

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023.

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in the Caucus Room at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Monday, December 18, 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:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Finance Director Eric Dean and Law Director Neal Jamison.

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:40 p.m.

Ms. Kosek made a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters pertaining to the compensation of city employees. 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 7:54 p.m. The executive session concluded at 8:13 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. 2023-143 is to rezone property located on Royalton Road, all of PPNs 393-18-006, 393-18-020 and 393-18-022, from R1-75 (One Family 75) classification to PF (Public Facilities) classification. This is for a proposed fire station. Planning Commission gave this a favorable recommendation. There will be a public hearing for this tonight. The recommendation was to adopt this legislation, pending outcome of the public hearing. Resolution No. 2023-174 is a resolution providing for the submission of Ordinance No. 2023-143 to the electors for the March primary ballot. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Ordinance No. 2023-175; an ordinance to enter into a wetland mitigation purchase agreement in connection with the Foltz Parkway extension phase II project. The agreement is with Stream + Wetlands Foundation, for a total purchase price of \$396,500.00. Ordinance No. 2023-176 is to issue and approve change order no. 1 (final), for a net decrease in the contract price with Fabrizi Trucking & Paving Co., Inc. in connection with the Albion Road and Wester Road sanitary sewer project. The decrease is in the amount of \$332,638.93. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2023-177 is to amend section 254.03 of the codified ordinances in order to adjust certain fees for emergency medical services. Chief Draves advised that people would not be experiencing any out of pocket cost as long as you are a resident, own property or are an employee within the City of Strongsville. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Ordinance No. 2023-178; an ordinance authorizing the disposal of certain items utilized by the fire department which are beyond their service life, obsolete and/or damaged and no longer needed nor safe for any municipal service.

Finance Committee: Chairwoman Kosek advised Ordinance Nos. 2023-165 and 2023-166 are TIFs (tax increment financing) for Chieffalo's and Herzog, respectively. The recommendation for both was to adopt this evening. Ordinance No. 2023-170 is the 2024 general salary ordinance for city employees. Ms. Kosek recommends to amend the legislation to reflect no raise to Council salary. Ms. Kosek also suggested that when it comes to the Mayor's salary, he is fully deserving of an appropriate increase to which all of Council agreed; however, due to the economy, she proposed an annual salary of \$160,000.00. That would be a \$10,000.00 increase to where the Mayor's salary is currently. The recommendation was to amend then adopt the legislation as amended. Ordinance No. 2023-179 is an appropriations ordinance for the annual expenses and other expenditures of the city. Mr. Dean added that this is an ordinance to adjust some year-end balances. Ms. Kosek clarified that this would be a net decrease with some items being pushed into the 2024 budget. Suspension and adoption is recommended for this legislation.

Public Service & Conservation Committee: Chairman DeMio advised Resolution No. 2023-181 is to grant permission to repurchase certain certificates for burial rights in the cemetery. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Carbone advised Ordinance Nos. 2023-181 is to amend section 220.03(a) of the Codified Ordinances concerning Council's meeting start time which will change from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ordinance No. 2023-182 is to amend section 208.02(f) of the Codified Ordinances concerning posting places. The locations of city postings will remain at the Council chambers and at the Municipal/Service Center Building. Meeting notices can also be located and downloaded online from the City of Strongsville website: www.strongsville.org. The recommendation was to suspend and adopt both ordinances tonight.

Other business:

Ms. Roff – Ms. Roff wanted to remind any seniors to review their Medicare parts A, B and C to see if they qualify for free Silver Sneakers or Renew Active programs.

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 8:14 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:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Finance Director Eric Dean, Law Director Neal Jamison and Fire Chief Jack Draves.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 4, 2023, were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Mayor Perciak – Good evening Mr. President, we have one re-appointment this evening, and that is to the Planning Commission.

Mayor's re-appointment and confirmation of Terry Toth to a four (4) year term on the City's Planning Commission, effective January 22, 2024, and expiring on January 21, 2028.

