

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY MARCH 4, 2019.

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, March 4, 2019 at 7:15 p.m.**

Present: Council Members: Matthew A. Schonhut, Annmarie P. Roff, Matthew P. Patten, Joseph C. DeMio, Kelly A. Kosek, 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, Public Safety Director Charles Goss, Police Chief Mark Fender and Fire Chief Jack Draves.

Absent: Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre.

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 Schonhut advised Ordinance No. 2019-030 is an ordinance approving and adopting the Strongsville Master Plan 2018. The recommendation was to place this on second reading and refer to Planning Commission for their recommendation. Mr. Schonhut advised council will have a special meeting in the future to discuss this plan. Suspension and adoption was recommended for Ordinance No. 2019-035; an ordinance authorizing the mayor to enter into a contract for improvements to the sanitary sewer system in connection with the 2019 sanitary sewer rehabilitation program. Lake Co. Sewer was the low bid on this project, just over \$397,000.00. Suspension and adoption was recommended for Ordinance No. 2019-036. This is an agreement with ODOT and the cities of Middleburg Heights and Parma Heights to resurface Pearl Road from Valley Parkway all the way up to Snow Road. Strongsville cost for this is roughly \$384,000.00. Ms. Roff asked what fund our share of costs would come from. Mr. Dubovec advised the motor vehicle fund. Ms. Kosek asked when the project would start. Mr. Mikula advised in August. Suspension and adoption was recommended for Ordinance No. 2019-037. This is an ordinance to proceed with the reconstruction and widening of Sprague Road from West 130 St. to Webster Road. Mr. Mikula advised our city has already previously entered into an agreement with the county to do this; this legislation is requesting for them to include some sewer repairs with it. The result will be a new 3 lane concrete road.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Short recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2019-038; an ordinance for a contract to purchase 57 sets of firefighting turnout gear for use by the fire department. Mr. Short advised the firemen needs two sets of fire gear because if one is used in a fire, they are not wearing gear that has been contaminated with carcinogens and potentially compromised. Chief Draves advised the use of life for this gear is 10 years. After that time, it has to be taken out of service. Currently, the backup gear expired in 2005; so the fire department wants to get on a 5 year schedule to keep both sets up to standards. Chief Draves also advised the vendor for this contract came in under the State contract price because of the quantity the city is buying, along with being a loyal customer. Mr. Short advised Ordinance No. 2019-039 is to enact new sections 636.23 and 636.24 of the Codified Ordinances concerning electronic smoking devices. This legislation is sponsored by Ms. Kosek and Ms. Roff. Mr. Short advised this legislation is designed to focus on juveniles that maybe using these products. Mr. Jamison advised this legislation would have juvenile offenders go to juvenile court where potential sanctions could be a monetary fine or an educational program. The juvenile would not be judged a delinquent child. This mirrors the laws for cigarettes for anyone under the age of 18. Ms. Kosek advised that this is not dependent on the device

containing nicotine; it's the possession of the device or any paraphernalia related to the device being a violation. Ms. Kosek advised that her and Ms. Roff felt strongly about making this educational so the city makes sure that the first level of consequence for an offender would be education and/or community service. In regards to the fine, Ms. Kosek advised that they are open to discussing whether that fine should go up to \$100. A monetary fine is in the cigarette legislation; however, it is not Ms. Kosek's preferred first offence option. A second offense, or not following what the court ordered an offender to do could include more hours of community service, a higher fine, or lose their driver's license for up to 30 days. Ms. Kosek advised that Ann and her preference would be to have these issues sent back to our local magistrate so the city could have more control in imposing the sentence. Ms. Roff advised each juvenile will be judged individually based on past convictions, school records and juvenile records. Ms. Roff stated the big issue in this is to crack down on business owners selling this paraphernalia to minors. Currently, State law states it is not illegal to sell this to minors. The sale of nicotine is illegal but the sale of paraphernalia is not. Ms. Roff advised it is illegal to be in possession of this paraphernalia on school property; and many cases have been referred over to our police department. Mr. DeMio advised he doesn't believe the county's juvenile court will be willing to hand these cases over to our Mayor's court to handle. Mr. Carbone commended Ms. Kosek and Ms. Roff for their hard work in creating this legislation. He likes that our city is taking an initiative on this because this is an issue amongst our teenagers. Mr. Carbone works in a high school and states the numbers are staggering for use of this. Ms. Roff asked if the legislation could make the first offense mandatorily be heard in our Mayor's Court. Mr. Jamison advised no; the process is that juvenile court has jurisdiction over any offenses provided in a local or State code. They make the determination whether it stays in their court or gets sent back to our diversion program. They have absolute jurisdictional authority over hearing these cases and what the sentence would be. Mr. DeMio advised in the past, the YMCA did a diversion program with our children and was very effective until juvenile court asserted its authority. Mr. Jamison stated in talking with our police department and our juvenile officer that might be changing; but that is up to the juvenile court to decide. There is talk of potentially sending some felony cases back to our diversion program due to how busy they are. Mr. Schonhut advised he would like to see a monetary fine because he believes that would be a great deterrent for juveniles.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. DeMio recommended suspension and adoption for Resolution No. 2019-040. This is a resolution in support of the passage of the Strongsville City School District levy on the May 7, 2019 ballot. Mr. DeMio also advised tonight there will be a conditional objection to the Paddy Wagon liquor permit. Mr. Biondillo advised there are multiple electrical violations there.

