

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, TUESDAY JANUARY 16, 2018.

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in the Caucus Room at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:15 p.m.**

Present: Council Members: Matthew A. Schonhut, Michael J. Daymut, Joseph C. DeMio, Gordon C. Short and James E. Carbone. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal M. Jamison, Finance Director Joseph K. Dubovec, Communications and Technology Director David E. Sems, Service Director Joe Walker, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Human Resource Director Steve Kilo, Building Commissioner Tony Biondillo, City Engineer Ken Mikula, Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre, Police Chief Mark Fender and Fire Chief Jack Draves.

Council President DeMio called the caucus to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

Planning, Zoning and Engineering Committee: Chairman Daymut advised Ordinance No. 2018-001 is to vacate and extinguish a public sewer & swale easement on PPN 392-02-092 at 12534 Saddlebrook Lane. Planning Commission gave this a favorable recommendation. This easement was originally put in place because it may have been needed; but as the development occurred over a period of time, it was determined it was no longer needed. The recommendation was to suspend and adopt this legislation. Ordinance No. 2018-005 is to amend Section 1270.05 of Chapter 1270 of Part Twelve of the Planning and Zoning Code of the Codified Ordinances concerning parking requirements. This will be placed on first reading and referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendation.

Communications and Technology Committee: Chairman Schonhut recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2018-006; an ordinance ratifying and authorizing participation in a contract for the purchase of cellular communications services and equipment for use by various departments of the city. The contract is with Verizon Wireless for an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00.

Public Service and Conservation Committee: Chairman Carbone recommended suspension and adoption for Resolution No. 2018-007; a resolution authorizing the mayor to advertise for bids for heating, ventilating and air conditioning and plumbing maintenance general services for certain municipal buildings. Mr. DeMio asked Mayor Perciak if anything was going on with a sewer plant on the northern end of town. Mr. Walker advised we are currently waiting for two valves that are needed inside the plant, when the city shuts down to do the bypass. The valves should be delivered in a couple of weeks. Mr. DeMio asked Mr. Walker about a water main break on Deer Path. Mr. Walker advised when he spoke to Cleveland Water last week, about a water main break on Priem Road, they advised they were dealing with numerous water main breaks throughout the county. They are handling the breaks by priority. Mr. Carbone asked Mr. Walker why Priem Road has experienced so many water main breaks on the road. Mr. Walker advised Cleveland Water keeps a log of breaks, and when it reaches a certain threshold, they will contact the city about a potential project replacement.

Economic Development Committee: Chairman Daymut advised there will be no meeting this month. Mr. Daymut also advised that we are still receiving replies from our residential survey that went out to the residents.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. DeMio recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2018-008. This is an ordinance amending Section 876-02(e) of Part Eight of the Business Regulation and Taxation Code of the Codified Ordinances concerning liability insurance for a service provider's use of the public right-of-way. Mr. Jamison advised this is just changing the cancellation notice for liability insurance from 90 days to 30 days. Mr. Jamison advised a conditional objection will be made for the liquor permit application for Convenient Plus, 22933 Sprague Road.

Motion made by Mr. Schonhut, second by Mr. Carbone to approve the Committee of the Whole/Council Search Committee [Ad Hoc] minutes of January 4, 2018. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion made by Mr. Schonhut, second by Mr. Carbone to approve the Committee of the Whole/Council Search Committee [Ad Hoc] minutes of January 8, 2018. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Councilman Schonhut made a motion to go into executive session to consider the appointment of a public official, and for a conference with an attorney(s) for the City of Strongsville concerning disputes involving the City of Strongsville that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. Present were members of Council and Clerk of Council, Aimee Pientka. Also present from the Administration: Law Director Neal Jamison, and Human Resource Director Steve Kilo. It was seconded by Mr. Carbone 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 7:31 p.m. Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka was excused from the executive session at 7:35 p.m. The executive session concluded at 8:02 p.m. and reconvened into open session.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President DeMio called the meeting to order at 8:04 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: Matthew A. Schonhut, Michael J. Daymut, Joseph C. DeMio, Gordon C. Short and James E. Carbone. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal M. Jamison, Finance Director Joseph K. Dubovec, Communications and Technology Director David E. Sems, Service Director Joe Walker, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Human Resource Director Steve Kilo, Building Commissioner Tony Biondillo, City Engineer Ken Mikula, Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre, Public Safety Director Charles Goss, Police Chief Mark Fender and Fire Chief Jack Draves.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 2, 2018 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

(None)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD –:

Mr. DeMio – Ms. Ludwig let us know they did an organizational meeting and they did have school, so that's good news.