Motion made by Mr. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio to confirm the Mayor's reappointment and confirmation of Terry Toth to a four-year term on the City's Planning Commission, effective January 22, 2024 and expiring on January 21, 2028. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance No. 2023-143 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE ADOPTED BY SECTION 1250.03 OF TITLE SIX, PART TWELVE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STRONGSVILLE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, ON ROYALTON ROAD, BEING ALL OF PPNs 393-18-006, 393-18-020 and 393-18-022, FROM R1-75 (ONE FAMILY 75) CLASSIFICATION TO PF (PUBLIC FACILITIES) CLASSIFICATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading and referred to the Planning Commission 10-16-23. Favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission 10-26-23 (both including and excluding PPN 393-18-006). Second reading 11-06-23. Public Hearing 12-18-23.*

*Mr. Carbone invited anyone wishing to speak **IN FAVOR** of the Ordinance to approach the podium and address Council.*

(No comments)

*Mr. Carbone then invited anyone wishing to speak **IN OPPOSITION** of the Ordinance to approach the podium and address Council.*

(No comments)

Hearing no further comments in regard to this matter, Council President Carbone closed the Public Hearing on said Ordinance.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark: Thank you Council President Carbone. There was a SCS Board Meeting on Thursday, December 7th. During the recognition portion of the meeting, which is how all of these meetings that I have been to over the last couple of years begin, Vincent Borros of the Strongsville High School Boys Golf Team was recognized as a 2023 OHSA State Meet Qualifier by the Varsity Golf Coach, Steve King.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark (cont'd): Strongsville High School Girls Cross Country Team Varsity Coach, Angela Spilker, also recognized 7 student athletes from the team that were 2023 OHSA State Meet Qualifiers including Allie Carey, Renee Cicco, Jenifer Guo, Hannah Jicha, Lindsay Magyar, Gianna Pedone, Haylee Smith, and Tina Varis. Again, these are student athletes that competed and represented Strongsville at the state level. Next, there was extensive public comment that centered around the recent decision not to renew the SHS Varsity Football Head Coach Position. That position was posted earlier this month, and it I checked today, and it appears to be closed. We look forward to the administration conducting their interviews, selection process and learning who the next coach will be. Treasurer George Anagnostou presented the November 20, 2023 Financial Status Report. This report shows the current monthly cash flow estimates, including actual data through November and they indicate that the June 30, 2024 cash balance will be \$48,585,987; which is \$11,197 less than the five year forecast. Obviously, expenses are up, and revenue, and that is much of what we are seeing going on in the market. I do want to point out about \$3500.00 in grants from the Optimist Club Donations were approved that night. Again, I bring that up because it's organizations like that, that make donations and help our...in this case, our pre-school, all five elementary schools, and the Strongsville Middle School...that night. Probably the biggest thing on the agenda that night, I talked a little bit about the financials. The board unanimously voted in favor of the recommendation of the treasurer. That the renewal of the existing tax levy for the purpose of current expenses be approved and to go before the voters. That means that we will see the renewal levy on the ballot for the March 19, 2024 election. This is a 5.9 mil levy that is currently set to expire at the end of 2024. This is not new money. This is a renewal levy, and it was passed May 7, 2019. I just indicated through the fiscal year, and through November, gas flow estimate expenses are up. Without this passing, we would be asking the school and the team that educates our children and supports our community, to continue to do that with about \$10 million dollars less than they are doing today. I don't think we want to handicap our schools. I'm sure we will have more information on that soon. The board has an organizational work session on January 11, 2024, at which time they will approve their 2024 meeting schedule and dates. I can tell you from the draft, that the next regular scheduled board meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2024. The meetings are at 7:00 p.m. at the administration building; unless noted otherwise. Any questions on the school board report?

(No questions)

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Clark:

(No report)

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. Carbone, the Southwest General Health System did have a year-end board meeting. It was a joint meeting of both the health system board and the hospital board; without getting into too many details because we have a lot to get to tonight. We did pass our 2024 budget expecting growth; but also, an increase in costs. I'm sure as you are well aware, cost in the consumer market continues to increase and has affected healthcare as well. However, reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid on that end are especially not increasing as quickly, and insurance companies follow those rates as well. With that in mind, the system is implementing, and have hired consultants to look for efficiencies. Not just cost-cutting; but also, efficiencies in technology and improvements in operations.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short (cont'd): To also continue to streamline, cut costs, and allow for efficient operations there to meet the demands of the community and patients, without obviously impacting the quality of healthcare that the system provides. The budget is robust, and I think that it is one that is achievable with continued growth, and sustainability at Southwest General for 2024. Again, it is a tremendous asset we have in our backyard that serves Strongsville and the surrounding communities. It is one that we need to ensure that it continues to function. I think the CEO; Bill Young has done a tremendous job in these last few years of Covid, challenging times, and unprecedented times in healthcare in providing a stable force in healthcare that provides quality care for the region. That concludes my report on Southwest General, but I'll happily take any questions.

