

**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021.**

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in Council Chambers at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Monday, September 20, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.**

Present: Council Members: Matthew A. Schonhut, James A. Kaminski, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, Annmarie P. Roff, Kelly A. Kosek and James E. Carbone. Also Present: Assistant Clerk of Council Tiffany Mekeel. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal M. Jamison, Police Chief Mark Fender and Communications & Technology Director David Sems.

Absent:

Administration: Finance Director Joseph Dubovec, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Building Commissioner Mike Miller, City Engineer Ken Mikula, Service Director Joe Walker, Human Resource Director Steve Kilo Fire Chief Jack Draves and Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre.

Council President Schonhut called the caucus to order at 7:37 p.m.

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

Building & Utilities Committee: Chairman DeMio recommended reconsideration for Resolution No. 2021-123; a resolution to advertise for bids for the Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization project for city-owned buildings. Mr. Jamison advised due to circumstances, the Mayor determined it is important to get this project done quickly and under emergency. The Administration is asking Council this evening to vote aye to reconsider the resolution; aye for the motion to suspend and nay on the adoption. This will allow Council, at the next meeting, to consider an ordinance allowing the administration to award a bid to a company to start the installation of the system immediately; for the health and safety of the residents and employees. Mr. Jamison advised the City received a third quote this afternoon.

Finance Committee: Chairman DeMio advised the budget hearing will be delayed a few more weeks. Mayor Perciak added the budget, historically, has been available in October. The administration is waiting to finalized numbers and receive definitive answers from Columbus regarding the ARPA relief funds. The State has yet to decide on when and/or if funds will be released; which will impact the City's budget and planning. The second portion of ARPA relief funds will not be made available until next year. Mayor Perciak advised he has been criticized for dispersing a memorandum to City employees as it pertains to vaccination status. In order for the City to receive any type of Federal funds; the City needs to comply. The term "compliance" is vague at this time; but, it can affect any earmarked funds; any ARPA relief funds; any redistribution of Federal funds; and to go a step further, it could affect some of dollars the City receives on paramedic/ambulance runs; because this is funded through Federal funding; which is Medicaid. Mayor Perciak stated he is trying to protect the City of Strongsville in this process and the integrity of the balance sheet. Mr. DeMio reminded Council in year's past, Council did not have a budget hearing and/or receive a budget package until after the first of the new year. Current policy allows Council to make any necessary adjustments prior to submission to the State.

Mayor Perciak noted the current market trend. At one point in time, the stock market was down 900 points. Mr. DeMio noted the market closed at 614.41, negative.

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee: Chairman Schonhut advised Ordinance No. 2021-124; authorizing and directing the Mayor to issue and approve change order no. 1 (final) for an increase in the contract price in accordance with the provisions of the contract between the City of Strongsville

and Tri-Mor Corporation, in connection with the 2020 pavement reconstruction program. The increase in the contract is \$91,576.71; for an adjusted final cost of \$5,964,686.21. Mayor Perciak noted this is a carryover from the contract last year. Tri-Mor is complete in the City. The current work being done is Fabrizi Trucking. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt.

Public Service and Conservation Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2021-125 is an ordinance authorizing the sale by Internet auction of certain obsolete property no longer needed for any municipal purpose by the City's Service Department; and Ordinance No. 2021-126 is an ordinance authorizing the sale at public auction of certain obsolete and surplus vehicles no longer needed for any municipal purpose. The recommendation for both is to suspend and adopt.

Committee of the Whole: Chairman Schonhut recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2021-127; approving and authorizing the filing of an application for financial assistance from the Ohio Attorney General's Office in connection with their Law Enforcement Diversion Program for fiscal year 2022 relating to the opioid epidemic; authorizing acceptance of funds. This implements a Quick Response Team (QRT) to directly assist individuals affected by the opioid crisis, and provide such individuals and families with outreach. Mr. Jamison added this is a renewal application awarded to the City three-years ago.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Schonhut called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING:

The Assistant 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, James A. Kaminski, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, Annmarie P. Roff, Kelly A. Kosek and James E. Carbone. Also Present: Assistant Clerk of Council Tiffany Mekeel. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal M. Jamison, Police Chief Mark Fender and Communications & Technology Director David Sems.

Absent:

Administration: Finance Director Joseph Dubovec, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Building Commissioner Mike Miller, City Engineer Ken Mikula, Service Director Joe Walker, Human Resource Director Steve Kilo Fire Chief Jack Draves and Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 7, 2021 were approved as submitted. The Minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 3, 2021 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Presentation of 2020 Strongsville Police Department Recognition Awards

Mayor Perciak – Thank you, Mr. President. This evening, we have the honor of presenting our 2020 Strongsville Police Department Recognition Awards and Chief, would you like to come up.