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Carbone: Yes Mr. DeMio, there has not been any Southwest meeting, but when the next meeting is I will update on what is going on.

Mr. DeMio – Okay, sounds good.

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Schonhut:

* See Communications and Technology Committee below *

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Schonhut: Thank you Mr. DeMio, we have nothing to report for Building and Utilities tonight. I will roll right into Communications and Technology if that is okay. We have Ordinance No. 2018-006. This is with Verizon for cell services from January 1st to December 2nd. The contract is not to exceed \$125,000.00. I ask that we suspend and adopt that tonight. That is all that I have. I will take any questions for either committee.

Mr. DeMio – Any questions?

(No comments)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Daymut: Thank you Mr. DeMio, we have no ordinances or resolutions on this evening's agenda. I'd like to ask everybody that's watching in the audience, if you have received this residential survey, better known as the census, if you have not filled it out, please take some time and do it. I'd like to report that the response has been really great from the people that have submitted that already. If you have received it at home, you'll have a website to go to. Of course, you can either drop it off at the city or have it mailed in. Since we have not had the opportunity yet to name committees or chairmans, the usual, which is the 4th Monday of the month, for January for economic development will be cancelled. That's all I have this evening Mr. DeMio, thank you.

Mr. DeMio – I appreciate it Michael very much.

FINANCE – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. DeMio, we have no ordinances or resolutions on tonight's agenda but I will happily take any questions.

Mr. DeMio – Any questions for Mr. Short?

(No comments)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Daymut: Thank you Mr. DeMio, Planning, Zoning and Engineering has Ordinance No. 2018-001. That's vacating a public sewer and swale easement at 12534 Saddlebrook Lane. It received favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission. I would ask that we would suspend and adopt that this evening. Finally, we have Ordinance No. 2018-005. This is amending Section 1270.05 of Chapter 1270 of Title Six of Part Twelve of the Planning and Zoning Code of the Codified Ordinances concerning parking requirements. I ask that we place that on first reading and refer to the Planning Commission. That's all I have this evening Mr. DeMio, thank you.

Mr. DeMio – Any questions for Mike?

(No comments)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. DeMio: There are no ordinances or resolutions tonight. Our chiefs gave us a small little update of the weather conditions. Unfortunately, our fire that we had right around the corner on the square, Goldies and the tattoo parlor, and I think Benchmark; but outside of that, there was no other updates for Public Safety or Health.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. Carbone: Thank you, I have one resolution this evening, Resolution No. 2018-007. This is advertising for bids for heating, ventilating and air conditioning, plumbing maintenance and general services for municipal buildings in the city. This is just going for bid. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt. That ends my report.

Mr. DeMio – Any questions for Mr. Carbone?

(No comments)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES –:

(No report)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. DeMio: We did meet in back. The law director and I talked several times since Friday. I believe the agenda is in good order, Mr. Law Director is that accurate?

Mr. Jamison – Correct.

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

MAYOR PERCIAK:

(No report)

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dubovec: Thank you Mr. President, I would like to report that the audit of the city's books has begun-Auditor of State Dave Yost. Auditors, four of them, have been camped out in my office since Thursday and will probably be here for another two months. Secondly, funds will be made available for all ordinances and resolutions on this evening's agenda requiring certification of funding. That ends my report, thank you.

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

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mr. DeMio – Okay, now comes the time for audience participation. We have one signed in, Mr. Zvoncheck. Tim, why don't you come on up. You just need to state your name. You have five minutes. Aimee will be starting a timer and she'll let you know a few minutes before that happens. And please, go ahead.