(No questions)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short: We are not having a meeting this week. We are going to do that probably in early 2024 either January or February at a meeting date to be determined. That concludes my report, any questions?

(No questions)

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio: Yes, as I said in caucus, page 3 is Resolution No. 2023-180; is just a repurchase of burial rights. Mayor, I just want to thank you that your team was very kind to some folks that were concerned about the cemetery and how some of the workers there were getting a close. They were extremely happy on how they changed a few things, and I meant to mention that to you earlier; but thank you so much. Tell Joe Walker, that was very kind of him to go out himself to see what they were talking about. Again, spread that will you?

Mayor Perciak – That's our Joe Walker...you know that, right?

Mr. DeMio – That is correct, thank you.

Mr. Carbone – Any questions for Mr. DeMio?

(No questions)

FINANCE – Ms. Kosek: Thank you, we have four ordinances. Ordinance Nos. 2023-165, 2023-166, 2023-170 and 2023-179. Ordinance Nos. 2023-165 and 2023-166 are TIF ordinances regarding Chieffalo's and Hertzog's. Those have been on the agenda and this is the third reading. I would ask that we adopt those tonight. I'm going to remind everyone that again, it keeps our schools whole from a tax standpoint; so, I would ask for your adoption tonight. Ordinance No. 2023-179 is our year-end appropriations update for 2023. We have received a finance report from Mr. Dean indicating that it's a net decrease of \$940 thousand or so dollars. Increases in some areas and then some projects that are being pushed to 2024. I would ask that we suspend and adopt that. Our last ordinance is the salary ordinance which is Ordinance No. 2023-170. This represents a 2.5% increase for city employees. As we discussed during caucus I would like to amend that to keep the Council salaries at its current rate and to set the Mayor's salary to \$160,000.00. It seemed in caucus that everyone was good with that; so, when we come to that portion of the meeting I will make that amendment and ask that everyone suspend and adopt. That's all I have Mr. Carbone.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski: All right, this evening we have Ordinance No. 2023-143. Earlier, we had the public hearing. We are going to change the zoning classifications on properties on Royalton Road from (R1-75), which is a single family classification, to Public Facilities (PF). The recommendation is to adopt this evening. We have Resolution No. 2023-174, which is providing submission for that ordinance we just talked about; Ordinance No. 2023-143, which will go to the ballot. The recommendation is suspension and adoption. Ordinance No. 2023-175 which is authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Wetlands Mitigation purchase agreement in connection with the Foltz Parkway Extension which is a cul-de-sac phase 2 project. The recommendation is suspension and adoption. Finally, for Planning, Zoning and Engineering we have Ordinance No. 2023-176 which is a Change Order No. 1 (Final) which is a net decrease for the Albion Road Fabrizio paving project which was on Albion Road and Webster Road...the sanitary sewer project. That was about a 10.7% decrease which was over \$322,000.00. We are happy about that news especially with all this inflation going on. I know the residents of Albion Road and Webster Road will be happy with that news. The recommendation is suspension and adoption this evening on that. That concludes Planning, Zoning and Engineering, any questions?

Mr. Carbone – I just want to make a comment with Ordinance 2023-175; this is an extension of a cul-de-sac on Foltz Parkway. I just want to be mindful that there's a lot of industrial property to the east of where this cul-de-sac is going to be. Knowing that...also knowing that we cannot have truck traffic on Marks Road, Boston Road, or Prospect Road that a possible easement...that we know how valuable industrial land is and that there is an easement from this cul-de-sac to get to that property for truck traffic. We can keep all into Foltz Parkway, and then out to Royalton Road. Okay, very good. That's it, thank you.

Mr. Kaminski – Alright, thank you.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski: Ordinance No. 2023-177 which is to adjust fees for emergency medical services. We did talk about that during caucus this evening. Chief, would you like to make any comments?

Chief Draves – Again, this is just to adjust our EMS billing rates and to bring them up to current standards. We haven't made those adjustments in four years and I believe it's a modest increase. It brings us comparable to what other communities are. Again, just a reminder for everybody that the residents will not pay anymore out-of-pocket expenses. Whatever your insurance pays, is what the city accepts as payment in full. To anyone that owns property, lives in the city or works in the city will not pay anymore out-of-pocket it will be carried on by the insurance company. Just a reminder, all the money that is collected, then go into the Emergency Vehicle Fund where we buy emergency vehicles: police cars, fire trucks and ambulances. It's a dedicated fund for those.