Chief Fender – Thank you Mayor, Council President, members of City Council and to our community. I see, I have many comrades that are here today; just excited to see everyone here. A little background about the awards that we do have here in Strongsville. In January of each year, an awards committee reviews all citizens and departmental accommodations; reviewed during the previous calendar year. The committee reviews these accommodations in order to identify actions or performances commensurate it with departmental awards. The awards committee then make appropriate recommendations. Departmental awards may be presented to any member for outstanding performance. Tonight's awards, for 2020 include these categories; compassion; awarded for employees with outstanding special display of empathy. Quality service; an award for employee's dedication, thoroughness and persistence, going the extra mile and further the department's mission and values. Blue collar; awarded for Police Officers' outstanding efforts in making or assisting in criminal apprehension. Police Officers are recognized for their perseverance and ingenuity in arrest situations. The Prosecutors award; awarded to Police Officer who are nominated by the current local prosecutor in recognition of outstanding court preparation and presentation of a case. The award has been created to honor our past City Strongsville Prosecutor Joseph A. Gambino. Our Police Officer of the Year award; which will be awarded tonight by the Knights of Columbus organization; and then finally, we have a citizen award; which will be presented to a citizen who provides the Strongsville Police Department with valuable assets in fulfilling our mission. So, I'd ask at this time, if the Knights of Columbus would come on up for their presentation.

At this time, Bill Burdik from the Knights of Columbus presented the Officer of the Year Award to Patrol Officer Michael Mendise.

Mr. Burdik – Thanks Chief. Good evening everybody. Your honor, Mr. President, members of Council; we want to thank everybody for being here tonight. It's a little over 13 years ago that we were at the new Strongsville Fire station talking about this award. Talking with Chief Moody and...about the idea and the concept and 13 years later, we're here. And when we did the pancake breakfast with the Fire Department, I go, "God, it started upstairs there..." and here we are today with our 13th winner. This year's award winner is Officer Michael Mendise. As y'all know, in 2020, it was a year of hell for all of us, basically and with the pandemic and everything...and everything going on with Law Enforcement; just in the country in general, and this is why we have this award. To basically thank our Safety Forces for what they do in our community because...especially in our community. Our Safety Forces is what makes Strongsville "strong," okay? If...they are the backbone of our community. They allow us to walk the streets safe. They respond to every emergency call that we have. Our Dispatch Center handles everything on a professional level, when dealing with a concerned constituent. And you really...you don't realize what you guys do, until you actually need them. Whether...and like I said, I can note personally with my family, on occasion with both departments and everything. So, as I said, our winner this year is Michael Mendise and here's the write up that we have for Officer Mendise. Through the pandemic, the lockdowns and the civil unrest, just to name a few, it's in challenging times like this when Law Enforcement is most vital to the community. We're very proud to say that our department did exactly what men and women of Strongsville Police do. Although there's numerous instances and several worthy nominations, one officer stood out to his peers and that officer was Officer Michael Mendise. He's a 20-year veteran with the Strongsville Police Department. He's a field officer training; he's an honor guard member and holds leadership roles with the Southwest Enforcement Bureau.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS (cont'd):

Mr. Burdik (cont'd) – During 2020, Officer Mendise and the Southwest Enforcement Bureau were called numerous times not only to protect the City of Strongsville from civil unrest; but surrounding communities; especially, the City of Cleveland riots back on May 30th. On May 25th, just five days prior to the Cleveland riots, Strongsville PD received a call from a distraught female who was planning to jump off the Boston Road overpass. Several officers from Strongsville Police Department responded to the scene with Officer Mendise being the first to arrive. Pardon me, I lost my thought. Upon arrival, Officer Mendise noticed that the female was already...climbed the safety fence and was standing on a narrow ledge above I-71. Not knowing the reason that the female was upset, Officer Mendise immediately asked for a family member on the scene to step away. He then climbed the fence and began to speak to her. He then was able to calm the female down and assure her that she was...he was there to help. After a few minutes, Officer Mendise was able to convince the female that was harming herself that wasn't the solution to the problem that she was facing and he then escorted the female off the ledge and to safety. Officer Mendise displayed extreme passion and used his instincts to have a successful outcome to this dire incident. We also showed courage and professionalism, along with other team members of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau during the time, unlike any other in Law Enforcement. For this reason, this is why you were nominated for the Strongsville Knights of Columbus Police Officer of the Year. Congratulations.

(Applause)

At this time, Chief Fender presented the Prosecutors Award to Detective Andy Bartlett.

Chief Fender – In 2020, Detective Bartlett investigated the tragic death of a child. His lengthy and detailed investigation lasted several months. Detective Bartlett utilized security camera video, witness statements and interviews, even reports by local news to help piece together the facts and events of this incident. Detective Bartlett worked with investigators from the County Medical Examiner's Office, Department of Children and Family Services, along with experts in various fields to help lay out the case. Ultimately, he was able to create a timeline that documented the case down to the minute. His detailed documentation painted a clear picture of the circumstances surrounding the tragic case. More than a year after the incident, Detective Bartlett presented his case to the county grand jury. The case was successfully prosecuted by the County Prosecutor's Office, resulting in a multi-year prison term and sentencing. Detective Bartlett's outstanding investigative work on this case was the driving force behind the successful prosecution. Congratulations Andy.

(Applause)

At this time, Chief Fender presented the Compassion Award to Patrol Officer Zaki Hazou.