Tim Zvoncheck, 12440 Steeplechase Lane, Strongsville, OH: Tim Zvoncheck, 12440 Steeplechase Lane, Strongsville. Mayor Perciak, members of Strongsville City Council and all who are in attendance at today's city council meeting. I stand before you in three capacities. One, as a concerned resident of this city; two, quite possibly a former applicant for Ward 3 council seat, and three, as the Commander of the Strongsville's Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3345- an organization who's total existence is based upon honor and integrity. Two years ago I wrote an article for my bi-monthly newsletter and I talked about how embarrassed I was by the demeaning campaigning and Presidential debates that were taking place. We all listened to the Presidential candidates attack each other; and many times, I had to turn off the TV in true disgust. The election finally came and gone, and I was hopeful that this was not only behind us, but this type of politics would stay far from home. Unfortunately, my hopes did not come true, and a tumultuous and often heated campaign hit Strongsville, Ohio. Two members of our council trying to overthrow two of their own just for their own political gain. I had to ask myself, "Where is the honor in that?" While standing with my wife at a city function last January, I was approached by then a ward councilman and was informed that he and another ward councilman were going to run for council-at-large. He also urged me to apply for the Ward 3 position. His words to me were, and I quote, "Dude, if we get in, we could appoint you and then hold meetings down in your basement bar." Although I was intrigued by the possibility of running for city council, which was something I thought about a number of times, I was a little concerned about his comment. I mentally questioned the validity of holding meetings behind the scenes; and I guess I got my first introduction that even in Strongsville, Ohio back-door politics takes place. Throughout this past campaign season, harsh warnings were given about this, but over and over again it was denied. The voters of this city were assured that this did not happen and transparency would be of the utmost priority, but perhaps though I knew a little differently. My words are in no means meant to disrespect any other applicants or those who certain members of council attempted, and I repeat, attempted to appoint without following proper procedures; but more so to shed light on the questionable process that took place. Why did a few members of council operate in such a manner? Why did I receive a phone call on Sunday, January 7th, from Mr. Carbone stating that, "You did an awesome job at the interview, even far better than I expected, but we chose Kelly; however, Joe and I want you to be a part of this city." When did the public meeting and vote take place? It never did. It was a behind-the-scenes scam meant to lead our city council in a certain direction; and I feel badly that Kelly and Ann have become victims of such questionable politics. Gentlemen, contrary to the comments from a few of you over the past couple of weeks, such as: "I bleed green and white," or "This year is going to be fun."...well, Mr. Carbone, Mr. DeMio and Mr. Schonhut, you certainly have shown the residents of this city that those words mean nothing. If you can't hold true to your words, don't speak them. If you can't hold true to the oath you took on January 1st, then step aside and allow someone who can. This is our city. It's not yours and it's time you guys realized this and it's time the residents of this city hold you accountable for your actions. With that being said, I along with many residents of this city demand that you recuse yourself from this process, as it is certainly impossible for you to make an unbiased decision on the upcoming appointment process. You couldn't follow the rules the first time around; how will you be fair on round 2? Thank you for your time.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

(Applause)

Mr. DeMio – Who would like to come to the podium next? Okay, let me just share with you please come one at a time, and state your name and your address. Just remember, you have five minutes.

Margaret Queen, 16836 Wolf Run Circle, Strongsville, OH: I'm very new at this, this is my very first council meeting.

Mr. DeMio – Take your time. Just state your name and spell it if you will, if it's a little different.

Ms. Queen – My name is Margaret Queen, and my daughter was a candidate.

Mr. DeMio – Could you give us your address please?

Ms. Queen – Yes, 16836 Wolf Run Circle, Strongsville, OH. This is not what that's about though. This is about what the last gentleman...

Mr. DeMio - What street again?