Mr. Carbone made a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing the sale of real property and pending litigation. It was seconded by Mr. Schonhut 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 7:36 p.m. Also present from the Administration: Mayor Thomas Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison, Economic Development Director Brent Painter and Finance Director Joseph Dubovec. The executive session concluded at 8:07 p.m. and reconvened into open session.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President DeMio called the meeting to order at 8:09 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, Annmarie P. Roff, Matthew P. Patten, Joseph C. DeMio, Kelly A. Kosek, 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, Building Commissioner Tony Biondillo, Human Resource Director Steve Kilo, City Engineer Ken Mikula, Public Safety Director Charles Goss, Police Chief Mark Fender and Fire Chief Jack Draves.

Absent: Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 19, 2019 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

(None)

Mr. DeMio – Probably one of the nicest things I do up here, and all of council do, is sometimes have one of our elected officials or our appointed officials and council folks get a little red faced. We're going to do that to Kelly because it's Kelly's birthday this week.

Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Ms. Kosek.

Ms. Kosek – This is what happens when your birthday is the first week of the month. Some of you other folks are going to have to be remembered this year.

Mr. Short – I'm August, so I'm safe.

Mr. DeMio – So, Happy Birthday.

Ms. Kosek – Thank you.

Mr. DeMio – Mayor, thank you for the additional deeper voice of the group; we appreciate that.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Carbone: Yes, at the last school board meeting the bulk of the time was spent on the 5.9 mill levy that's going to be on the ballot this spring. Just some of the things that I took away...a lot of people, which was nice to see, voicing their opinion. I think the opinion was from the people that they didn't want to see some of the cuts that would take place in the event that the levy did not pass. Just some of the things that I want to point out from that-things that would be lost are 127 teaching support staff and administrative positions, 115 coaching club and support positions, school musical plays, orchestra, band, choir concerts, field trips, traveling for marching band, show choir, orchestra and student competitions, and desirable class sizes.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Carbone (cont'd): I point those things out only because I know having nieces and nephews that have gone through the system back about 12-15 years ago and how the class sizes were around 30 and it made it very difficult for a learning environment. As the enrollment dropped and as our board and superintendent were able to make some changes; it really made it a better learning environment when the classes are around 20 (students). Field trips – you know, there was a time when years ago a lot of people...the kids did not have a lot of opportunity for those. It did put a memorable spin on their experience as they were going through their elementary years. When we look at 127 teaching and support staff and administrative positions...really, our kids need those small class sizes to thrive like they are today. Lastly, and this is only a couple of, 115 coaching positions, after school activities, our musicals and our band; these are things that keep our kids competitive, they keep them grounded, they keep them focused and it would be a shame to lose those. They keep them focused and it would be a shame to lose those. What I ask of the community is to educate yourself on this levy. There are so many places you can go for information. A lot of times when you look to the person to the right or the left, they may not have all that information. They might have information but it may not be accurate information; so I urge you if you do have a question, if you don't like something that happened and you want accurate information, to please call Dr. Ryba who is in the audience, a board member, go on their website. Recently, they put on their website if you have a question, "Rumor Has It". You can type in there any question you may have and then you will get a response. Please reach out; I know Dr. Ryba did a wonderful job with the State of the Schools address. Just educate yourself on this and let's do what's right for the community, thank you.

