

**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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, October 18, 2021 at 7:45 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: Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak and Law Director Neal M. Jamison.

**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, Police Chief Mark Fender, Communications and Technology Director David Sems and Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre.

Council President Schonhut called the caucus to order at 7:51 p.m.

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

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee: Chairman Schonhut advised Ordinance No. 2021-135 is to dedicate certain lands within Pine Lakes Village Subdivision, Phase 6-E. The recommendation was to suspend and adopt this legislation. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Resolution No. 2021-136; a resolution to request for qualifications and proposals for engineering design and consulting services in connection with the Whitney Road improvements project. Mayor Perciak advised the city is asking for outside engineering consulting because of all of the issues regarding this project; such as the water line needing replaced, sidewalk and storm sewer issues, etc. This project is going to be very costly and the city will be applying for grants to help offset the cost.

Mayor Perciak advised the finance committee meeting will be Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Mayor Perciak also advised negotiations have not started yet with the collective bargaining units.

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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 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: Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak and Law Director Neal M. Jamison.

**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, Police Chief Mark Fender, Communications and Technology Director David Sems and Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre.

**COMMENTS ON MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 4, 2021 were approved as submitted.

**APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

(None)

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**SCHOOL BOARD – Ms. Kosek:** Yes, the school board met and went over the budget forecast. They also discussed a potential new reading program. Lastly, and probably most importantly, I want to remind everyone that the school has a renewal levy on the ballot this year. It is not a new tax; but it will allow the schools to continue to create its current programs under the now existing tax. I just ask everyone that when they're voting that they remember that the health of our schools is critical to our community continuing to be successful. That will end my report.

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

(None)

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:** Thank you Mr. Schonhut, we did not have a board meeting since our last Council meeting and I have not received an update on any COVID numbers since our last meeting; so I have nothing to report but will happily take any questions and hopefully at the next meeting we'll have our monthly update from Southwest.

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

(None)

**BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. DeMio:** Thank you, later in the week, we're going to have a lighting committee meeting at the administration building. I don't know the exact time yet, but it is early in the morning...yes, 8:00 a.m. on Thursday as well. That's one thing. The other thing is Neal, do you have a report at all, and I meant to mention this to you before, of the house on Royaltan Road since now we have groups of young...well, let's just say teenagers, playing inside the house?

Mr. Jamison – So, let me follow up with the building department. Mr. Miller has been out on sick leave following his heart surgery; but I will check with Mr. Roenigk and his department...

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

**BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. DeMio (cont'd):**

Mr. DeMio – Yes, the door is wide open, the wrapping of safety wrap is gone.

Mr. Jamison – Okay, I'll follow up and get back to you.

Mr. DeMio – Yes, I appreciate it.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Ms. Roff:** I don't have anything tonight; but I will happily take any questions.

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

Mayor Perciak – One comment Ann, David Sems, our IT director, is going to have an update for us on everything we're doing as far as cybersecurity and all the other things at the next meeting. I'm not sure if he wants to do it in caucus or if he wants to do it here; but I believe I've asked him to update all of you about everything that is going to be going on and all the changes that are going to be put in place.

Mr. Schonhut – And we've seen a lot of those come through our email already; seemingly a daily reminder from him of what is coming down the pike here.