Ms. Queen – Wolf Run Circle. I've lived there for there for like 28 years. Like I said, I'm new at this. I watch Ellen because usually I'm babysitting my 3 year old grandson. This is about what the gentleman just said, and it really made me mad. I'm a Strongsville resident and I voted for Mr. Carbone and Mr. Schonhut and I'm just meeting all of you, even the mayor, for the very first time right now. I've lived here for 26 years and I never met any of you or the mayor and that surprises me. I voted for you guys because I want your voices heard. I voted for them and Mr. DeMio also for your values. I research people and I research your values and I want your voices heard. That's what they are trying to prevent. I'm watching Facebook and seeing cronies and all this other stuff posted before the truth is heard. Right now, all Strongsville hears and all Cleveland.com hears is rumors. We need a statement. We really do need a statement of the truth because we're hearing all bull crap from sore losers who didn't win at 7:30 a.m. when other candidates did even get a phone call. We're getting sore losers complaining. What we want, and they're talking about experience... (Unintelligible) I'm a Strongsville resident and we want somebody here who care about what we want. I'll tell you an experience today, but today Hunting Meadows had a little issue right on Facebook. Everybody was panicking because there was an electricity thing going on. I was like well, who do we tag? Who do you tag for ward 2? So I tagged Mr. Schonhut real quick; and then we solved it ourselves so I untagged you...I don't know if you saw that. But then he did pop out and solve it. We didn't know if our electricity was going to be cut off tomorrow and I have a 3 year old grandson at home that I take care of; and I'm like what am I going to do? They were threatening to cut it off from 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. We care about that our voices are heard. We voted for these men and we want their voices heard. Taking that away from them is wrong. I'm sure this has been done in the past. Am I allowed to speak again?

Mr. DeMio – You have two more minutes...a little more than two minutes.

Ms. Queen – Well, some terms on Facebook have been "cronies" and "good-old boys." Well, are we really going to talk about good-old boys? That's really a racist term. When you look it up, the actual definition is a racist term about southerners. But cronies, I hope you all are cronies. I want you guys to be cronies, every single one of you. I want all of you to be cronies because Strongsville used to be something and something is happening to Strongsville. Something is seriously happening in Strongsville and we're not liking it. Somebody is not listening to us. Get on Facebook and listen to what the actual voters want. They don't want somebody trashing other candidates because they didn't win.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Queen (cont'd) - They don't want the trashing of you guys. I appreciate every single one of you up there. I appreciate every single one of you and what you do. Fight...if you're fighting against something, we want to know why you're fighting against it, not, "We're just fighting it." We want to know; we want to know why. That's it.

(Applause)

Jenny Baker, 2202 Stone Ridge Circle, Berea, OH: Hello, my name is Jenny Baker. I reside in Berea, 2202 Stone Ridge Circle. I am a former resident of Strongsville. I have been reading articles and Facebook pages pertaining to the vacant council seats. I understand that rules have to be followed, but there's one word that keeps popping in my mind as I read all these articles; and the word is bully. I'm a little nervous...the definition of bully is: "Use of superior strength or influence to intimidate someone; typically, to force him or her to do what one wants." That is what I'm reading with all these articles and the Facebook. Comments have been taken down off the Facebook and I've read those too; they're gone now. I'm glad that some of those comments have been removed. In my opinion, she doesn't know I'm going to say this, there's only one candidate that worked fearlessly and relentlessly to stop the slip ramp. That work has been done by her and others to protect the safety of families, children and pets so that there's not a freeway, a slip ramp going through the neighborhoods. I think that candidate would be perfect for your council seat, thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. DeMio – Anyone else?

Erin Lally, 16187 Drake Road, Strongsville, OH: Erin Lally, 16187 Drake Road. Mayor Perciak, members of council, I am here tonight to speak on behalf of the residents of Ward 2 and the City of Strongsville residents, the silent majority who are neither protestors nor political activists, about this recent vacancy appointment process. It's self-evident that the three at-large councilmen have acted dishonorably, resulting in this new process that does absolutely nothing to quell the reservations the voters have about the fairness of it. This process as it stands, no matter what you say or how you try to spin it, doesn't give anybody a fair shake; least of all, those of us who already put ourselves out there to serve our community and were already told no thanks. But, what I want to say most of all to the three at-large councilmen is that you have disrespected so many people-your colleagues, law director, clerk of council, our many mutual friends, the residents of Ward 2, the voters who recently elected you and put their trust in you, and the women of Strongsville, especially Kelly and Ann. You dishonored the very democratic process itself. The voters who elected you for change didn't want you to act illegally or make crony appointments or to conduct an unfair process. The voters sent you here to do a job and do your job well as the legislative branch of government. We the people expected you to provide honest, smart, hardworking leadership. We expected you to make decisions transparently, professionally and honorably. That's what we expect and we deserve nothing less. Clearly, you have violated Executive Session Law. The State Auditor's website outlines restrictions on Executive Session. There it shows there can be no decision making; and yet, I received a phone call on January 7th telling me that a decision was made. I received this letter dated January 9th advising me that city council has decided to start the process over. Both decisions are in violation of law, and the penalty for violation is one, "Any action taken in Executive Session is void," and two-perhaps more importantly for this process, "Any action taken in open session which results from an unlawful Executive Session is also void." So, for these reasons and for good government, I join with others who have asked you to recuse yourselves and I encourage you to have nothing further to do with this process, thank you.