Mr. DeMio – And I want to take a minute by thanking all the colleagues on this council who showed up. On the lower part of our agenda we have a resolution and I know it's no surprise now but it will be supported by all of us. The mayor mentioned, because he has the ability of speaking for himself, that he is supporting the levy. This council, as well as a whole, is going to be supporting the levy. I know that we will do whatever we need to do as a collective group to help you. I must say this, I have gone to I don't know how many different superintendents messages to the city. Mr. Ryba, I've got to tell you something; that was the best by far that I have ever seen. Your entire group and yourself and your administration, I have to tell you that was awesome. Just remember, this council does not do any abatements for retail. I'm sure the mayor will talk about that later. I am teasing you. You did an outstanding job and again, I want to thank all of council. Some folks had to run from one meeting to get to another meeting to make sure that they got there to listen to you because it made world of difference and we all have had kids or have gone to school there. One of the reasons I chose to live here in the days of looking at Westlake and North Royalton and Brunswick and Medina was the school system. I'm proud to say that both of my children graduated from the schools and I'm sure other people will echo. I want everyone to say something about this if they can. Ann, unfortunately...

Ms. Roff – Past, present and future for me as far the schools go.

Mr. DeMio – Ann, unfortunately for the record, is an employee of the schools so she cannot vote on this issue. I will not speak for her, but I know her husband is for it. That is no shock there. So let's try do this from the left to the right, Mr. Schonhut please.

Mr. Schonhut – Obviously, I support the levy this fall and I'm happy to see Cameron and Carl and Jane. We're missing George and Duke tonight...Richard is here as well. I'm happy that you guys are all here and I'm a proud 2010 graduate of the high school...my hairline says differently. Strongsville gave me a lot and I'm happy to support it and do the few things that I've been involved in up there still. We are leaps and bounds from where we were when I graduated 8-9 years ago and you guys, and lady, have all done a phenomenal job with everything you are doing over there and I believe in you. Just keep moving forward and keep your head up.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Carbone (cont'd):

Ms. Roff – I feel I can speak on a personal level. I have three daughters that have graduated from Strongsville. Awesome education, awesome extra-curricular activities. We actually had gone through, at that time when they were in school, two failed levies where things got pulled back a little bit and things regrouped and the levy was passed and the education that they got there was definitely valuable for their future and helped them get into the colleges that they got into. I have a son that will graduate from there next year, so that's my present and then future-my granddaughter will start kindergarten. From a personal level, I do support the levy. I will abstain from officially voting since I work for the school system though. That's all I have.

Mr. DeMio – Mr. Patten, you are up.

Mr. Patten – I appreciate you guys being here tonight. I want to echo what everyone else said too. It was a great presentation the other night. It's good to be able to get the information out to the residents. When my wife and I were both... we met at Berea High School, we're looking at where we would raise our children. It's why we moved to Strongsville. We have a daughter who is a sophomore, a son who is a freshman at the high school, a son who is a 7th grader in the new middle school and a daughter whose a 3rd grader at Whitney Elementary. We've been very thankful for how great the schools have been and the resources provided to them and the education they get. I'm proud to be supporting the levy as well and let us know what else we can do.

Mr. DeMio – Mr. Short, you're up.

Mr. Short – Thank you Joe, some of you may know or may not know that my children attend St. Joseph and John here in Strongsville; but a strong public education system is good for all of us here. We made a personal choice with the catholic education, but we are bussed by Strongsville schools; we live in the community. I have neighbors and a lot of their kids attend Strongsville schools and I commend Dr. Ryba and the school board. Really, from listening to the voters the last time around what happened in November, and to go back and to look at where the community kind of spoke and said what the issues were with that past levy; and now bringing back a stronger levy and I think a much more reasonable levy to the voters this year. A strong public education school system benefits all of us in Strongsville, whether your kids go to private, public, or you don't have kids in school; especially with home values and just the overall quality of life in Strongsville. For those reasons, I'm supporting the levy as well and hopefully this May we get it done, thank you.

Mr. DeMio – And of course, last but not least, the birthday girl Kelly Kosek.