Mr. Jamison – It's called a two-factor authorization which will provide heightened security, particularly for you folks who access the server remotely. David will give you an update in the near future.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you both.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Carbone:** Thank you President Schonhut, I promise I'll keep it short. Last Thursday, we had the business network breakfast. We had the privilege of having Lt. Governor Jon Husted. He talked about a couple of things; but two things in particular, tax breaks over the years that the State has initiated to attract outside business into our State; but also the workforce shortage. He reiterated not only a regional but a global pandemic with that. One of the things that was interesting that he stressed a couple of times was how improving the graduation rate amongst high school students could improve an increase in the workforce in the State of Ohio. Also, we're going to have Brent Painter at our next economic development meeting right here, Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. He's going to update our committee about upcoming projects and businesses looking to move into our area; and then also about the workforce shortage. A couple of ideas that we had discussed that he wants to present to the committee is maybe having lunches to help connect resources to businesses; but also having a website, a portal where businesses can be a part of. Then also they maintain their website so if somebody is looking for employment, they can go onto the city's website, go into this portal, and then they can click on a business or a job that might fit them. The good thing here is something that would be very difficult for us as a community to maintain and update; so it would be on that business would maintain and update their own website where the residents or people outside the city could click on. Also, he is going to address about the career fair at Polaris. I think that's interesting and very important. We have great kids right here in our community and surrounding communities. One of the things Brent had mentioned also is he's being noticing about ¾ of all the careers that our kids are leaving Polaris for multiple communities are landing right here in Strongsville for jobs. That's a really nice thing and I think as we develop our downtown center plan and we have more amenities; we're attracting young kids in our businesses. They start purchasing homes here and amenities for kids; it all goes hand in hand. Also, Brent in October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> will be down in Columbus for the Ohio Economic Development Summit.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Carbone (cont'd):** Remember that Brent was one of the first to be certified with economic development here; he's 1 of 7 in the first class. Now, he's 1 of 40 and he's now a mentor at these schools for other economic development directors throughout the State of Ohio; so he's representing Strongsville very proudly. Also, on Friday along with the Mayor and Gordon Short, we were at the SouthPark Mall for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Mayor gave Carmen Spinoso with Spinoso Group a Proclamation. Carmen had presented the city with a \$10,000.00 check to put towards our playground, which is really nice. I think we are getting closer to a plan that they want to roll out for the mall; which obviously is very important. That ends my report, thank you.

Mayor Perciak – Just one more thing to add if I may Mr. President, on November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Chamber of Commerce, the guest speaker is going to be Brent Painter; and the entire topic will be economic development. We just didn't have a time at the economic development breakfast when we had the Lt. Governor there; so I've asked the Chamber to make time so that Brent can update all the business men in this community as to what has happened, how they can network as a result of those happenings and what will be happening. He will be the speaker at that luncheon. It's going to be right here at our recreation center. I've called Joe Bucci; he's agreed to cater it. Call the Chamber now and make your reservations; support our Brent Painter. Really, as Councilman Carbone said, he's made quite a reputation for himself in the development department at the State of Ohio level. He speaks with authority and definitely understands how the system works. Be there, support him, make Strongsville proud; and the more of us that are there to support him, the better it is for this town.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mayor Perciak and Mr. Carbone, any questions out of that committee?

(None)

**FINANCE – Mr. DeMio:** We have a finance meeting the 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. right here to go over the budget. As the Mayor stated, there's no update from the unions yet. Any requests, also, we know that energy costs are going to go up. The cost of living is certainly at its highest in many years to be; so we have to make sure our dollars stretch the appropriate way; make sure frugal as we have been. I know that there's a freeze, of course, on Council's pay as we have for many, many years now. I know the Mayor is making sure that his department is trim as possible. I know he's always done that. He'll report all those things to us later this month on the 28<sup>th</sup>; that's it.

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

(None)

**PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Schonhut:** Two things on the agenda this evening. Ordinance No. 2021-135, this is accepting for dedication certain public lands and utilities within Pine Lakes subdivision, Phase 6-E. The recommendation on that is to suspend and adopt. Also, Resolution No. 2021-136 authorizing the Mayor to advertise a request for qualifications and proposal for engineer design and consulting services in connection with the Whitney Road improvements project, which we discussed briefly during caucus. The recommendation on that is to also suspend and adopt. Any questions for me?

(None)

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Short:** Thank you Mr. Schonhut, no ordinances or resolutions of tonight's agenda; however, a couple of updates are from the fire department. The new aerial truck, which I believe we approved in the budget late last year, has been retrofitted for Strongsville and delivered as of Friday. There will be training on that and it will be in service at station 1, Mr. Kaminski, on December 1<sup>st</sup>. That's up and running. A little bit of disappointing news, I know Ms. Kosek you'll be sad to hear this; but two grants that were applied for from FEMA-one for equipment and one for personnel staffing were both rejected. I don't know if the Mayor knows any more color around that; but unfortunately...

Mayor Perciak – You truly don't want my opinion on that.

