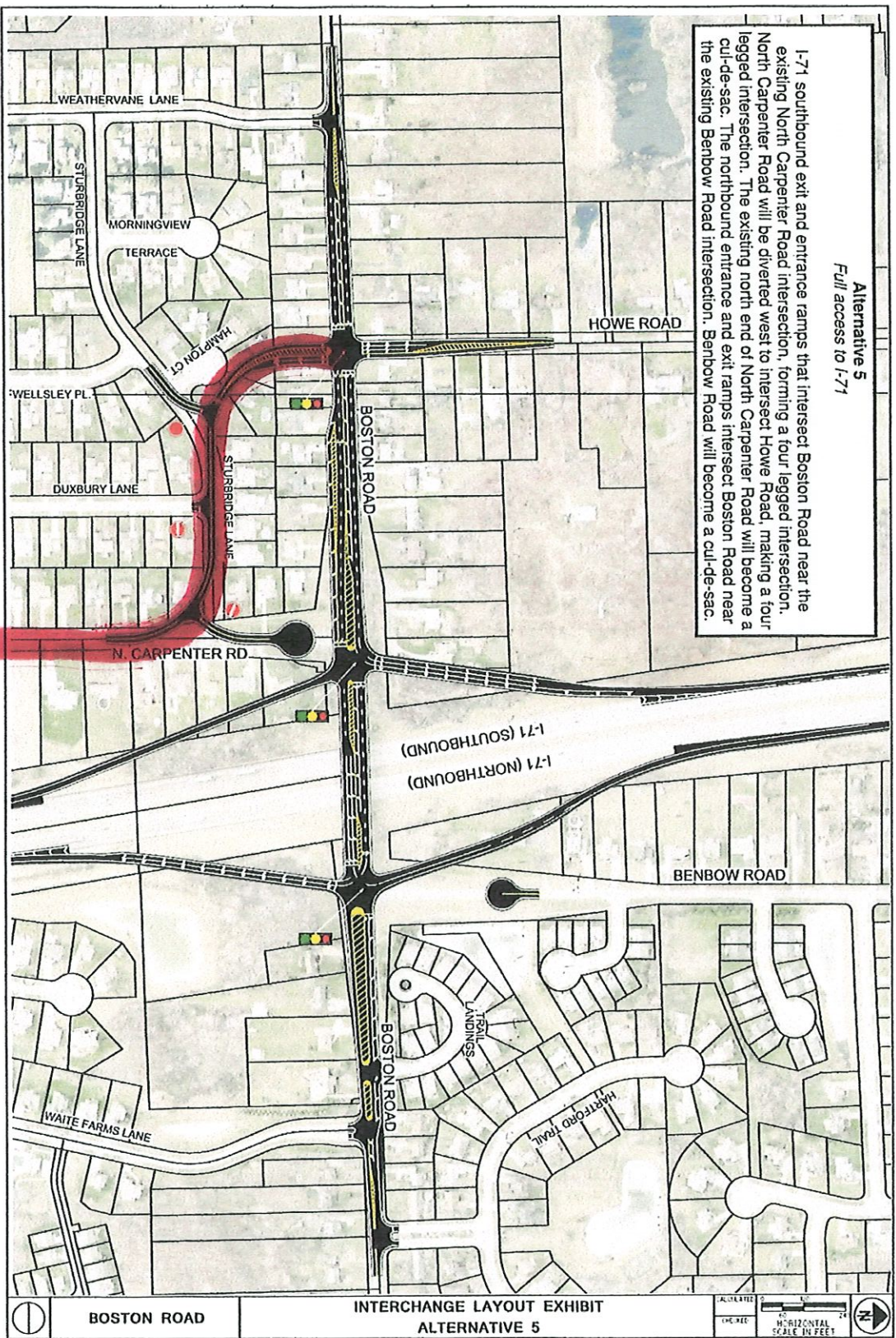


Almee Pientka, MMC
Clerk of Council



Date

Figure 8 - Alternative 5 Layout Exhibit



BOSTON KNOLLS
SUBDIVISION

N. CARPENTER
(ARTERIAL COLLECTOR ROAD)