Mr. Kaminski – Any questions on Ordinance No. 2023-177? The recommendation is suspension and adoption this evening on that. Finally, we have Ordinance No. 2023-178, and that is for the disposal of items and equipment that are obsolete, damaged, and are no longer needed by the fire department. The recommendation is suspension and adoption. That concludes my report on Public Safety. I will be happy to take any questions.

(No questions)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - Ms. Roff: I do not have anything, but just to restate if you are looking at your Medicare plan for A, B and C, look at your (part) "C" and see what's covered. If you would like to participate in the recreation center for free you would look at the parts that cover Silver Sneakers or Renew Active.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you for bringing that up.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone: We have Ordinance No. 2023-181 this is changing our start time of our regular Council meetings from 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Ordinance No. 2023-182 this is saying that we are going to continue to post at our City Hall, here at the Council Chambers, and also on our web page. This is just amending a section from one of the Charters that had changed this past election. Both of those recommendations are to suspend and adopt.

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Thank you Mr. President and good evening everyone. Joe, I just wanted to take this time to congratulate you on your election to the Berea Clerk of Courts. I want to thank you for your many years of service to our community. I want to thank you for all that both you and Marie have done to make Strongsville a better place to live and work in. I want to thank you for the example that you set for our school children by doing so many things within the schools and by chaperoning so many events, and so many trips. And for Marie, for doing all the extra things and making Joe look as good as good as he did. Behind every successful man is a beautiful wonderful wife, and you are that. Thank you, Joe, and thank you for everything. A "thank you" just isn't enough. People don't know that Joe and I go back many, many, many years. I met Joe through his Aunt and his Uncle when I was still at the bank. Joe and Marie you were just young newlyweds, basically, getting your first loan. I'm just so happy to see that you have achieved your goal and I want to wish you all of life's best. At the end of this meeting, we are going to go a little further into that so thank you, Joe.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Perciak – Marie, thank you. Other than that, Merry Christmas to everyone, to all my staff, to the Council, to all of our residents, and to the business community who helped make this community what it is. Remember on Christmas day, keep in mind all the people who are less fortunate and make sure that the giving tree never ends. To those who were at the lighting ceremony at the Perciak Hospice House here in Strongsville on December 8th, I just want to thank you. I want to thank you for remembering my brother, and for being there. It was quite moving; so, thank you to each and every one of you.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you, Mayor Perciak.

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

LAW DEPARTMENT – Mr. Jamison: Thanks Mr. Chairman. I as well would like to congratulate Joe. I have known him for a number of years actually prior to coming here. He has always been very open and gracious to me, and also a gentleman at all times. Working with him the last eight years, particularly when he was Council President, I have really appreciated your help and assistance. What a lot of people don't know is the stuff that you do behind the scenes to make this a better community; so, thank you for doing that. That being said, we have to talk about his vacancy. We posted it and we had six individuals apply; they came in by last Friday. Council needs to have a discussion now in terms of when they want to meet to interview those candidates. Also, the time and location and I think now would be the appropriate time to have that discussion in this forum. First would be the date. Do any of you have an idea when you would like to start doing this? I don't know...next week or the first week of January; but I will let you all decide that tonight.

Mr. Carbone – I came up with two dates to see if they would work with the majority here. That is Thursday, January 4th and Monday, January 8th at a start time of 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Kosek – Jim, both of those dates work for me but I would prefer Monday, January 8th. It would make it easier for me to get there at the start time.

Mr. Carbone – Okay.

Mr. Clark – I can make that work.

Mr. Kaminski – Monday works for me.

Mr. Short – Monday is fine for me.

Ms. Roff – Ditto.

Mr. Carbone – Monday, January 8th.

Mr. Jamison – Where do you want to do it?

Mr. Carbone – We will do it here at the Council chambers.

Mr. Jamison – Okay.

Mr. Carbone – 5:00 p.m. start.

Mr. Jamison – So, Ms. Pientka will get out the...like we've done in the past in reaching out to these six individuals and scheduling them for that evening, thank you.

Ms. Pientka – Mr. President, do you want me schedule for 10 minute intervals or 15 minute intervals?

Mr. Carbone – Fifteen minute intervals.

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

LAW DEPARTMENT – Mr. Jamison (cont'd):

Ms. Pientka – Okay.