Chief Fender – Tonight's recipient to the Compassion Award, Zaki Hazou is unable to be with us tonight. Briefly, what took place here is, a *Strongsville Patch* newspaper recognized Officer Zaki Hazou for going above and beyond. A resident in our community wrote the *Patch News* to recognize Zaki for saving her son's life several times. The resident's son is a Marine, who needed some help. Zaki calls this veteran weekly to check on him and also visits periodically in hopes of changing his life around. Zaki is very compassionate about assisting veterans in need. His actions go above and beyond what is expected. His compassion and dedication make him a worthy recipient of the compassion award. Congratulations to Zaki. We'll be sure he gets that.

(Applause)

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS (cont'd):

At this time, Chief Fender presented the Blue-Collar Award to Sergeant Shamus Kelley, Sergeant Lee Colegrove, Patrol Officer Derek Feierabend, Patrol Officer Aaron Plut and Patrol Officer Matthew Berry.

Chief Fender – Now, we'd like to recognize a Blue-Collar Award to Sergeant Kelley, Sergeant Colegrove, Patrol Officer Feierabend, now retired, if you'd all come up. Officer Plut and Officer Berry, who was unable to be with us tonight. Gentlemen, start heading up. On September 17th at 11:46 a.m., a resident on Drake Road contacted the Strongsville Dispatch Center and said she was watching a burglary in progress, remotely by her home video surveillance system. Strongsville PD units were dispatched, Sergeant Kelley arrived first and entered the property from the backyard. He radioed other units that he could see the burglar inside the home rifling through drawers. Officer Feierabend arrived and positioned himself near the front of the house. He radioed officers he could hear the burglar inside. Sergeant Colegrove, Officers Plut and Berry were now on the scene. A coordinated entry was made into the house. Officers immediately confronted the stunned burglar. Although the burglar tried to escape by throwing a laptop at the officers and running for the front door, he was quickly taken into custody. Congratulations gentlemen.

(Applause)

At this time, Chief Fender presented the Quality of Service Awards to Patrol Officer Jason Miller and Patrol Officer Matthew Omilion.

Chief Fender – We'll recognize next our Quality of Service Awards to Jason Miller and Matt Omilion. If you'd start heading up. Jason was unable to be with us tonight, so Matt will accept the plaque on his behalf. On September 27th, at 2:07 a.m. Officer Miller was stationary on a patrol route on I-71 and SR-82. Officer Miller observed a vehicle traveling eastbound on SR-82 nearly strike a pickup truck. Officer Miller attempted to stop the car; however, the vehicle did not comply. The car turned south on West 130th and continued with its reckless behavior, speeding away from Miller. Due to the recklessness of the driver, the vehicle crashed on West 130th. When Officer Miller arrived at the crash scene, the car was fully engulfed in flames, and the driver was trapped in the vehicle. Officer Omilion was also on the scene at the time. The officers approached the car and used only a fire extinguisher and a pocket knife to free the driver from the burning vehicle; because of their quick thinking, Miller and Omilion were able to rescue the driver from a likely fatal result. Congratulations.

(Applause)

At this time, Chief Fender presented the Quality of Service Awards to Patrol Officer Aaron Plut and Patrol Officer Matthew McKinney.

Chief Fender – Next, we'll recognize the Quality of Service Award; would Aaron Plut and Matt McKinney start making your way up front. On June 8th, at around 1:00 a.m., Strongsville Police Department responded to Circle K in Brunswick for an assault call that occurred in Strongsville. Further investigation led to Officer McKinney and Officer Plut responding to a residence in Strongsville. Upon their arrival, officers found the front door wide open. After announcing their presence, McKinney and Plut entered the home. As officers cleared the house, they could hear a faint moaning sound coming from the backyard. Following the sound to the backyard, officers found a teenage male laying in the grass with life-threatening lacerations to his lower extremities. The male was conscious but incoherent. Officers immediately began to render aid. Although the male was in a critical state, he began to get violent with officers. Officers had to hold the male down to administer pressure and gauze onto the wounds to keep him from bleeding. The Strongsville Fire Department arrived and quickly loaded the male into the squad.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS (cont'd):

Chief Fender (cont'd) – The paramedics used several lifesaving procedures while in route to the hospital to keep the male alive. It was later learned that the male had used LSD, threw himself through the upstairs window and landed on the grass below. It was evident that without the officers' lifesaving aid, the young man would not have survived. Congratulations gentlemen.

At this time, Chief Fender presented the Quality of Service Awards to Alan Kurilich and Jim Allen.

Chief Fender – Little bit of an unusual award today and this one is going to be under the Quality of Service. I'm going to ask our Custodial staff Alan Kurilich and Jim Allen to make their way up front. So, all of you are aware of what we went through last year with the pandemic and cleanliness became a big issue. Never before has cleanliness meant so much during the COVID-19 pandemic. Alan and Jim definitely stepped up in the wake of the pandemic. The station is always in great shape because of their efforts. However, they have gone above and beyond in their efforts to keep the station disinfected and germ-free. Too often, work like theirs goes unnoticed and underappreciated. Indeed, they are on front line when it comes to maintaining a healthy workforce. Congratulations you guys.

(Applause)

At this time, Chief Fender presented the Citizen Award to Ayad Farah.