Ms. Kosek – Thank you for reminding everyone again that it's my birthday tomorrow. I am the person who moved here most recently and part of the reason I moved to Strongsville was because I had a 4 year old and I had one on the way and I wanted them to go to an excellent school district. My son, who was 4, went to the Strongsville Early Learning Preschool where he received so much great care from the speech therapist and from all of those amazing teachers there and he has continued to flourish and is getting a wonderful education at Surrarer Elementary. Anyone who did not see Dr. Ryba's, "60 Seconds with the Superintendent" should check it out, from last week, because at Surrarer, the 2nd graders where Jim and I have 2nd graders, participated in the "Famous American Project," which is a perfect example of why our Strongsville schools are amazing and we need to support them.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Carbone (cont'd):

Ms. Kosek (cont'd) - The "Famous American Project," if you don't know I will give you a very quick overview, each child selects a famous American and they learn about them and they write about them and they make a cereal box and then they dress up as them and then they do a speech presentation as that famous American. It's amazing, and that's the kind of special projects that we get from our students and our students get from our schools. I'm thrilled to support it and I hope that everyone else will support it so that our kids can continue to do those kinds of things because the public education, as Gordon said, is greatly important to the continuing thriving of our community and of our kids. That's what it is about for me. I hope that people will consider it and make the decision that's right for them, but support our schools.

Mr. Carbone – Can I say one more thing Joe?

Mr. DeMio – Sure.

Mr. Carbone – Eight years ago, it was about schools, crime and property values; that's one thing Mr. Naso and I and Mr. Schonhut talked about when we put together and presented the bond issue for the schools. We felt we were lacking in some categories. The community responded; they saw the need for that. One of the questions that Dr. Ryba poses is what quality of school district do you want? We have an opportunity to continue what our kids, our families, Dr. Ryba and our board have set with the foundation here moving forward. It started with that bond issue, getting new buildings, cleaning it up, consolidating, saving the taxpayers money. There was also curriculum, a stronger foundation, with the technology, moving forward. Where I think we're challenged is when Solon pass an 8.6 mill levy, 70% of their community rallied around that levy. It goes back to I think they made a decision to what quality of school district they want to be, what quality community they want to be, which just enhances everything...the quality of life here, our home values, our economic value-whether it's in our industrial parkways or our retail corridor, we have to keep the momentum going. It has to be a balance between the schools and the community. I've always said we can have the greatest community in the world, but it's not going to be if we don't have the schools to be right up there with us. That's all I have to say.

Mr. DeMio – Mr. Superintendent, why don't you come up; we're going to do something a little out of order, and if you want to say anything or if you want to add anything it's up to you.

Dr. Ryba – I would just to personally thank, as Joe shared, all of you taking time out of your busy schedules to come to the State of the Schools last week to support the district. It's just not about attending one event or one State of the Schools; so many of you are involved in so much of the work that we do as a school district for the betterment of our students. As all of you said, we're at a crossroads as a school district and we have the opportunity to continue to preserve and protect the opportunities and experiences and services and supports that we offer for our students because a strong public school district means a strong community. I appreciate your consideration; I appreciate your kind words and I appreciate you sharing with the community that we want to continue that dialogue. We sent out a letter to all of our residents in the community starting that conversation. We have information on our website that provides factual information; but it's not just about this levy, it's about the start of a dialogue between our community and our school district so that we can insure that we're providing the education that our students deserve and our community expects. I appreciate your time; I appreciate your support and I appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with you moving forward, thank you.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Carbone (cont'd):

Mr. Carbone – Dr. Ryba, I think it would be only fitting, the same thing I did with Mr. Krupinski, our former Superintendent when we passed the bond, there was a deal that if it won he would have to wear my football jersey from high school for the day; so Dr. Ryba, are you up for the challenge?

Dr. Ryba – I look forward to wearing the half-top that will be...

(Laughter)

Mr. Carbone – I'll take that.

Mr. DeMio – And for the record, the #44 is the cumulative yards he made in the 4 years of him being the running back for Strongsville.

Ms. Roff – Is there somewhere that the community could get involved if they want to be involved with helping promote the levy or work with anybody to be out in the community?

Dr. Ryba – Absolutely, so if you are interested in getting factual information, you can go to our website: www.strongnet.org. As we heard, there's a "Rumor Has It," there's a "Levy Facts," there's a quick flip book. If you're interested in getting involved and supporting the levy campaign, you can go to: www.voteyesforsos.com. The word for...

Ms. Roff – Can you give that one more time just for our paper maybe.

Dr. Ryba – www.voteyesforsos.com. There's opportunities to volunteer, to share your interests for getting involved and somebody from the campaign committee will reach out to you and let you know how you can get involved in supporting the efforts of our school district.

Ms. Roff – Thank you.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you so much.

Dr. Ryba – Thank you for the opportunity Joe.