Mr. Short – I understand, it's disappointing though to say the least that we did not get those; but I'm sure we'll go back at it again and try again; but unfortunately, we did not get those for this year. That concludes my report but I will take any questions.

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

Ms. Kosek – I just want to thank the chief and your administration for going out and trying. I know that it was an uphill battle; but I appreciate the effort.

Mayor Perciak – We will continue to make every effort, be assured.

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. Kaminski:** We have no ordinances or resolutions this evening. Talking with Joe Walker, we're getting ready for leaf pickup already; so that will be the next big project over the next several weeks-switching out the trucks and getting ready for that. That is the next big item on the list; and obviously, getting the salt ready as well. Other than that, we are good to go, any questions?

Ms. Kosek – I was just going to ask...can you just remind everyone when they'll be north and when they'll be south. That would be...if you can recall.

Mr. Kaminski – I can't recall the schedule, but next time, I'll definitely...

Mr. Schonhut – North starting this week, south the following week.

Mayor Perciak – I'm going to ask David Sems to put that out there in case people are wondering instead of calling us or calling of you; we should just have that out there really.

Mr. Kaminski – Yes, we'll get the schedule posted.

Mr. Schonhut – It was out once or twice but now that we're finally starting to change into late fall it would be good to reiterate that I think.

Ms. Kosek – I wasn't complaining that you hadn't gotten it out. It's out there, I just couldn't remember the week and I figured we just had the opportunity to remind everyone.

Mayor Perciak – I understand, it's just that everybody...and pretty soon, you know, the snow is going to start falling whether we like it or not. Our bins are full, our salt bins, off last year's prices.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION (cont'd) – Mr. Kaminski:**

Mr. Short – Actually, one thing Mr. Mayor, I've been trying to talk to Mr. Walker about this. We have an issue with WOW Cable. They have some unattended or destroyed cable boxes that need fixing; so I'll talk to you about that so we can get them to move. They've been unresolved...

Mayor Perciak – Talk to David.

Mr. Short – David Sems?

Mayor Perciak – Yes.

Mr. Short – Okay.

Mayor Perciak – David and Johnny will be out a couple days this week; but get ahold of David. He deals with them all the time.

Mr. Short – Okay, they've been unresponsive so far, thank you.

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Kosek:** Yes, we don't have anything on the agenda tonight; but it's 8 days until the Silver Sneakers are live at the recreation center. I have gotten a lot of great feedback from folks in the community who are really excited about getting that started. I am looking forward to hearing how many new folks we have at the center once we have maybe like a month in. Hopefully at the next meeting, we will have hopefully some results from the survey that David Sems put online for the town center project. I know he was working on some additional information there and I don't know that he's gotten it all yet' but hopefully, we'll have some details to share soon. That's all, unless Mayor you have something.

Mayor Perciak – I just have one request. We need lifeguards; so if you know of anyone who is a lifeguard and is looking to change jobs or seek employment, have them contact Bryan Bogre. Bryan will interview them and make sure they have all the necessary certifications; but we're running thin with all these kids going back to college. We're thin there; and it's really hard to find lifeguards right now.

Mr. Kaminski – I did have one question, I did receive a couple of calls about hours of operation. A lot of folks that called me are asking us to reconsider going at least an hour later till 9:00 p.m. because when they get out of work, they basically don't have enough time to come and get their workout in with the scheduled closing time right now.

Mayor Perciak – This is all budgetary issues; and I'll have to talk to Bryan and Joe Dubovec because it just isn't an hour staying open later; it's an hour longer for all these employees; and it's an hour longer for our maintenance staff; it's an hour longer for all the energy usage. Just keep all that in mind and then we'll go from there.

Ms. Kosek – So, while we're talking about that, I was planning on talking to Bryan about it and you but I'll bring it up. I'm getting the same kinds of feedback; but not so much about the hour in the evening, but from families who would like to use the recreation on Sunday and we're still closed on Sunday. I know it's an issue...

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):**

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Kosek (cont'd):**

Mayor Perciak – Kelly, in all honesty, I just don't see that coming back this year at all. I really...and that's going to be up to you people, as to how you want to take money from one line item to another; but if we open that place up on Sunday, one it's going to be difficult to find staff; and two, the funding of it because everybody knows the numbers that we have there. When we continually add to that deficit there...it's got to come from somewhere. I know people don't want to hear that answer; but that's the honest answer.