Chief Fender – And our final award tonight is the Citizen award. I'm going to ask Ayed Farah to come on up. On October 12th, Officer Young responded to SouthPark Mall to assist with a shoplifting in progress call. Officer Lorillo put out a description of the suspect and his last known location. Officer Young spotted the suspect male walking towards center court from Macy. As Officer Young started to close the distance with the male, he looked back and saw Officer Young. At this time, the male took off in a full sprint towards the exit doors. Young gave chase, continually yelling for the male to stop. Young's commands alerted some of the shoppers of the pursuit in progress. The male continued running down the north corridor towards the exit. At this time, a mall patron, Ayed Farah, took it upon himself to intervene. Ayed stepped directly in front of the fleeing suspect, forcing him to change his direction. However, Ayed was determined to prevent the suspect from getting away and took the suspect to the ground, where he held him until the officer completed the arrest. The suspect had six warrants, some of which were entered with caution. Ayed was under no obligation to assist but displayed great character and selflessness by putting himself in harm's way to come to the aid of a police officer. Congratulations Ayed.

(Applause)

Chief Fender – This concludes tonight's Police awards. Again, I want to thank you Council President, members of Council, especially, our community. My colleagues that are here. We won't be able to do the things we do in our City without the terrific support of our community and those that we protect. Thank you all.

(Applause)

Mr. Schonhut – And from all of us on Council, to everybody here tonight, the families that make all the sacrifices that you make. To the men and women in blue, both our Police and some of our Firefighters that we have here this evening and also our Dispatchers as well, which are very important to everybody's job here and of course, our citizens that step in when needed and are always a first watch.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS (cont'd):

Mr. Schonhut (cont'd) – We thank everybody for everything that you do to keep Strongsville as great as it is. You are welcome to stay for the remainder of our meeting should you so wish. It is not nearly as exciting from here on out, so, if you chose to leave, you're welcome to do so now and go out and celebrate a wonderful evening. So, thank you very much.

(Applause)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Ms. Kosek: Yes, thank you. At the September 16th Board meeting, the School Board considered a compensation agreement with Lorain County; which was related to the new development that is happening in Columbia Station. As many of you know, part of Columbia Station does have homes that the students go to our Strongsville schools. So, as they're building that new development over in Columbia Station, about 100 of the homes will be in the Strongsville City School district. So, given that background, it's important to understand that Lorain County had entered into a TIF for this development; with the bulk of the money being used to build sewers. The TIF was going to decrease the amount of tax money that would have otherwise gone to both the Columbia Station schools and the Strongsville City schools. Columbia Station negotiated the ten-year TIF to a 30-year TIF; which allows our school to get more money sooner. For the first ten years and then over the life of the TIF get \$100,000.00 or so more money than it would've otherwise gotten. So, they did enter into that agreement with Lorain County; which will be some additional funding for our schools. Additionally, I wanted to remind everyone, and the Superintendent had mentioned it extensively at the last meeting that there will be a renewal levy on the ballot in November. It's important to understand that it is not a new tax; it's simply a renewal of the tax that is already in place and we're urging folks to vote yes on that, please. And with that, I will close the committee.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Ms. Kosek, any questions?

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. Schonhut. We have no update this week on the COVID numbers or COVID instances at the hospital system; so, I can't report on that. We do have a board meeting next Wednesday, so hopefully by our next Council meeting I'll have updates from those. So, that concludes my report; but, I'll happily take any questions.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mr. Short, any questions for Mr. Short?

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. DeMio: Just the one reconsideration, Ordinance No. 2021-123. I won't go into the long issue other than this is to get our buildings cleaned as possible with our air...air quality and we just have to look forward to the new ordinance that will be a couple weeks away. Is that fair, Neal?

Mr. Jamison – Yes.

Mr. DeMio – Okay, and that's it.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mr. DeMio, any questions for Mr. DeMio?

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Ms. Roff: I don't have anything at this time; but I would happily take any questions.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Ms. Roff, any questions for Ms. Roff?

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Carbone: Yes, thank you Mr. Schonhut. We will be presenting some TIF legislation for some projects coming up in October. Again, TIFs, we capture county money that we normally won't see; but also, keeping in mind that we do keep our schools whole. To make sure they're collecting the money that they should be collecting. We also are still waiting for answers from the Army Corps of Engineering about south Foltz. We're hoping and we're praying that we will hear something here soon. Also, we have some interest at the B&O...the old B&O on Royalton Road. They're looking at; hopefully, going to Planning in October on a 300,000 square foot building there. The Scannell Group is working on the project. Scannell has had a lot of success here in our community. More recent projects are Woodpeckers, Wayfair and Tri Mor. Great projects there with some good number of employees; so, we're anxious to see how many employees and what company will backfill some of that space. Also, we have the Business Network Breakfast meeting coming up, Thursday, October 14th at 7:00 a.m. We're going to be encouraging our committee members to be present and also, possibly, greet the people as they're coming in. Right now, I think we have 75 registered and Brent, our Economic Development Director, is hoping and thinking we'll probably see a little bit over a 100. Our next meeting is going to be September...

Mayor Perciak – Hold on Mr. Carbone; you forgot to mention the guest speaker.

Mr. Carbone – Governor Jon Husted; so that's...

Mayor Perciak – Lieutenant, the Lieutenant Governor...

Mr. Carbone – Or Lieutenant Governor...

Mr. DeMio – He knows something we don't know...

Mr. Short – He's predicting the future; but, he's Lieutenant Governor right now...