Mr. DeMio – If you want to exit, I mean, I know you're busy. You know what we're going to do, you don't have to wait. You're more than welcome to wait and enjoy our great meeting, but I'm sure Jane will report back to you as well.

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. DeMio, we did have a board meeting last Wednesday, but prior to that on the last Monday I was able to attend a day-long board immersion, where really from top to bottom we got to see the hospital operations from them ordering supplies to cleaning medical utensils to operating rooms and surgeries and also the advanced robotics there that we have at Southwest General. Again, if you've had treatment there you know how great the staff is, but really it is a state-of-the-art hospital and really and truly a gem that we have in our backyard in Middleburg Heights and one that there's a renewal on the ballot for the Southwest General and it's worth every penny. It's not a tax increase; it's just a renewal and for the dollars that we invest it's really a great return for the services they provide at Southwest General. With that, the board meeting and just a couple of updates, patient quality, patient satisfaction continues to record at very high levels. Admissions have been kind of up and down this year as the flu season has not been as hard as in prior years.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short (cont'd): They are investing some capital dollars this year into a new pharmacy distribution system to update the computers and also the distribution will actually be even a much more tighter system than they have now; especially with the distribution of narcotic drugs. It's fascinating, the measures that are literally imposed by the State and the Federal government, but also the hospital system itself and insuring that narcotic drugs are administered properly for the pain and not for other nefarious purposes. With that, that will conclude my report, but I will happily take any questions.

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Patten: Thank you Mr. President, no ordinances or resolutions tonight. I'd be happy to take any questions if there are any. If not, then I'll close my committee.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Ms. Kosek: We do not have any ordinances or resolutions on the agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Ms. Kosek: The Economic Development Committee met on February 25th at the recreation center and we discussed the different avenues that other cities that are similar to Strongsville how they address Economic Development. We had discussed making some changes to the committee going forward, perhaps adding some new members or creating working subcommittees. There have been some working subcommittees in the past that have been successful, like when we've done the city-wide survey; but we are talking about expanding that and kind of focusing on some areas that we'd like to improve. We also specifically discussed the marketing initiatives that the city has taken, including a new site selector guide and a corporate marketing guide and the fact that they are offering marketing flash drives with critical information to businesses. We hope that Brent will join us in March. Brent was ill and wasn't able to attend so the mayor pinched hit for him greatly and admirably. That's all that we have to report on that.

Mr. DeMio – Excellent, anything for Kelly?

Ms. Roff – If someone is interested in being a part of or sitting in on any of those meetings, who could they contact Kelly?

Ms. Kosek – Those meetings are open to the public. I announce them always at council. Anyone that would like to come is welcome to join. You can certainly reach out to me at www.kelly.kosek@strongsville.org and I'd be happy to give you more information and make sure that everybody knows when the meetings are.

FINANCE – Mr. Carbone: Yes, I have no ordinances or resolutions this evening on the agenda but I could answer any questions if anybody has any.

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Schonhut: Thank you Mr. DeMio, 4 ordinances tonight. First is Ordinance No. 2019-030, this is our master plan to approve and adopt that. We are going to put that on second reading and refer it over to Planning Commission. Again, that's a large document so we're all taking our time to take that all in. It is 164 pages, available to any of you on the city's website if you care to take a look; and you can reach out to any of us with any questions, comments or concerns. Ordinance No. 2019-035 is entering into a contract with Lake Co. Sewer. This is to go through some of our sanitary sewer lines here in Strongsville and put a camera in them and fix them where need be. It is just over \$397,000.00 on that. I ask that we suspend and adopt that tonight please. Ordinance No. 2019-036 deals with the resurfacing of Pearl Road from Valley Parkway all the way to Snow Road.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Schonhut (cont'd): Obviously, Snow Road is not within Strongsville city limits but they are going to be doing the resurfacing of Pearl Road through three separate cities and this is entering into that agreement. Our portion of that will be approximately \$384,000.00; suspend and adopt that tonight please. For all those that are curious, that work will probably start later on in the summer, if the schedule stays as currently projected. Lastly, we have Ordinance No. 2019-037. This deals with the widening of Sprague Road. We're requesting that they do a little bit of additional sanitary sewer work or replacement over there too that wasn't initially put into the original bid package. We ask that we suspend and adopt that tonight too. Any questions on any of those items? All yours Mr. DeMio.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. DeMio, we have two ordinances tonight on the agenda. Ordinance No. 2019-038, this is to purchase 57 sets of structural firefighting turnout gear for use by our fire department. The fire department needs to have two sets of gear on hand at all times. This is to replace the aging gear that is actually probably already 4 years beyond its useful life. We are getting that under a contract price; it's less than the government services contract approved by the State of Ohio. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt that tonight. The second is Ordinance No. 2019-039 which is an ordinance to prohibit a child in the City of Strongsville from possessing, using, purchasing or receiving electronic smoking devices, otherwise known as the vaping devices. That sets up some guidelines and some rules and clarifications for if you're selling to a minor and if a minor is caught with that device...well, the ramifications of that. The recommendation there is to put that of first reading and refer that back to committee Mr. President. That concludes my report but I'll happily take any questions.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Ms. Roff: First time, I think ever, that I don't have anything for either committee unless anybody has any questions.