(Applause)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Bob Stein, 9708 Fair Road, Strongsville, OH: Bob Stein, 9708 Fair Road, Strongsville, OH. I was one of the candidates. I have some experience with Executive Sessions, having dealt with them as a chairman of a major pension system and in some other situations. It appears to me that this council has acted appropriately, having been in this environment before.

(Applause)

Mr. Stein – It appears that you have conducted Executive Session, and I'm not a lawyer, but I mentalized this because we use it often, under Section 121.22(d)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code that you did what were you were supposed to do. I thank you for your service, I thank you for putting up with this; and it appears to me that it's the way it should be. In addition, from having done this before—been on your side of it and appointing people to a board who are normally elected, there is substantial...not substantial, but there is a significant amount of information that suggests that diversity on a board or a panel of any kind—particularly a legislative panel, is appropriate. There is reason to believe that your decision was reasonable and that's my opinion. Executive Session—I think you did it right and I probably would have gone under Division (g)(8) as well, but you don't have to make your discussion public, only your decision has to be made public when you're dealing with Executive Session rules. The only reason I came up to talk about this is because normally, you don't respond to people who are making public comment. Thank you for your service.

(Applause)

Emily Jevic, 12520 Coopers Run, Strongsville, OH: My name is Emily Jevic, I live at 12520 Coopers Run. I have prepared absolutely nothing. I have never done this before; but Ms. Lally said she was speaking for those of us who are not political activists and who are residents of Strongsville. I'm not political. I have maybe voted if I felt strongly about an issue. I did vote in the November Election because I do think you have some candidates who are very well qualified and will be excellent additions to your council. Mr. Stein, he said the right thing. You followed the process that was legal. You should not be slammed for following that process and I think that usually the squeaky wheel does get the attention; in this case, it should not. The residents of Strongsville want a board to be strong, stand up for the law, do what's right and get the job done. So it's time; it's time to just get the job done...put the squeaky wheels away. Thank you for speaking your peace, but now it's time to move on and do our job and do what is right for the city.

(Applause)

Mr. DeMio – Could you spell your name for the record please?

Ms. Pientka – Your first and last name.

Ms. Jevic – Emily, E-M-I-L-Y, Jevic, J-E-V-E-C.

John Bourjaily, 17099 Greenwood Drive, Strongsville, OH: John Bourjaily, 17099 Greenwood Drive. First of all, I would like to commend council for their Executive Session, with the advice of their law director. You know what? The people spoke in November. It's time to make the appointments, time to move on in a positive manner for this city. The mayor has done a great job in his leadership; he's accepted it. Council needs to accept what the people accept. The people spoke in November and elected this council. It is time to move and not divide this city anymore. We have individuals from the Republican Club, from the Democratic Club...all you want to do is divide this city. It's not healthy for our city. The mayor will tell you it doesn't affect our bond ratings; it does. He'll tell you it doesn't affect businesses which it does. It affects the city. It is time to heal and move forward.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Bourjaily (cont'd) - I commend this council for a great job, by the advice of their law director, in the way you conducted your business. People didn't get elected or appointed; sorry, you didn't get the job. Move on, and let's heal this city and let's move forward in a positive manner. Strongsville is a great place to live. We moved here in 1990 for the school district and for the city. It's improved over years; let's keep that improvement moving forward, thank you.