Mr. Carbone – Well that's an error...maybe it will be; but we'll see. We're excited for the breakfast. To get back to that collaborating with our business community. Also, Council, I gave you guys a diagram. We've been talking about the downtown center plan. This came out of Economic Development. We've been talking about it for several years. One of the things we wanted to make sure is we had a full detail plan. This is just outlining...we've been talking about not piece milling it and having a full detailed plan. This is something that North Royalton is doing at their...it's their Memorial Park Master Plan. It outlines everything and then, we've already...Mayor, we've already started on phase...working towards phase one. We'll continue that and see what type of grant possibilities we have; but also, as we put this all together, see what other funding opportunities we have outside of the taxpayers. Which is always very important. So, I wanted to give you an opportunity to look over...that and then lastly, we will be having a meeting next Monday, right here in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. and that ends my report.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mr. Carbone, any questions for Mr. Carbone?

FINANCE – Mr. DeMio: No, we're just going to defer our committee information for another couple weeks and maybe, the Mayor and myself will have an announcement about meetings and such; but, we had a nice, healthy discussion in Caucus. So, we'll apply those minutes, I guess, in their own way, if they'd like to look at them in this committee.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you sir.

Mr. DeMio – That's it.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

FINANCE – Mr. DeMio (cont'd):

Mr. Schonhut – All good?

Mr. DeMio – Yep.

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Schonhut: We have one ordinance this evening; Ordinance No. 2021-124. It's a change order with Tri-Mor for just north of \$91,000.00. This is a contract that we approved last year for residential concrete streets and they were just finishing this year. So, it's a change order to finish that up. The recommendation on that is to suspend and adopt. Any questions on that?

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. Schonhut, we have no ordinances or resolutions on tonight's agenda. Although again, I do want to congratulate all the officers and the citizen that won the awards tonight. I think it goes to show the great quality of Police that we have here in Strongsville and continue to do a great job for us; the City and also that we have great citizens here as well. That not only intervene; but, I think, also show support for their Police Department. So, I think we should be very proud of that. And before I close my committee, I do want to defer to Mr. Carbone who has an update on the "Are you okay?" Program. So, Mr. Carbone, take it away...

Mr. Carbone – Yes, we've been working on the "Are you okay?" Program to assist our seniors and families who have seniors in the area that can't always be there everyday or not even in the area. So, we are getting closer and I just wanted to let you know we are one step closer by having the application. It is all ready to go here; so, I think, the beginning of October, this is something that we're going to be able to move forward on and be able to provide this service; which I think is a great amenity to our seniors. And again, for their loved one. And that ends it. Thank you. And you're report...

Mr. Short – Well, now I'll close my committee.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you.

Mr. Short – If there are any questions. Thank you, Mr. Carbone.

Mr. Schonhut – Any questions for Mr. Short or Mr. Carbone?

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. Kaminski: Yes, we have two ordinances on the agenda this evening. Ordinance No. 2021-125; sale of Internet auction of obsolete property. Ordinance No. 2021-126; which is the sale of public auction of obsolete and surplus vehicles. The recommendation is suspension and adoption on both of those and that concludes my report.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mr. Kaminski, any questions for Mr. Kaminski?

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Kosek: We have no ordinances or resolutions this evening; but I do have a couple announcements. I know that we've talked a lot about the town center project. I want to encourage folks to go and complete the survey. If they have not yet done so; that's at www.Strongsville.org/towncenter. Additionally, as part of the rejuvenation of the town center project and phase one, we did get the...excuse me...the tennis courts some TLC. They're...the cracks have been filled. It's been painted and I know a lot of our residents are really excited that some of the paint was specifically for Pickleball. So, we now have Pickleball courts.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Kosek (cont'd): And then lastly, the Mayor and the Law Department let me know that we are still on track for Silver Sneakers to kick off in October. So, hopefully, we will have some more information on when that will actually happen. We're waiting on hardware and software to come in; but that is coming. And that will end my report, unless anyone has questions.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Ms. Kosek, any questions?

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Schonhut: We have Ordinance No. 2021-127; authorizing the Mayor to file an application for financial assistances through the Ohio Attorney General to assist in the fight against opioids. The recommendation on that is to suspend and adopt this evening.