Mr. DeMio – Are there any questions?

(No comment)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Roff

See Public Service and Conservation Committee Above.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. DeMio: There is Resolution No. 2019-040; which is a resolution to support the levy we talked about and we're looking forward to voting for that later on the agenda. Mr. Law Director, anything else we should add before we go to the mayor?

Mr. Jamison – No sir.

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Mr. President, good evening, I will be very brief, just a couple of announcements. The first one, I also too endorse the passing of the school levy. I've been in this town 40 years come April 1st and this town has changed significantly in the past 40 years. We've seen a lot of growth; but there's one constant element and that's our children. Moving forward and understanding the cost of educating a child, having educated children and now grandchildren, I think it's imperative that we move forward. What we need to ask ourselves is this, all of us who have had children who have gone through the schools and children yet that need to go through the schools, where would you children be today without the quality education that they received in the Strongsville schools?

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

MAYOR PERCIAK (cont'd): When we meet with so many of the different residents, that's the question I always pose to them. "Listen up" I say, "What does your son do today?" He's a lawyer. "What does your son do today?" He's a doctor. "What does your son do today?" He works in the software industry. "What does your daughter do today?" I said, "Well, where did this foundation come from?" They all stop and think and they say, "Well, our schools." So that's what's important to us. We have to understand that our children are learning the basics in everything they need to move forward in their career today. As Dr. Ryba said, today in our high school, we are also preparing and educating our children with college classes so when they graduate from our high school, so many of our children have at least a year or more of college credits under their belt. The dollar amounts saved by these families has added up. Take 15 hours or 18 hours of college credits that already...and add that up. You see what it comes out to; it's substantial. Yes, I do endorse it and yes, I do work very closely with Dr. Ryba, Mrs. Pelko, the treasurer of the schools, our police department, our fire department, we are always interacting with the schools. To those of you who may not have kids in the schools, or never have or never will, you own properties here in the City of Strongsville. All I can say to you is if you want to maintain or increase property values, you have to be a part of this levy proposal and vote yes. If you don't want to do it, all we have to do is look around throughout Northeast Ohio at the communities who have not supported their schools and look at their property values. We have a vested interest in making certain that we pass this levy; first and foremost for our children, and two, selfishly, our property values. We have to keep both of those elements in mind when we either pull an absentee ballot or we go to the polls and vote. Keep those both in mind.

Mr. DeMio – Mayor, one last thing, I heard you for years says this and Walter Ehrnfelt before said this, the biggest question, businesses that come to our town, ask what?

Mayor Perciak – Safety and schools.

Mr. DeMio – I don't think folks realize how important it really is. It's not just the education; it's the ability to attract not only families, but businesses that help us keep our taxes down.

Mayor Perciak – One last thing Mr. DeMio, Mr. President, when Brent and I hold realtor get-togethers/meetings, this has always been a subject of the realtors who are bringing families into the City of Strongsville. They actually ride by our school buildings. They want to see where their kids are going to go to school. That's a part of what they do today. We have to keep that in mind. I mean, Brent and I have held many, many conferences for the realtors as to what Strongsville is all about. The one thing the realtors emphasize is our schools. As Jimmy Carbone said in his earlier remarks are the buildings and what they look like, the appearance. Once the parents get in there and what they see what goes on in there. All that is true. Lastly, March 19th I will be delivering our State of the City address at the recreation center. As per usual, it's in conjunction with the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce so you can either attend the lunch and pay or you can come just for the speech and not pay; it's up to you. We're expecting a big crowd at that time. I'll address the balance sheet, some of our economic growth, and I will also make an appeal there again for the school levy. That ends my report Mr. President.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you so much.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dubovec: Thank you Mr. President, funds are available for all ordinances and resolutions on this evening's agenda requiring certification of funding. That concludes 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.