Mr. Jamison - All ordinances and resolutions are in proper legal form. That concludes my report, thank you.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Sherri Hamm, 15728 Boston Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: Sherri Hamm, 15728 Boston Road, Strongsville, Ohio. First, I would like to ask as a Strongsville resident who pays taxes; the same taxes that were used to buy the land purchases on Howe Road and Shurmer Road. What are the intentions for these parcels that were purchased? I know you can't respond during public forum, but you could choose to afterwards because I have seen you do that before. Just remember your transparency if you choose to respond and please, don't insult our intelligence like you did at the last meeting when you answered for possible future needs around Strongsville buying up all the available land and saying you are going to use it for possible future endeavors. You have a plan, and you know it as you sit there; but we would like to know what's the plan. Second, if it's for a round-a-bout, just like the Boston Road interchange, it won't help the traffic on Royalton Road. In fact, it won't even help the traffic on Howe Road. I'm no engineer, but it certainly isn't rocket science. Yes, it would help to make the traffic flow better through the Shurmer Road intersection. It is still going to backup through the round-a-bout when someone needs to make a left hand turn or traffic has to stop for a garbage truck, mail truck, utility or landscaping vehicles that are stopped on the road, or any stopped vehicles. I should say, any stopped delivery trucks. Wouldn't it be wiser so the cars can get around these stopped vehicles? What about the fire trucks and ambulances that can't get around? Isn't that a safety hazard? What if it's one of your family members or a friend of yours that they can't get to in time due to the cars stopping on both sides at the same time? It seems to me if the people who don't have the patience to wait an additional 5 minutes during rush hour traffic, which is only on the northern end of Howe Road, maybe they need to provide a solution and that's why (Unintelligible) today. Please, don't blame the Brunswick people for the traffic. Twenty-four years and I have never seen a problem with traffic down on my end of Howe Road. I think if you really want to make it safe for your residents, if you actually care about them, Mr. Perciak would have taken his time down in Columbus last week to ask for help to widen Howe Road. There would be a center lane for safety; that's number one. Number two - To ease the traffic flow so you could safely get around these stopped vehicles. I have to go around, you wait and you think, "Okay, I have enough time." That's not safe...it really isn't safe to get around these stopped vehicles. At the least, make a right turning lane to go off of Howe Road onto Shurmer Road if traffic flow is your only concern. Today, my husband came home and went to Costco after work. He comes home and it's backed up all the way to Royalton Road. He finally gets up to Shurmer Road and Howe Road and there's a girl there who has run out of gas, and there's a guy that's pouring gas into her gas...into her car. That's what the backup was. It's not the Brunswick people you can't safely get around that stopped car because there's no center lane. That would help immensely if we could just get around that stuff. That would make the traffic flow even if you put a round-a-bout in, it wouldn't backup to the round-a-bout because people could keep going. Finally, I just want to say during this holiday season I would like to express my gratefulness to all of you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Hamm (cont'd) - If it wasn't for you, my husband and I would have never had this adventure that we have been going through for the last nine months. You have given us the opportunity to visit our state capital, which we've never would have done probably. You've given us the opportunity to speak before the Senate and the House Committees which is something I never would have thought I did. Along with this, we have to thank you for learning all about Council meetings, learning about the people that are supposed to represent us, and about dirty politics. The lies and everything...I would never. I would have stuck up for all of you people prior to this. I didn't stay in Strongsville for 24 years to find this out. I must also thank you for allowing us, after 24 years, to meet and become friends with our neighbors across the street. (Unintelligible). I only wish I would have known these wonderfully nice, compassionate and fun-loving people years ago. If not for one of them, we would not have the beautiful addition that we added to our family just 24 hours ago. The only hope that he would have the great big yard and woods to spend the rest of his life enjoying. In conclusion, I would like to say that I hope you all enjoy your holidays with your families worry free since you took that away from us people who are in fear of our lives being turned upside down and living in limbo and uncertainty, thank you.

