

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL STRONGSVILLE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 18688 ROYALTON ROAD.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President DeMio called the meeting to order at 5:02 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, Gordon C. Short, Annmarie P. Roff, Joseph C. DeMio, James E. Carbone and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal M. Jamison and Assistant Law Director Daniel J. Kolick.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Motion of Council to accept the written and formal resignation of Ward 1 Councilmember Michael J. Daymut for the term ending December 31, 2019, to be effective at the close of business on November 10, 2018.

Mr. DeMio – I do want to make a note here, and Mr. Law Director, I apologize if I go a little off key here based on my feelings about Mike. On November 13, 2018, the Clerk of Council, Aimee Pientka, who sits to my left, received a letter from Michael J. Daymut, dated November 10, 2018 resigning as the Ward 1 Councilman for the City of Strongsville. I will now read that letter into record. "Dear Ms. Pientka; (that would be our Clerk to the left) I hereby tender my resignation from the Strongsville City Council as Ward 1 Councilman, effective at the close of business on Saturday, November 10, 2018." This is the official statement signed by Michael Daymut. For the folks on TV, we have the letter here. I will now need a motion to accept Michael J. Daymut's resignation. Jim, if you could.

Motion by Mr. Carbone, seconded by Mr. Schonhut to accept the written and formal resignation of Ward 1 Councilmember Michael J. Daymut for the term ending December 31, 2019, to be effective at the close of business on November 10, 2018. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Mr. DeMio – Mr. Law Director, before we make our personal statements about Mike. Does this satisfy what you believe the requirements are?

Mr. Jamison – Yes.

Mr. DeMio – Okay, if I may start. I will not forget the day when I first won. Mike Daymut came to my house and sat at my little table and he went over all the ins and outs on council. I did not know Mike well. I knew he was always in the back of the chambers, before he became a councilman a few years before I did. He was a quite leader. He would always give advice if you asked. From the first day I met him, he always had that open door. Two things that I thought was unique about Mike. Mike, if you're listening, you are going to laugh. If you're

seeing what we're doing, you're going to laugh. I hope you don't have any tears; because it's all joy for me when I think about you. You were a guy I could disagree with; but, I could never stay mad at. You have that unique ability and I think that was so important about you and it made me, I hope, become a better councilmember because I watched you do that when I was new. I said it, just the other day, about how we would disagree on things; whether it was administrative or financial or whatever the business of the day is. You were a guy that could never...I could never stay upset with it...just a unique ability. Your wife June was always the class of your house. Here's my great story about you Mike. Many years ago, you were kidnapped as a UPS driver at the gun store in Middleburg Heights. The whole city was in an uproar. They found you. Pat Coyne, myself and I...that was it. We went to your house. You opened the door, "What the heck are you guys doing here?" That was you Mike. Nothing ever made you get nervous or flounder or caught you off guard. You were such a gentleman to us. You made me feel safe that you were okay. You never acted like anything was really wrong; but, you are an awesome guy. I will terribly, terribly miss you and my kids that went to Ohio University, I always told them, you know...you're part of their lives too. I'm going to turn this one over to the mayor, because he served with him as long as I have. Maybe a few years difference; but not much.

Mayor Perciak – Thank you Mr. President, Michael, thank you for your many, many years of service. I can't begin to put into words how difficult this day is for so many of us. You have served notably. You truly were an example for all of us. For each and every one of us. Those of us who have served here and those of us who have retired and moved on to other careers. You were truly a model. You were a true representative. You were a gentleman at all times. For all that, we respect you and we can't begin to put into words the number of hours that you dedicated to this job. I can't say enough about your wonderful wife June. She has been at your side all these years and she is really been strong throughout your lengthy illness. I know in your heart of hearts, if you could be here you'd be here with us. I know you would never, ever, ever have thought of retiring ahead of time before your term was over; but, we understand that you're enduring some difficult times and I just want to let you know that from the bottom of my heart, I say thank you. I thank you for your service and I thank you for your love for this community. That's all I have to say Mr. President.