Mr. DeMio – Okay, any reason to go back?

Mr. Jamison – No sir.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mr. DeMio – Now comes the time for audience participation. I see we have a couple, I think, that are coming up as a team. Rick and Cheryl Oddo. You can come up. Just so you know, we have five minutes. Even though we have it written down here, just for the record, you spell your first and last name and you give the address for Aimee. We know the subject is an Airbnb.

Rick and Cheryl Oddo, 20558 Royalton Road, Strongsville, OH: My name is Richard Oddo, R-I-C-H-A-R-D, O-D-D-O.

Mr. DeMio – and the address please?

Mr. Oddo – 20558 Royalton Road.

Mr. DeMio – Perfect.

Mrs. Oddo – Cheryl Oddo, C-H-E-R-Y-L.

Mr. DeMio – Perfect.

Mr. Oddo – Should I go? I have a little issue with Airbnb. Are you guys all familiar with it?

Mr. DeMio (acknowledged yes)

Mr. Oddo – Well I wasn't really that too familiar with it until I started getting uninvited guests to my house 10:00 p.m. asking where the Airbnb is. I was just wondering if I need to put a sign out on my front lawn directing people where to go. I didn't know living in a residential area you could have...I guess we're deemed commercial now correct?

Mr. DeMio – I don't have...

Mr. Oddo – I live right across the street from Maria Gardens on Royalton Road.

Mr. DeMio – I don't think it's zoned general business. I live right by you by the way.

Mr. Oddo – With an Airbnb, aren't they commercial, as for a business?

Mrs. Oddo – It is a business.

Mr. Oddo – It's a business.

Mr. DeMio – Do me a favor, share with us what the issue is. Our law department is ready to help us out here.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Oddo – Well the issue I have is I see people coming and going day in and day out. That house was probably sold 10 years ago; and the woman who owns it rented it out to renters by the year, by a lease once a year. So I've seen 7 families go through there. I've seen the house, the garage, burn down at one point. You guys probably remember it caught on fire probably about 5-6 years ago. The last renter, there was a younger family with 4 children, moved out about a year ago. Of course, my wife and I know somebody else is going to move in. That's business, they bought the house to rent it. Now I have an issue that now they are not renting it anymore, they're...technically it's a motel.

Mr. DeMio – Do you know the address?

Mr. Oddo – He lives on the other side of it (pointing to a gentleman in the audience).

Mr. Oddo – It's one house east of my house. They label it as a 6 family home so they rent it for \$29 a night/6rooms. Technically, they pay motel fees, you get fined if you lock the door by accident \$50; if you don't keep it cleaned \$15, and so on. It's just...you know, when you leave the house in the morning at 6:30 a.m. and you have people coming in and out of it and they're looking at me like who the hell are you? Well, I live here, who are you? It just kind of bothers me that you guys talk about property values; well there goes my property value. I mean, I don't think anyone of you here would want to live next door to an Airbnb.

Mr. DeMio – Let me make it totally crystal clear, and please, any councilmen here thinks I'm wrong correct me, we do not promote or ask Airbnb to come here. Our law department and our building commissioner, Tony, Mr. Biondillo with the yellow shirt, I don't know if it's on his radar, but it is now.

Mrs. Oddo- That was an issue we were wondering about, is that had council allowed this to come into the city. There are several of them because we have never seen it on a ballot or anything like that.

Mr. Oddo – I looked it up and, I think there's like 70 of them in Strongsville.

Mr. Jamison – If I may, this has been an issue that came up about 2-3 years ago in another residential area. They had questioned the use of the house for Airbnb. Right now, to answer your first question, no-we have not passed legislation to authorize or to regulate it. We thought about it at the time, but it's a double edged sword. If you do pass legislation to do that, you're sort of saying, "Come on in and do it." But if you don't do it, without some kind of regulation, then the questions becomes what's there. Right now, under our zoning code, there is a provision that you can rent up to one room in your home. That's a permitted use in the residential zoning district. I guess the question becomes if you're renting more than one room on whether that's a violation. As a practical matter and what we had challenge with in the previous go around was proving that there's more than one there. How do you know they're paying? How do you know if their just someone visiting? That was a challenge that we had from an enforcement side; that we could put something on the books but how do you prove it because it becomes...

Mrs. Oddo – Well they're advertising.

Mr. Jamison – Trust me, I've learned more about Airbnb...