(Applause)

Buckley Wilford, 18583 Benbow Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: My name is Buckley Wilford, 18583 Benbow Road, Strongsville, Ohio. I would like to say a few things tonight and write some notes even. I want to start off by saying how thankful I am that I can speak up and be heard; I'm glad. I know sometimes I don't feel like I'm heard. At least I can get up here and talk, and you guys don't kick me out of here, and people get to hear us. So, I am very thankful for this and honored because not everywhere has that. I am also very thankful for this nice man that came tonight with these students. I thought that was beautiful. What a wonderful touch. I have some other stuff and I am trying to say as much kindness as I can. I think it's far better to air on the side of kindness than not, and I know I don't always; but I try. One thing that I don't like is that I don't like not being represented. I sent emails to Ann Roff and I get no reply whatsoever. I think that this isn't the way a ward should be run and it's not the way the Council should be run. It should be representing the city and it should be representing the people. If someone send you something you say, "Got it, ok, or I'm working on it and I'm not sure." There some kind of communication. Maybe my .org email address maybe goes to junk mail. I don't know. I'll have to see with is and I'm going to some more tests with it here very soon. Something else I think at the last meeting we had all these people from the other half or our ward here. It seemed like all of a sudden, they all came out of the blue. They were very passionate, very angry and it seemed like a lot of them were upset about Boston Road not going through...it's not going through. NOACA said 100% "No" unanimously, and the transportation people said "No". The laws are about to be repealed here very soon, so all of that is pretty much shut down. I can feel their emotions and I can feel that they are upset. They have this Shurmer Road property...Howe Road being bought so they are worried. I think the right answer to this, as a ward Council person for the ward, would be to try to find peace in the ward. It would be to work with the whole ward, and not just the few neighbors that live over by you. I think that these people deserve it. I would stick right by their side too; and help them to stand up as well as a ward together, rather than to try to have a divided ward. We should make another ward then I guess in the city if that's what things are supposed to be; sounds ridiculous to me. It's something I learned while I was in the seminary. I spent many years in the seminary. I have my Masters and my Doctrine degree. One thing I learned once that there's two types of people you still have to work with. I hope I'm not one of those types of people, but maybe you guys think I am. There's some people that have a little extra grace required. You have to have a little extra grace when you talk to these kinds of people.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Wilford (cont'd) - They are still people and they are human beings. There's other people who are total nut jobs. You even have to be able to talk to total nut jobs, okay. I'm a pastor, and I do this all the time. You still have to show love for people because people are people. We should have representation from Council. Then I think in my mind here the city outta hire Euthenics to improve our flow of traffic; unless maybe Euthenics is too expensive. I know you probably can't afford \$300,000.00; but something with somebody. We may already have engineers in place, I don't know, to be able to fix some of these problems. If these really are problems that we are having, and it's not just about Foltz Parkway like we all assume. For those blaming Brunswick, they need to think more about the logic. Howe Road is a main artery...a main vein through our city. There are thousands of houses to the left and to the right. I know some of you guys live in that area, and I live in that area. We have to go down that road or West 130th when we come home; we have no other option. Why is there so much traffic? We have thousands of houses to the left and to the right. (Unintelligible) only 8% are people from Brunswick. Whenever I am coming from the south, I get off at State Route 303 and I drive right on up to Benbow Road right there. About half of my time is in Brunswick because I have a church in Brunswick and I'm in Brunswick a lot too. I think it's ridiculous to try to set people against the city of Brunswick. That's not working together and that's not moving forward. That's butting heads and being angry; nothing happens out of stuff like that. That's ridiculous for anybody to promote such a thing like this. I also think and I understand the emotions of these people and how upset they were last time because we were the same way too. Fortunately, they got emotional with you guys and things got changed. Things never got changed with us, and that's why we went all the way to the state house, talked to all these other people and involved all kinds of folks. In my opinion, it makes our city look awfully bad. I hate doing that because I love our city. I have been here my whole life, and I plan on being here until the day that I die. I just hope it's still some time away right there. One other thing I have is perhaps we should have some more focus on police work on Howe Road. These Howe Road people talked about how horrible the speeders were and how dangerous things were. I live on Benbow Road, and it's like that too. Perhaps we outta try to focus our police a little bit more over there. I know times are tough, the budget and different things. There's a lot of more important things for cops to be doing too than just managing traffic and things like this; perhaps just a little bit more focus. There's so many more things that we could be doing here. Well, with all these things I will go ahead and silence myself. I will be sending emails to answer questions. If I don't get them answered from my Councilwoman, I imagine I can send them to other Council ward people...maybe to the Mayor. In the Army, there's always a chain of command. There's somebody that cares, and somebody that listens. I really feel like nobody is ever listening to me, and I live right here in Strongsville. I think that's such a sad thing right there; but I am thankful that I get up here and talk though. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

Shrea Kellums, 3450 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: Shrea Kellums, 3450 Boston Road. First of all, I want to congratulate you and I wish you the best. I just want to say Merry Christmas to everybody and have a Happy New year too.