Ms. Roff – Could we possibly, maybe beside a staffing part issue; but doing maybe another survey...closed maybe on a Monday instead?

Mayor Perciak – Well, that's a workday and workdays are busy, busy days. So that's...in all honesty Ann, we can't win because the workday crowd from Monday to Friday is the largest. Truly, Saturday and Sunday, other than people coming in to pay a \$10.00/day rate, it just isn't there.

Mr. Schonhut – Anything else out of rec?

(No comments)

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Schonhut:** We have nothing this evening.

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

**MAYOR PERCIAK:**

(No report)

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mayor Perciak.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dubovec:**

Mr. Jamison – Thanks Mr. Chairman, “Based upon careful review of the October 18, 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.

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

**LAW DEPARTMENT – Mr. Jamison:**

Mr. Schonhut – I just want to take a quick moment to recognize our former Law Director, Ken Kraus, who unfortunately passed away this past Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Ken served as our Law Director from 2002 until his retirement in 2016. I think many, if not all of us, got to interact with Ken in that capacity. After that, he went on to be our Magistrate until November 2020. Ken was a very unique and a very smart guy who brought a lot of value to our law department in this city and set a lot of good precedence back there to that set this city up very well for future endeavors. He will be dearly missed and he was dearly appreciated; so if we could just take a brief moment to recognize Ken, I would appreciate it.

***At this time, a moment of silence was observed.***

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

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

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you, Mr. Jamison, we'll go to you for the rest of the law department.

Mr. Jamison – Thanks Mr. Chairman, one thing I just want to point out, when Mr. Spinoso was here last week, he did an interview with Mike Trivisonno on 3WE radio; and we're in the process of trying to get a snippet of that because there was a very positive conversation that Mr. Spinoso had about our community and why he chose to invest here. We're trying to obtain that and put that on the website so the residents and others will know why this is a great place for not only people to live but also to invest their money and do business here. It's nice when someone from outside the community recognizes what we have in a positive way and we're trying to get that and put that on the website; so I just thought I'd mention that. Mr. Semis is working that as we speak. Other than that, all ordinances and resolutions are in proper legal form, that concludes my report.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mr. Jamison.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

(None)

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Ordinance No. 2021-135** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING FOR DEDICATION TO PUBLIC USE CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN PINE LAKES VILLAGE SUBDIVISION PHASE 6-E; ACCEPTING CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITIES CONSTRUCTED THEREIN AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ACTS REQUIRED IN FURTHERANCE THEREOF, 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. 2021-135 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2021-136** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN AND CONSULTING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE WHITNEY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE.

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.**

**Resolution No. 2021-136 ADOPTED.**



**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:**

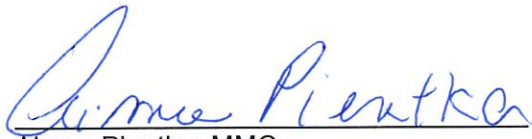
(None)

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

Mr. Schonhut – Halloween is October 31<sup>st</sup> 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. here in the City of Strongsville.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Schonhut adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.



Aimee Pientka, MMC  
Clerk of Council

11-01-21

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Date

CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

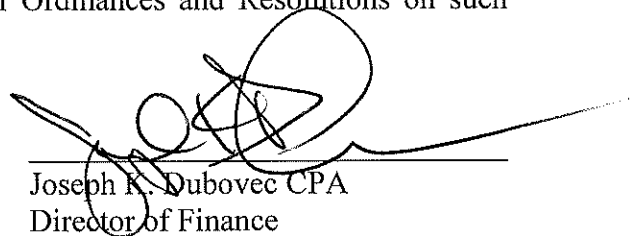
**Date:** October 18, 2021  
**To:** President and Members of Council  
**From:** Joseph K. Dubovec CPA, Director of Finance  
**CC:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak  
Neal M. Jamison, Law Director  
**Subject:** Certification of Funding for October 18, 2021 Council Meeting

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Since I will not be present at the October 18, 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 October 18, 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: October 18, 2021