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Thank you Mr. President. Good evening one and all. As mentioned in Councilman Carbone's report, the Lieutenant Governor will be here for our breakfast and just as a point of information, the Lieutenant Governor heads the Economic Development team for the entire State. That's why we asked him to come and he has informed me that he will have some announcements for us. We're looking forward to hosting him on that day. We're just hopeful that when the Lieutenant Governor comes...who really goes throughout the State, yet he chose Strongsville to come, and to be here, and meet with all of our business men and women of our community. So, I think it's going to be great meeting and anybody who knows the Lieutenant Governor, he's quite engaging and he'll be there to answer questions; so, any of our Council people that want to be there and engage with the Lieutenant Governor, I'm sure he'll be happy to talk with you. And, the Lieutenant Governor really focuses on true economic development. That is his forte; so, we're happy to have him. Secondly, I want to thank the Strongsville City Club for a wonderful day yesterday. Breakfast on the Bridge. Again, a great turnout. A great day. A lot of wonderful volunteers helping. We couldn't have done it without the volunteers. So, everybody that was there and helped, on behalf of the City Club, I thank you. I thank the residents for showing up and supporting our City Club. For all the wonderful things that they do. And thirdly, the Art in Strongsville, The Day at the Chalet; another huge success for all the young families and all the people that were working there. Even some of the Council people that were cooking there. I can't attest to their cooking skills; but I'm sure that it was well appreciated. To everybody who helped and donated and put their best foot forward to make that an enjoyable afternoon for our families. That wrapped up about 5 o'clock. Now, I want to thank our Police, our Service Department and everybody who was involved in helping make yesterday a great day. We couldn't have asked for better weather. So, we're looking forward to the Christmas Tree lightening. The Sunday before Thanksgiving. We will soon be contacting our sponsors and we really want to make this a special year again, as we did last year because of COVID and because of everybody being restricted or the kids; but, we want to make Christmas time and the Christmas lightening a very special thing here in the City of Strongsville for all of our children, our residents, and our business folks. So, we're looking forward to that. We're going to be starting on that soon. That ends my report.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mayor Perciak.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dubovec:

Mr. Jamison – Thanks Mr. Chairman, "Based upon careful review of the September 20, 2021 Council meeting agenda, I hereby certify that funds will be made available for all ordinances and resolutions on such agenda requiring certification of funding." So signed by Mr. Dubovec.

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

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dubovec:

A copy of that memo is attached to the back of these minutes.

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Schonhut – That brings us to the portion of our meeting for audience participation. If you do wish to address Council this evening, we kindly ask that you state and spell your name and address. Kindly keep your comments to within five minutes. We do have one person signed in this evening, Dustin Kaiser. Again, name and address for the record if you could please.

Dustin Kaiser, 22666 Lenox Drive, Fairview Park, OH: My name is Dustin Kaiser, I live in Fairview; 22666 Lenox Drive. I own Cardinal Ink; which is in Mentor, Ohio. We're a tattoo shop and we're an art gallery. I tried opening up a shop in the SouthPark Mall and we had things underway and then we came into some issues with ordinances and zoning and I kind of wanted to go over that because I'm not sure exactly if some of the things in the ordinances are really worded correctly or really; I don't know, there's a lot of discrimination, honestly, kind of going on with it...and I'd just like to kind of address it. So, a couple things, I mean I have been in Mentor for over a year now. We have a great business. We're trying to bring a business into your mall; which is struggling right now. In one of the front spots where, I think, there's four or five empty spots, right in a row. Right when you enter the mall. And they want us in there. They've even contacted people from the Council to try to get us in there and we were pretty much told that there was no chance for anything to be done. In...now a days, tattoos are a little bit different then they used to be. We're doing everything from covering up scars on people that have had accidents to doing eyebrows on people who have lost them for medical purposes and, I mean, doing fake nipples on people who've lost them through breast cancer. You know, we do a lot of different stuff. Even...just doing remembrance tattoos for people who want to remember their loved ones. I've tattoo everything from doctors to Sergeants, Police Officers, you know, Council members of Mentor and it is just kind of interesting, I guess, a little bit of the wording that you guys have. So, let me find it here; so, it starts off with, "...the City has a legitimate, substantial and compelling interest in protecting City residents from criminal activity...;" That alone right there is already trying to brand us as criminals or people with tattoos as criminals and that's wrong. I mean I myself have a clean criminal record and I give back to our community. I've donated over \$1,500.00 worth of art supplies to kids in foster homes and daycares, even in your City and that's just in the last two years. And I'm constantly giving back and to be branded as a criminal right off the rip is really, kind of mind-boggling to me. There's certain stuff, it said, "...fostering positive perceptions of the City and pride in our neighborhoods." Also, the City has "...a legitimate, substantial and compelling interest encouraging economic investment in our communities and neighborhoods." Council believes that "...operating pawn shops, paraphernalia stores, vape shops, vaporize stores, tattoo parlors, hookah lounges and vapor lounges may have an inappropriate impact on children, surrounding neighborhoods and adjacent retail spaces." And it also states, that Council "...desires to regulate these business uses located in the City; so as to protect children and neighborhoods, maintain property values and generally preserve and protect the quality of residential and business neighborhoods in the City of Strongsville." So, first off, the thing with branding us as criminals I think is wrong. There's, I mean, you talk about how tattoo shops will affect economic investment and now, of all times, with coronavirus and businesses being shut down and people can't sustain their business right now; your mall needs help and I'm here. Trying to help your mall and the fact that you're pushing me away makes absolutely no sense. We've had no problems with our shop.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Kaiser (cont'd) – We've had...never any issues...there's...I mean we were told not even to apply for a variance because there was no chance for us to even get it. It would be a waste of our money. From you guys. There...you're saying it negatively impacts children and again, with you guys in the City, you have no laws pertaining to age requirements. So, like Mentor for example, they have a...you have to be 16 or older to get a tattoo and from 16 to 18 you have to have parent permission. So, the State has where you have to be...all you need is parent permission under 18. So, technically, through you guys, I could tattoo a four-year old if I have a shop in Strongsville. Which is wrong. As long as I had parent permission. So, you're worried about the wrong things, I believe. You're worried about me not having a tattoo shop near a school; but, you'd allow me to tattoo all those kids from the school in all the other spots of the City where I could have my tattoo shop. You guys will also allow strip clubs, for example, in more sectors of your City then you will a tattoo shop...