(Applause)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Michael Batenchuk, 18246 Howe Road, Strongsville, OH 44136: My name is Michael Batenchuk, 18246 Howe Road and I just want to make some general comments. I just wanted to thank the Council for giving us a voice both in Brunswick and Strongsville to come up here and air our opinions. I know it's tough, and there is really no answers either way right at this second; but at least we have the ability and the freedom to come up here and talk. I just wanted to come here and also saying congratulations in putting the time and effort into the City of Strongsville. Kudos to those students, because I tried to play violin for a month and that was about it. Kudos to them, and thank you for all of your support for Council.

(Applause)

Scott Uhas, 16434 Acacia Drive, Strongsville, OH 44136: Good evening, Scott Uhas, 16434 Acacia Drive in Strongsville. Joe, congratulations and God Bless. A little over three years ago, to give you a little history of myself, I retired after 30 years in public transit. During that time, I worked for RTA and I also worked at Medina County Public Transit and North Olmsted. During that time, I was also fortunate enough to serve under the NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency), TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee), and the RTIS (Regional Transportation Investment Subcommittee) and that's the first time I have heard about the Boston Road interchange. I was surprised at that time to know that it's been an issue since 1985. I have been on both sides of controversial issues that have affected me directly and those were the people that I served. Many times, few have had to make sacrifices to benefit the many. So how did we get here? Interstate 71 was constructed in the 1950s and completed in the 1960s. Since that time, the population increases for Brunswick and Strongsville and have gone up 3-fold and 5-fold. This doesn't include North Royalton, Hinckley, and Columbia Station. In reviewing both studies, the NOACA and Euthenics, which I have found to be very similar. I believe that there's more work to be done to determine what is going to be the best alternative. That doesn't rule out Boston Road, and it doesn't rule out something possibly with Shurmer Road. I still think that there is more work to be done and I think that NOACA should be taking charge of the work that needs to be done. That's all I have.

(Applause)

Laura Housum, 17404 Woodlawn Court, Strongsville, OH 44149: Laura Housum, 17404 Woodlawn Court. President Carbone, city Council and Mayor Perciak on behalf of the Strongsville City Schools, the school board and our district, I would like to extend a "Thank You" for the partnership and support you have extended to our district in regards to the proposed TIF ordinances you have on your agenda tonight. We appreciate and value the relationship we have built with you guys. Your support allows our schools to continue to be a 5-star district, and allows us to continue to offer our students the best experiences possible. Mr. DeMio, I just want to extend a personal "Thank You" for everything. As an almost 24-year resident here in Strongsville, before I was even on the school board, I got the experience of working with you to help our students. This isn't a goodbye, this is a see you later. Thank you, Mr. DeMio; and Happy Holidays everyone.

(Applause)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Leslie Seefried, 25630 Herb Street, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138: My name is Leslie Seefried, 25630 Herb Street, Olmsted Falls, Ohio. I'm just here to say congratulations to Joe. I'm just so proud of you and so happy for you. You have served the residents of Strongsville with compassion and integrity for all these years. Now we, the residents of Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, Berea, Brookpark, Middleburg and Strongsville look forward to your service to us. Congratulations, Joe.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you.

(Applause)

Adriana Markov, 15545 Walnut Creek Drive, Strongsville, OH 44149: My name is Adriana Markov, I live at 15545 Walnut Creek in Strongsville. Last night we had someone drag racing in front of our house, which is really common on our street that runs from Echo Drive through to Lunn Road. He's lucky that he didn't die, but it is something that happens almost every day. We just moved in a couple of weeks ago. What I am proposing are "Slow Down" signs on that road. All day I see people skip that stop sign. The house that endured that crash is home to a seven and eleven year old. I can't imagine what it would have been like if the many residents that walk their dogs were doing their things or those kids were out. Yeah, I really think people need to slow down.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you very much.

Mr. Short – If you can...miss, I'm the Councilman for that ward. We will talk to the Mayor about the police getting over there, and we will talk about some safety issues.

Mayor Perciak – They will have the minutes of this, and they will have somebody there tomorrow.

Ms. Pientka – I'll send an email and include you too Mayor.

Mayor Perciak – Please.

Sue Mazzola, 3440 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH 44212: Sue Mazzola, 3440 Boston Road, Brunswick. Online...your agenda, I was just wondering what this was about if you could tell me. The widening of another improvement to Boston Road from terminus to terminus including improvements to, or construction or installation of intersection signalization...blah, blah, blah. They all go on. What part of Boston Road is this? You mean you're going to do the work and then you'll tell us?