(Applause)

Jessica Cozza, 9812 Hazelwood Avenue, Strongsville, OH: My name is Jessica Cozza, C-O-Z-Z-A. I reside at 9812 Hazelwood Avenue. I'm here, honestly, on behalf of my friend Kelly. I think that I had to come here tonight to just give my point of view on all of this. I'm a former New Yorker and I moved to Strongsville because I came here for the school district; I came here for the community; I heard great things about it. I originally lived in North Royalton, but that was because that was the only place I could get an apartment in a short amount of time. I moved here full-time pregnant by the way. I just basically want to say that, first of all, I am in no way politically averse. Everything is kind of new to me. I always found myself to be in the middle of the political spectrum. I just want to point out that Kelly helped me out with a great situation that I had. My son is 6. He is on the spectrum. A big problem that I have with him is most kids on the spectrum have a problem with awareness of danger. I have done everything I could, therapy...he did safety town. He did safety town through Strongsville, through the Autism Society of Greater Cleveland. He just doesn't understand that the road is a dangerous place; so I had to get a fence. I went through the Cuyahoga County Board of Developments and Disabilities, applied for a home modification grant. I was granted it after months of observations and testings and everything to prove that this is actually happening; being that he actually bolted out of my arms in my driveway and my neighbor almost hit him. What was holding up the process was I needed a survey. The survey was going to cost us close to a thousand dollars. I have a large piece of property. The thing is the Board of Disabilities only covers 250 feet of fence. I agreed to that, even though my yard was way more than 250 feet. I had made phone calls; I had emailed, nobody responded to me. I saw Kelly at a PTA meeting. I said, "I don't know what to do." She helped me. Within a week, I had my answers; I got to waive the survey if I agreed to change my plan and come in one foot from the property line. She really didn't know me very well, and now we talk almost every day. I already had, even before the school thing happened, that she was going to get my vote for the council election. I just want you to know that she would be a great asset for you guys to have. You guys need a woman on here. You guys need a mom. I feel that she would represent a good part of your city. I do have to say, I do enjoy living here and I never want to move. That's really all I have to say; I just wanted to let you hear that.

(Applause)

Ron Schroth, 21432 Oakwood Place, Strongsville, OH: Ron Schroth, S-C-H-R-O-T-H, 21432 Oakwood Place. I just want to clear up one thing that I read in some of the articles. Were all five of you present when you decided to make the decision? All five? We're you there Mr. Short?

Mr. Short – The law director...

Mr. DeMio – We can't, unfortunately, go back and forth. This is your time to speak. I know it's uncomfortable for some people. That's the guidelines, the rules. Our law director can respond if he wishes.

Mr. Jamison – At this point, I've advised council not to make any comments about that. That's where we're at.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Schroth – So, was this in Executive Session law director?

Mr. Jamison – I can give advice to council and that's all I can really talk about at this time.

Mr. Schonhut – Mr. Law Director, can we at least say that all five of us were present there for all interviews for all applicants?

Mr. Jamison – That's up to you Mr. Schonhut.

Mr. Schonhut – All five of us were present for all interviews for the applicants.

Mr. Schroth – So, the article is incorrect. That's more fake news I guess, right? Okay, one thing I will say is I've lived in this city since 1989. I will say that I started out here with Joe; calling him about some issues in the city. He and I did not see eye to eye. After a while, we had kind of grown on each other in regards to his responses. Just the other day, I called him for our streets; which thank you, they were cleaned quite quickly. He responded quickly; and he's done that every time, good or bad. Some of you know me, I don't mix words. I say whether you are doing a bad job or doing a good job. This man's integrity is bar none. When he sits there and says something, it's true and it's real. If anybody wants to disparage him they have to come through me first, thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. DeMio – Is there anyone else that would like to come to the podium? Please come up.