Mr. DeMio – No, that's not even close.

Mr. Kaminski – That's not true...

Mr. Kaiser – That's what I found. But, I mean even if...

(Multiple conversations)

Mr. DeMio – Well, what lawyer, what lawyer, what lawyer did you talk to on that?

Mr. Kaiser – What lawyer did I talk...I just looked on your website that showed the different sectors that I could allow a tattoo shop. But, I might be wrong on that; so, sorry if I'm wrong on that...

Mr. DeMio – It's okay.

Mr. Kaiser – But, my shop, personally, I have...you can't even be 18 to come into my shop and you need a parent to come in if your...you're under. Nobody under 18 can get tattooed; whether you're 16 and have parent permission or not. And the health department, in general, has things like, barriers that you have to have if someone's getting a part of their body that shouldn't be tattooed, invisible to anybody else. Like, we have means of, you know, making sure that someone's walking by, they can't see anything going on that they don't need to see. So, I guess I'm just confused at where some of these things in the ordinances are coming from because, it just doesn't make a lot of sense to me. I mean, I've...

Mr. Schonhut – What section are you specifically referring to on the first part of it?

Mr. Kaiser – That's the very first part of...like the tattoo ordinances that I found. It's literally the first sentence. It talks about...

Mr. Jamison – So, Mr. Chairman if might, just to help out. So, the ordinance that the gentleman is referring to was done about five, six years ago. That was one of the "whereas" clauses in the ordinance. At that time, and those "whereas" clauses are important when you enact that kind of legislation to show the rationale and reason for enacting it. As the gentleman stated, it was not just a tattoo shop that was included in that ordinance. There were other businesses that were included; vape shops and other establishments. I don't have the whole list memorized. So, that's the reason why that "whereas;" it wasn't just to single out tattoo shops. It was for a number of businesses that Council wanted to address at that time. That ordinance doesn't outlaw tattoo shops or the other ones that are named in it. What it was, was a zoning ordinance that allowed it in certain zoning districts.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Jamison (cont'd) – One of those districts does not include the mall. So, to categorize it that we've outlawed tattoo shops is not accurate, okay...?

Mr. Kaiser – I didn't...

Mr. Jamison – We do allow it in the City. We do have certain establishments at this time. We do allow new ones to come in; but, they have to be in the district that has been designated by City Council to this...in regards to the comment about strip clubs being allowed in more areas than tattoo parlors; that's just inaccurate...

Mr. Kaiser – Okay, I'm sorry about that...

Mr. Jamison – There's...essentially, designed area in the City for adult entertainment establishments and it doesn't even come close, in terms of the number of areas that a tattoo shop or parlor could be located. So, in regards to your comment about applying for a variance that is your right. You know, if you want to apply, the process would go in front of the Board of Zoning Appeals at the initial blush. And it would be up to that administrative body to determine whether your request would hold any merit. City Council could decide to review that decision if they were so inclined to grant it; but, to say that it's a forgone conclusion, who ever told you that is not accurate.

Mr. Kaiser – It was somebody from City Council.

Mr. Jamison – Okay...

Mr. Kaiser – And I have emails from them to the mall saying that it would be a waste of my time and my money...

Mr. Jamison – Okay...well, again, it doesn't go to Council initially, it goes to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Kaiser – Okay.

Mr. Jamison – Okay? So, that being said, my suggestion would be that you can contact our City Planner, George Smerigan...

Mr. Kaiser (cont'd) – Okay.

Mr. Jamison – Who works with businesses looking to locate in our community and he can walk you through the process and work with you to determine if you couldn't go in the mall, where else you might be able to locate in the City. So, you can call City Hall, or even look on the website, Mr. Smerigan's phone number is in there and he'll be glad to help you.

Mr. Kaiser – The thing is that I have...like a quick question about...

Mr. Jamison – So, this isn't really a time for debate...okay? I think to assist you, reach out to Mr. Smerigan...

Mr. Kaiser – Okay.

Mr. Jamison – And I think he'll walk you through the process.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Kaiser – Alright.

Mr. Jamison – Thank you.

Mr. Kaiser – Yep. Thank you, guys.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you.

Mr. Schonhut – Is there anybody else who wishes to address Council this evening?

(No comments)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 2021-123 [Reconsideration] by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE NEEDLEPOINT BIPOLAR IONIZATION PROJECT FOR CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short to reconsider Resolution No. 2021-123, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Mr. Jamison – I would just reiterate what we said during Caucus that the purpose of this tonight is to defeat the resolution that was passed two weeks ago and; in order to allow us to bring to you, in the near future an ordinance, under an emergency to hire a firm so that we can expedite the process to make our buildings and facilities safer for our residents, guests and employees. Thank you.

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All Nays. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 2021-123 DEFEATED.

Ordinance No. 2021-124 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 (FINAL) FOR AN INCREASE IN THE CONTRACT PRICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND TRI-MOR CORPORATION, IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2020 PAVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: Ayes: Kaminski, DeMio, Carbone, Roff, Schonhut, Short.