Mr. Carbone – Once audience participation is over, he will talk on that. Anybody else this evening? Okay, audience participation is now over.

Mr. Jamison – So to answer the question that came up, that is what's...part of what are called TIF ordinances and those are for public improvements. One of the requirements of those ordinances is you have to identify the tax money that is going to be going to the city, that would actually be going to the county originally, and what the public improvements will be used for. In that particular one, that will be...you have to identify the roads or areas that will be improved. So that's why Boston Road was identified in terms of making public improvements to roads, sewers, traffic lights. Whatever it may be...whatever public improvement might be in that area.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Jamison (cont'd) - That's consistent with all of our ordinances in terms of...as they relate to the business that is being built in that location. That's a requirement that has to be in the ordinance.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you Mr. Jamison for clarifying that. We will now go to ordinances and resolutions.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2023-143 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE ADOPTED BY SECTION 1250.03 OF TITLE SIX, PART TWELVE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STRONGSVILLE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES LOCATED IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, ON ROYALTON ROAD, BEING ALL OF PPNs 393-18-006, 393-18-020 and 393-18-022, FROM R1-75 (ONE FAMILY 75) CLASSIFICATION TO PF (PUBLIC FACILITIES) CLASSIFICATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading and referred to the Planning Commission 10-16-23. Favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission 10-26-23 (both including and excluding PPN 393-18-006). Second reading 11-06-23. Public Hearing 12-18-23.*

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. 2023-143 ADOPTED.

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. Second reading 12-04-23.*

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. 2023-165 ADOPTED.

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. Second reading 12-04-23.*

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. 2023-166 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. **AS AMENDED** *First reading 12-04-23.*

Motion by Ms. Kosek to amend the legislation to reflect changes under sections 9-002, and 9-003 concerning hourly pay range schedules, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

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 as amended by Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-170 ADOPTED **AS AMENDED**

Resolution No. 2023-174 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2023-143 TO THE ELECTORS, ESTABLISHING AN ELECTION DATE THEREFOR, 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. Resolution No. 2023-174 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-175 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A WETLAND MITIGATION PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FOLTZ PARKWAY EXTENSION PHASE II PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-175 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-176 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 (FINAL) FOR AN ADJUSTMENT IN THE CONTRACT PRICE REFLECTING A NET DECREASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND FABRIZI TRUCKING & PAVING CO., INC. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALBION ROAD AND WEBSTER ROAD SANITARY SEWER PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-176 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-177 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 254.03 OF CHAPTER 254 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWO OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN ORDER TO ADJUST CERTAIN FEES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES; 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. 2023-177 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-178 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS UTILIZED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND WHICH ARE BEYOND THEIR SERVICE LIFE, OBSOLETE AND/OR DAMAGED AND NO LONGER NEEDED NOR SAFE FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-178 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-179 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR 2023 AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2023-163.

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. 2023-179 ADOPTED.

Resolution No. 2023-180 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO REPURCHASE CERTAIN CERTIFICATES FOR BURIAL RIGHTS IN THE STRONGSVILLE MUNICIPAL CEMETERY. [Grossenbaugh]

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. 2023-180 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-181 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 220.03(a) OF CHAPTER 220 OF TITLE FOUR OF PART TWO-ADMINISTRATION CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING COUNCIL MEETINGS, 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. 2023-181 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-182 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 208.02(f) OF CHAPTER 208 OF TITLE TWO, AND SECTION 222.01 OF CHAPTER 222 OF TITLE FOUR, OF PART TWO-ADMINISTRATION CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING POSTING PLACES, 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. 2023-182 ADOPTED.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

(None)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Motion to accept the written and formal resignation of Councilman-At-Large Joseph C. DeMio for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2025, to be effective at the close of business on December 31, 2023 by Ms. Kosek, second by Ms. Roff. Roll call: Ayes: Kosek, Roff, Clark, Carbone, Short and Kaminski. Abstained: DeMio. Motion carries.

Mr. Carbone – Now we are going to recognize Mr. DeMio. Twenty-eight years of dedicated service to the City of Strongsville. I believe that is the longest acting Councilman in the history; so, congratulations.


At this time, Mayor Perciak read and presented the Proclamation to Mr. DeMio.

(Applause)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Carbone adjourned the meeting at 9:48 p.m.


Marialena Beach
Council Secretary


Date