Crystal Queen, 16836 Wolf Run Circle, Strongsville, OH: Hi guys, my name is Crystal Queen. I'm at 16836 Wolf Run Circle. I just wanted to say that I fully trust the men that the others have talked about; the councilmen actually in front of me today. I actually wrote all this down on my phone because I have so much to say. I didn't know if I could get it out in five minutes. I'm going to hurry up and shove it all in real quick. I apologize, I don't want to be rude and not look at you guys when I'm talking but I'm going to do that. I also trust the law director's judgement and his advice for the city and the council. With that being said, I feel that this whole narrative about cronyism and the appointment process is out of spite and hatred. There are many people here today who have been instructed to come and ask for clear, open and honest government. That's one thing we can agree on that we all want. In regards to filling these seats, I'm pretty sure the same procedure was used in 2011 when Mr. Southworth was appointed. Nobody questioned it then so why is it being questioned now? That's my question. The same procedure was followed starting May 31, 2011 when Mr. Southworth was interviewed along with other applicants. More applicants were interviewed in the Executive Session of June 2, 2011. A meeting was then held June 8, 2011, which members adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters regarding the appointment of a new member. Mr. Mark Roth left that meeting early. Six days later, a special meeting was held in which Mr. Southworth was presented the Oath of Office by the mayor, along with his family members in attendance. Mr. Southworth was invited to this special meeting with his family, thus being told what the meeting was for. This was all back in 2011 like I said. It wasn't a problem back then. I'm not quite sure if there's difference between then and now. I'm at a loss of what the difference is and why it is a problem now and wasn't back then. Just because someone does not agree with a decision doesn't mean you can bully them into changing their mind or put people down for it. There are no excuses for name calling just because you are hurt or don't agree with something. There are no participation trophies. Arguing and accusations won't settle problems. By doing so, it's only going to spread more hate and divide in this city. That's not what this city is about. I grew up here. My son is growing up here. I care about this city. I care about the residents and I care about council. More hatred is not what the residents want; it's not what you want.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Queen (cont'd) - If you want to look for clear and open and honest government, you can take a look at the people that I'm standing in front of right now... the ones that people keep talking about. I trust you guys... I do, and I hope that every single one of you have the resident's best interests at heart. I know you do. I apologize if anyone has ever doubted that and I'm sorry that you're having to deal with all this controversy. I respect you; I give you credit for what you do. Thank you for your time and for dealing with all of us talking to you tonight. Thank you Aimee too. I know you go through a lot and you have a hard job. I don't think anyone really ever acknowledges that so thank you. You do a great job.

Ms. Pientka – Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. DeMio – She does deserve claps by the way. She puts up with a lot. Anyone else?

Leslie Hohenfeld, 18183 Howe Road, Strongsville, OH: Leslie Hohenfeld, 18183 Howe Road. I'm only standing here in response to many negative things that were said on Facebook and a few articles. I want to clarify some things about the applicants. I have not known Ann Roff long but in the short period that I have known her, she has impressed me with her idyllic ways that give me confidence in her ability to be an outstanding member of Strongsville City Council. I have spent the majority of my career running small and large social service agencies that provide support services to adults and children with disabilities. I know how to recognize people with exceptional organizational skills and leadership qualities. As you know, Ann organized the Ward 2 area to respond to the city's plan to change the very landscape of Howe Road's and Shurmer Road's neighborhoods. Sorry, I just turned 60 so I can't read anything without my glasses. She organized an entire ward in a way that had not been seen before and was based on her own research of a study that did not fully support the slip ramp, of the agencies, the procedures, the officials that would likely define the project, and the best methods to stop the plan with community activism. Ann took that ongoing research and put it into action. This is evidence of Ann Roth's very and exceptional abilities and drive to find and implement the best solutions to problems both big and small; and her compassion for her fellow Strongsville residents- all vital qualities for a successful city councilmember. During the last city council elections, on various local Facebook group discussions, it was expressed over and over by many Strongsville residents that they thought that they were not being fully represented; that there was a need for women on council, ones that could especially relate to the majority of Strongsville residents. I believe Ann Roff is a person that the majority of Strongsville residents, and especially Ward 2, would say can fully relate to the needs of their city and neighborhood, today and into the future, thank you.

(Applause)

Sara Marxen, 20624 Albion Road, Strongsville, OH: Hi there, my name is Sara Marxen. I live at 20624 Albion Road. I believe the same process happened in 2011 with Mr. Southworth's appointment, but just because it wasn't called out then doesn't mean it was right. Mr. Jamison may not want to acknowledge any impropriety, but the appearance of impropriety is there. Some folks here have asked you to rescue yourself; and I ask that does not happen. If that happens, we have two people voting on the appointment. I don't even think that you can have two people to vote on the appointment. I hope that the past few weeks have been a learning experience. I trust that the five of you will get it right the next time, thank you.