Abstained: Kosek. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2021-124 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2021-125 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE BY INTERNET AUCTION, OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE BY THE CITY'S SERVICE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. [GovDeals]

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2021-125 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2021-126 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION OF CERTAIN OBSOLETE AND SURPLUS VEHICLES NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. [Greater Cleve. Auto Auction]

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2021-126 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2021-127 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVERSION PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 RELATING TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC; AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2021-127 ADOPTED.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

(None)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Set public hearing on the matter of the possible re-appointment and re-employment of Neal M. Jamison (who will be submitting his retirement notice with the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) to be effective December 31, 2021) to his current position as Law Director for the City of Strongsville to be effective January 1, 2022.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (cont'd):

Motion made by Mr. Short, pursuant to Section 145.381 of the Ohio Revised Code, to set a public hearing for Monday, December 6, 2021, at 8:00 p.m., at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, concerning the matter of the possible re-appointment and re-employment of Neal M. Jamison (who will be submitting his retirement notice with the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) to be effective December 31, 2021) to his current position as Law Director for the City of Strongsville, to be effective January 1, 2021. Second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Tiffany Mekeel, MMC
Assistant Clerk of Council

10-04-21

Date

CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO

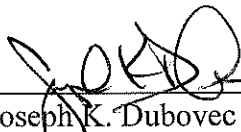
FINANCE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

Date: September 13, 2021
To: President and Members of Council
From: Joseph K. Dubovec CPA, Director of Finance
CC: Mayor Thomas P. Perciak
Neal M. Jamison, Law Director
Subject: Certification of Funding for September 20, 2021 Council Meeting

Since I will not be present at the September 20, 2021 Council meeting, I respectfully request that the "Certification of Funding" listed below be read at the meeting in my absence in order to confirm and document the funding in accordance with law.

CERTIFICATION OF FUNDING

Based upon careful review of the September 20, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda, I hereby certify that Funds will be made available for all Ordinances and Resolutions on such Agenda requiring certification of funding.



Joseph K. Dubovec CPA
Director of Finance

Date: September 13, 2021

Memorial Park Master Plan - Preliminary Summary of Improvements
 City of North Royalton
 February 2021



8. Pond Island
 - Repair bridge
 - Remove bridge add causeway (bridge will not support construction traffic)
 - Construct covered stage with a movie screen and appropriate infrastructure
 - Landscaping
 9. Pond
 - Naturalize edge
 - Fish stocking program
 10. Amphitheater Lawn
 - Minor regrading; turf management
 11. Area West and South of Pond
 - Naturalized meadow; limited mowing
 - Walking path
 12. Great Lawn
 - Add tree planting around perimeter
 13. Play Area
 - Add shade trees and picnic tables on periphery
 - Drinking fountain and shade structures
 14. Bathrooms - Assure ADA compliance
 15. Volleyball Courts
 - Improve drainage
 - Define courts edge
 16. Shelter
 - Upgrade or Replace
 17. New Splash Pad
 - A popular amenity according to public input.
 18. All Purpose Trail - Approximately 6 miles.
 - 10' wide; asphalt with exercise stations
 19. Soccer Field
 - Regrade and seed
 - New concrete pad for bleachers
 - Demo concession stand
 - Replace scoreboard
 20. Baseball Field
 - Renovate infield
 - New storage building
 - New bleachers
 - New press box
 21. Soccer Field - Regrade and seed as needed
 22. Shot Put - New bleachers
 23. Tennis/Basketball Courts
 - Resripe some courts to include Pickleball
 - Repair surface as needed
 - Upgrade lighting as needed
- General Notes:**
- Additional trees as shown on plan. Use to define space and create additional shade.
 - The site could become an arboretum.
 - Mow lines to be established to reduce frequent mowing, allow for 'natural' areas.
 - Investigate partnership with school on science projects.
 - All-Purpose Trail extension on to Bd of Ed Property also an option.

1. State Road Frontage - The 2-acre parcel is the valuable land are in the park due to roadway frontage, high visibility, flat topography and proximity to parking. The Community Garden which covers approximately 4,000 square feet is in the center of the area.
 - Screen the community garden from State Road
 - Consider eventually moving to the lot North of City Hall
 - Dog park
 - All-purpose trail
 - Trees and subtle mounding – park atmosphere
 - Celebrate entry to Memorial Park
 - Picnic tables and grill
2. Lot North of City Hall - The recently acquired 1.5 acre has several possible uses,
 - Relocated/expanded community garden
 - Adult fitness zone
 - Landscaping
 - Small Shelter
 - Court Games such as pickleball
 - New vehicular entrance
 - Expanded parking
3. City Hall Parking Lot
 - Add green infrastructure to improve storm water management and appearance.
 - Expand to North if use of the northern parcel required it.
4. Wooded Hillside
 - Prune/thin for security
5. Parking Lot
 - Regrade along tennis east edge to rectify drainage issue
 - Add green infrastructure to improve storm water management and appearance.
 - Reduce size
 - Repair and resurface asphalt
 - Pickleball courts on area not needed for parking
6. Skate Park
 - Upgrade – better equipment; more attractive
 - Remove concrete barriers/landscape
 - New concrete pad.
7. Shelter
 - Replace with all-season climate controlled structure including restrooms