Mr. Oddo – She advertised it as 6 rooms/\$29 a night.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Jamison – We've been through this and I learned more about Airbnb, as well as the building commissioner, about 2-3 years ago when this came up. We made the conscious choice...I had started to look into preparing legislation to address it; but we felt that it didn't warrant doing it at that time because, like I said, it's a double edged sword because once you start regulating it, then you're opening it up and advertising that we're open for business. This is a nationwide issue. A lot of the major cities have had some big issues with these taking place. Certainly, what we'll do, and Mr. Biondillo is here, we'll talk to you after the meeting and get the address, at least yours and try to figure out the one next door, and see what we can do. But, understand the challenge we have is that to know whether they are really renting it or not because the problem we had last time was it was going to be very hard to prove that they are renting more than one room at one time. Even though it's advertised an Airbnb, we don't know if the person staying there is a cousin, a friend, whatever the case may be. There might be some circumstantial evidence that would point that well if there's one person there one week and then there's another person there the next week they are not necessarily family, but who is to say it's say it's not a friend. This is not the first time we heard it and it's a tough issue because there's a lot of different angles to it. We'll get your information afterwards and we'll continue to talk to you about it.

Mrs. Oddo – Well, the city does get...

Mr. Oddo – Motel fees.

Mrs. Oddo – Tax money from Airbnb through them.

Mr. Jamison – I'm not aware of that.

Mrs. Oddo – At least I know in Cleveland they do.

Mr. Jamison – Cleveland might have passed something to do that, but to my understanding is there's no one reporting to our finance department or to RITA that...to my knowledge, we're not collecting any fees from that.

Mrs. Oddo – Because you hadn't approved it to be here so...

Mayor Perciak – The City of Strongsville receives zero but Mr. Biondillo, would you please meet with both of them, get the addresses and you can just go right in the back caucus room there and he'll move with you on that.

Mr. DeMio – That would be great

Mr. Jamison - And we'll continue to talk to you and work with you to see what's going on.

Mr. DeMio – And also the folks that are with the Oddos can you go with Tony then? Tony, is that okay? Thank you so much for coming.

Mrs. Oddo – Thank you for your time.

Mr. Jamison – Thanks for coming out.

Mayor Perciak – Thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mrs. Roff – Also, for them too Joe, if they ever felt unsafe or if people are on their property, of course they could call the police department.

Mr. DeMio – Yes, Tony is going to go through... so the caucus room, even though it's dark, it's going to automatically light up when Tony walks in. Then if you folks want to go right there that would be great. And again, thank you all for all coming. I appreciate it very much. There's no one else signed up for audience participation. Is there anyone else that would like to come up?

(No comments)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2019-030 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE STRONGSVILLE MASTER PLAN 2018. *First reading 02/19/19.*

Placed on second reading and referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendation.

Ordinance No. 2019-035 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR 2019, 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. 2019-035 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2019-036 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING COOPERATION BY THE CITY WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONSENTING TO THE RESURFACING OF PEARL ROAD FROM THE VALLEY PARKWAY TO SPRAGUE ROAD IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PEARL ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT [CUY-42-4.29; PID NO. 105726] WITH THE CITIES OF MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS AND PARMA HEIGHTS, 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. 2019-036 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2019-037 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING CUYAHOGA COUNTY TO PROCEED WITH THE RECONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING OF SPRAGUE ROAD IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE; AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF DESIGN ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE'S SHARE OF SANITARY SEWER WORK, 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. 2019-037 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2019-038 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIFTY-SEVEN (57) SETS OF STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING TURNOUT GEAR FOR USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by 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. 2019-038 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2019-039 by Ms. Kosek and Ms. Roff. AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW SECTIONS 636.23 AND 636.24 OF CHAPTER 636 OF PART SIX-GENERAL OFFENSES CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES.

Placed on first reading and referred back to the committee.

Resolution No. 2019-040 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PASSAGE OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVY ON THE MAY 7, 2019 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT.

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: Ayes: DeMio, Short, Kosek, Carbone, Schonhut, Patten
Abstained: Roff
Motion carries. Resolution No. 2019-040 ADOPTED.**

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

*Application for Permit: **TRFO D5-D6: To: A & L, LLC. DBA: Paddy Wagon Pub**; 7990 West 130th Street, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 03/18/2019.)*


*****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 DeMio adjourned the meeting at 8:59p.m.


Aimee K. Pientka, MMC
Clerk of Council


Date