(Applause)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Laura Green, 19254 Heather Lane, Strongsville, OH: My name is Laura Green, G-R-E-E-N. I live at 19254 Heather Lane. I didn't plan on speaking tonight but after listening to everything that has been said here tonight, I think there is something...what we need to keep in mind here is all this negativity and all this bashing of the candidates is ridiculous and wrong. It's amazing to me that so many people came forward to fill these two vacancies. I think that speaks volumes of our residents and their concern for our community and for council and for everything that goes on in this city. With that said, I then have to question if this process was done correctly, why are we going to redo this process? If all the proper protocols and procedures were followed in selecting these candidates, why then do we have to redo it? So it's not that anybody here is a sore loser and bashing the people who were selected; there just saying, "Hey, was this done correctly?" That's what I'm asking too, thank you.

(Applause)

Curt Bissell, 21611 Fairfield Place, Strongsville, OH: Hi, Curt Bissell, 21611 Fairfield Place. I first got involved, I've lived in Strongsville for about two years and Kelly Kosek is a neighbor of mine and she asked me to get involved in the campaigns back in November. Now those campaigns are over and the City of Strongsville selected those of you to be on the At-Large. As you've gone through this process, I don't know all of the innuendos and hearsay that's going on, but what I do know is that as you're considering who you are going to put on this council, I think you need to consider Kelly. I already heard that supposedly she was selected in this first round. As you go back through a process, my concern would be that you're going to...natural human instinct would be to take those two candidates off the table and interview everybody else. You would do Strongsville a great disservice if you do that. Kelly got 5,000 votes almost...

(Applause)

Mr. Bissell – 4,700 and something...we'll round up to 5,000. My point is she went out, she did the hard work, and she campaigned. The City of Strongsville spoke and said we want her there. Did she fall short, yes, but she has all of the qualifications of an outstanding councilperson. She's got a law background, she is a mother in this city, she's lived here a long time, she cares about this city and nobody is going to pull anything over on her. I don't know about you guys, but that's what I think we need. I hope that you will still consider that and I hope that the challenging of this process, whether it was legal or not, I hope it's not being challenged because people are sore about not getting picked. I hope that we get the right people in place. We do need diversity. I stand here as a young father of four kids, four boys, and I would tell you we need a mom on this council, thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. DeMio – Okay, with no one coming up, I am going to close audience participation.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2018-001 by Mr. Daymut. AN ORDINANCE VACATING AND EXTINGUISHING A PUBLIC SEWER & SWALE EASEMENT ON PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 392-02-092, AT 12534 SADDLEBROOK LANE, IN THE ANDRUS WOODS WESTWOOD FARMS SUBDIVISION NO. 16, IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE. *First reading and referred to Planning Commission 01-02-18. Favorable recommendation by Planning Commission 01-11-18.*

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Schonhut.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2018-001 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2018-005 by Mayor Perciak and Mr. Daymut. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1270.05 OF CHAPTER 1270 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWELVE OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING PARKING REQUIREMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on first reading and referred to the Planning Commission.

Ordinance No. 2018-006 by Mr. Schonhut. AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN UNITED STATES GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF CELLULAR COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Schonhut.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2018-006 ADOPTED.

Resolution No. 2018-007 by Mayor Perciak and Mr. Carbone. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING AND PLUMBING MAINTENANCE GENERAL SERVICES FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE.

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Schonhut.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2018-007 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2018-008 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 876.02(e) OF TITLE TWO OF PART EIGHT OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION AND TAXATION CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR A SERVICE PROVIDER'S USE OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Schonhut.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2018-008 ADOPTED.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

*Application for Permit: **TRFO-C1-C2-D6I**: To: Radhe Anand, LLC; DBA: Convenient Plus, 22933 Sprague Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44149 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 1/26/2018).*

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

(None)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Dooner adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Signature on file
Aimee K. Pientka, MMC
Clerk of Council

February 5, 2018
Date