Mr. DeMio – So, we'll kind of go in seniority. I'm going to flip the table...flip the coin actually. C comes before S; so, it's Carbone's turn.

Mr. Carbone – Mike, if you are watching, I wanted to thank you for all your service, your time, your dedication to the city. I remember him coming to me when I use to sit in the back and watch the council meetings and that's how I learned that you, Mike, did the same thing. We'd go to a lot of Planning meetings and etc. Mike, you were always one, maybe you didn't always agree; but, it was always one that you could always reach out to get an honest answer. You might not like the answer; but, you knew it was an honest answer. I respected that. I respected your relationship, yes with your wife- always by his side, always supporting; which is probably a very good thing right now. Lots of love, prayers and I think for myself and everybody, if anything is ever needed, to please call one of us. It's your turn to make the call and not the constituent.

Mr. DeMio – Very true. Matt?

Mr. Schonhut – Come back to me.

Mr. DeMio – You got it. Mr. Short?

Mr. Short – Thank you Mr. DeMio, Mike, this is a tough day for all of us because we loved you on council. We need you on this council and long before I was on this council you were a friend; somebody who gave me a lot of advice, who was always one to listen and be supportive. It was my honor and my pleasure to serve with you knowing, if not for your health issues, you'd still be here with us and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family that you have a recovery and get back up on your feet and for your wife June that she continue to be your rock; which I know she is. We love you. We miss you. Again, as Jim said, if you need anything. Reach out to us. We're here for you. For you and your family and for June as well. You will always be a part of our family and God Bless you and God speed that you make a recovery. Thank you.

Mr. DeMio – Matt?

Mr. Schonhut – Yes, so excuse me, today is a sad day for all of us up here and a sad day for Strongsville losing Mike, being up here who has severed for just about as long as I've been alive in this city. He has been up here on this council; which is crazy to think about. Mike was always a man of the people and as everybody said, not everybody agrees up here at times; but damn, he's an honest guy. He always did what he believed was best and he was always there for the residents and that's why people believed in him, to be up here for as many years as he was. Just over the last couple months that Mike hasn't been here, that he has been fighting the fight towards a better health, there has been plenty of times where we would've loved to have him been here; to have the knowledge of things that went on and why they went on and how things were done. This is impossible to replace. Whoever takes representation of Ward 1 next will never been able to fill the boots that Mike wore. He did a heck of job and was there for me being a young guy coming onto council and taking my hand and showing me how things are done; but, showing me how things are done the right way while representing the residents in the best way you that you can. Mike, we wish you good health and we'll miss you up here; but, we know that we'll see you around town somewhere soon because we know that you have your hand in just about everything that goes on here in Strongsville.

Mr. DeMio – Ms. Kosek?

Ms. Kosek – Serving on this council for just under a year with Mike was an honor. From the moment that I reached out to him as a candidate, he was willing to take my call and to talk to me about any issues that I needed his insight on. Like others have said, Mike is as honest as the day is long; completely welcoming to me when I was appointed to the council. He certainly is incredibly direct; which is rare and valuable serving on a council like this. He is so steadfast and such a wealth of knowledge for the history of this city and I relied on that having him on council. To be able to ask him questions about why something was done a certain way is just something that is irreplaceable. His dedication is something that we can all admire and aspire to. He's just an incredibly honorable man and I am sorry to see his resignation today. I wish he and his family all the best as he works to get healthy. Thank you.

Mr. DeMio – And, Ms. Roff?

Ms. Roff – Like Kelly said, we didn't have a lot of time to serve with Mike here on this side. The same that everybody has said that...honest, whether you agreed with him or not he gave you full honesty. Like Joe said, you couldn't stay mad at him because there's...behind the honesty or trying to be mad at a decision, there was a gentle soul that knew why you were on the side of fence that you were on. Even though he won't agree with you, he understood where you were coming from. When I sat out there, I think a lot of times when I talked to Mike when I was fighting my fight that brought me here. I think a lot of times the

talked to Mike when I was fighting my fight that brought me here. I think a lot of times the guys up here threw him at me to...as the peacemaker. He didn't mix any words with whether he agreed with the situation or not; but, like I said, he appreciated where I was coming from. He appreciates where his residents come from. You can tell the kind of person that he is by the friends that he keeps around him and the family that he has. How they look up to him and like Matt said, it's not going to be a fillable seat in all reality. Nobody will be able to have that knowledge and that kindness and that compassion that he has and the appreciation that he has for holding a spot that he's sat in. I will continue to pray for him and his family and I know he's a strong man and I do not take for granted the time that I got to serve here with him. That's for sure.

Mr. DeMio – Mr. Jamison?

Mr. Jamison – Thanks Joe. I would just add, I think that everybody else has been pretty eloquent in terms of expressing their support and gratefulness for his service. I would point out that this would have been the 27th; this is his 27th year of serving the city. In talking to his wife the last couple of weeks, she's expressed how much love and support that the City of Strongsville, and in particular those in Ward 1, have given Mike and his family during the time of his illness and I related to June that that is a testament to his legacy. To all the hard work, his love for this community and that it's a legacy that will go on for a long time and will truly be remembered as something he and his family should be proud of. I just want to add that God speed to Mike as he recovers going forward. Thank you.

Mr. DeMio – Mr. Kolick, I wouldn't ever forget you. You served with him longer than anyone.

Mr. Kolick – I knew Mike before he was on council when he was just running. Even before, as Jim said, he would come to council meetings. He would come to Planning Commission meetings and he would always stop me and say, "What's happening here?" "What's going on?" I'm going to miss his weekly calls where he would call and say, "I'm calling you to find out what's really going on here." I'll miss him professionally. I'll miss him personally. His family, June as we said, has been a rock and is always with him and I'll keep him in my prayers. Thanks.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you. Aimee, in closing?

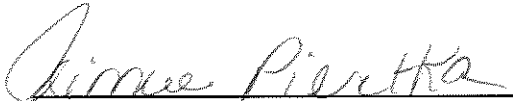
Ms. Pientka – I came on to council about 12 years ago and Mr. Daymut was there as a mentor to me and helped get me to transition from my previous position (static interference). Sorry....I think it's okay now....is it okay...to the clerk of council. Like Mr. Jamison said, I think everybody up here has pretty much summed up Mike in his role as a councilman. The one thing that I think I could probably add is that I got to work with Mr. Daymut a lot behind the scenes; that a lot of people don't get to see. That's not televised on TV or at public meetings and I think I'd like to make sure that it's pointed out that this man would always come in and I'd see him holding raffle tickets that he bought for some charity or function or activity going on; whether it was with the schools or with The Chamber or The Rotary. There wasn't a ticket or a volunteer service this man would not step up for. He would even buy popcorn from our families and our children or different things like that. He was just always there volunteering. He would check on the buildings over at the historical society and this was all done behind the scenes where people didn't see that or didn't know that. I just think Mr. Daymut has dedicated his service with such integrity and such dignity and class that he has set the bar for all elected and appointed officials up here and for those that will follow. Thank you.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you so much. Mr. Carbone, excuse me, this is not on (referring to the mic). There we go. Start over. Mr. Carbone has a motion for us.

Mr. Carbone made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters relating to City Council. It was seconded by Mr. Schonhut to adjourn from open session into executive session in accordance with Article XI, Section 9 of the City Charter. Also present from the Administration: Law Director Neal Jamison and Assistant Law Director Dan Kolick. All members presented voted aye and the motion carried. The council convened in executive session at 5:24 p.m. The executive session concluded at 6:07 p.m. and reconvened into open session.

Mr. DeMio – Okay, we have concluded executive session and have no other business at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.



Aimee Pientka, MMC
Clerk of Council

12-03-18

Date of Approval