

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024.

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, November 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.**

Present: Council Members: James E. Carbone, Gordon C. Short, James A. Kaminski, Annmarie P. Roff, Thomas M. Clark, and Brian M. Spring. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison, and Finance Director Eric Dean.

Absent: Councilwoman Kelly A. Kosek.

Council President, James E. Carbone, called the caucus to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Recreation & Community Services Committee:

Chairman Spring - Thank you, Council President. We are looking at Ordinance No. 2024-150; this is the one that was just amended for the rates at the recreation center. It was amended, so the recommendation is to amend, suspend, and adopt. We also have...

Ms. Pientka - Adopt as amended.

Chairman Spring - It is amended?

Ms. Pientka - So it will be motion to amend, then to suspend, then to adopt as amended.

Chairman Spring - Okay.

Ms. Pientka - If Council agrees on a motion to amend it.

Chairman Spring - Awesome, thank you, Aimee. I also have Resolution No. 2024-167, which is a resolution accepting a donation of money from Terry and Kathy Toth to be used in connection with the Strongsville Town Center Enhancement and Walkability Initiative - for a donation of \$5,000.00. That's a recommendation to suspend and adopt.

Mr. Carbone - Good, any questions?

(No questions)

Chairman Spring - That is all.

Public Safety & Health Committee:

Chairwoman Roff - I have just one item. I have Ordinance No. 2024-168; this is an ordinance...it's just a housekeeping ordinance to approve the resale of...is that right, or am I on the wrong thing? Sorry, yes, some resale of items no longer needed.

Mr. Jamison - They are disposing them.

Chairwoman Roff - Oh, disposal, okay.

Mr. Jamison - The air units that the firefighters use.

Chairwoman Roff - Okay, and we are not reselling those?

Mr. Jamison - Right.

Chairwoman Roff - So, just disposal, okay. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt, and that's all.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

Finance Committee:

Chairman Short - Thank you, Mr. Carbone. We have a few items on tonight's agenda. The first two are Ordinance Nos. 2024-164 and 2024-165, they will be placed on second reading. Ordinance No. 2024-164 is relating to the public improvement tax increment equivalent fund for the new...I believe this is the...

Mr. Jamison - Pearl V.

Chairman Short - ...Pearl V district. We will place that on second reading. Ordinance No. 2024-165 is for the same - for the tax increment equivalent fund, or the TIF for the Sheetz 82 municipal plan there. That will be placed on second reading as well. Then we have after that, Ordinance No. 2024-169; this is the budget for 2025 for the City of Strongsville, which we went over in the Finance Committee meeting that we met last Monday, which was October 28th if my memory serves me correctly. We met here with the Finance Director, Mr. Dean to review that. Mr. Dean were there any material changes to that since our meeting before we vote on this tonight?

Mr. Dean - Yes, just a small change. We added some money for a grant writer out of the general miscellaneous...out of the budget. So, we added \$60,000.00 for that.

Mr. Carbone - That would be contracted and not for an additional employee?

Mr. Dean - Yes, that was added to special contracts.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

Chairman Short - Thank you. If there's no question on that, we will suspend and adopt that budget for the 2025 fiscal year for the city. Then, we have two ordinances. Ordinance Nos. 2024-170 and 2024-171, are authorizing the administration to go out to issue notes. The first under Ordinance No. 2024-170 is for \$2,365,000.00 for purposes of paying costs relating to the remodeling and renovating of the recreation center. Ordinance No. 2024-171 is \$4,500,000.00 again, in a note repayable in 1 year. Correct, Mr. Dean, there's a term of 12 months for both of these?

Mr. Dean - Yes.

Chairman Short - That is for the Town Center project. I believe, currently, with the interest rates and our Aaa bond rating, we are at about, I believe, 3.75% on these notes.

Mr. Dean - That's correct. That's what notes are selling for currently at the market.

Chairman Short - Which is a very good rate, and I am assuming our investments are probably getting around 5%. That is a nice positive arbitrage for our city. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt those as well.

Mayor Perciak - One thing Gordon.

Chairman Short - Yes.

Mayor Perciak - On the first note, this is to finish up and revitalize all the things we may need at the recreation center - from the elevators to the doors, to the flooring, and to the fencing around Foltz Parkway. This package should completely finish anything that has everything and anything to do with the recreation center. Then, the \$4,500,000.00 is what's left from the Town Center project that came to...not quite \$11,000,000.00, right?

Mr. Dean - That's correct, yes sir.

Mayor Perciak - Then, we had all the donations. They are still coming in, by the way, which we are grateful for. It's a long cry from \$11,000,000.00 to finance only \$4,500,000.00 and receive \$6,000,000.00 in donations - give or take. That says a lot about the community and the people that are here, the civic organizations, and the people that stepped up. In all honesty, never did I dream that we would be able to raise those types of dollars to offset those costs.

Chairman Short - Going in and borrowing at a 3.75% interest rate too is pretty inexpensive now a days in today's markets.

Mayor Perciak - That's again because, when they review our financials - Moody's, they get into the down and dirty, and then we have to be able to answer those questions, which Eric does very well. If we didn't have the cash we have, and if we didn't manage our money the way we do, we wouldn't be getting a 3.0%-3.75% rate. There would be no arbitrage.

Chairman Short - Correct.

Mayor Perciak - There would be nothing to get.

Chairman Short - You have to have good credit to get good rates, and that's not easy to do at the city level. We appreciate the work of you and your finance team there for that, because it is creating improvements for the city and our residents at a very low cost. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt both of those.

Ms. Roff - Thank you, and ditto from what Gordon said. Thank you, Mayor and Eric, for the amount of work and time that you guys put into our financial...our financial...

Mr. Carbone - Finances.

Ms. Roff - Yes, just the finances, with us having a nice Aaa bond rating and whatnot. My question was for the recreation center. Will that include any equipment that might be lacking there or needing replaced?

Mayor Perciak - One of them is going to definitely be in the kiddie pool - the ship. That thing alone I think they gave us...

Mr. Dean - And the slide.

Mayor Perciak - ...and the slide, that cost is in excess of \$700,000.00.

Ms. Roff - Okay.

Mr. Jamison - The pirate ship.

Mayor Perciak - Yes, whatever the fancy name is, but all the little ones love it.

Ms. Roff - Then upstairs, the workout equipment, we are okay there?

Mayor Perciak - I didn't hear what she said.

Ms. Roff - The workout equipment upstairs are we okay there, or are we looking to replace some of that?

Mr. Jamison - This is not for equipment. This is for repairing the elevator, and it's for some fencing at some ball fields. We are going to look to do the event center flooring potentially; different things around the facility. You have to remember, it's almost thirty years old.

Ms. Roff - Correct.

Mr. Jamison - They are just trying to get things updated to go into the next thirty years. No equipment though; we did that about five or six years ago. We made a major investment in bringing new equipment in at that time.

Ms. Roff - Thank you. I appreciate you guys.

Chairman Short - That concludes my report.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you much.

Communications & Technology Committee:

Chairman Kaminski - Alright, we have two ordinances this evening. Ordinance No. 2024-172; this is authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Inversions6 and Master Services agreement with Darktrace Holdings. It's basically hardware and software to protect our email security systems. It's a four-year contract for \$76,000.00. The recommendation is suspension and adoption. Also, Ordinance No. 2024-173; this is an amendment to a ground lease agreement, which we already have in place. They are amending that agreement over (6) five-year terms - thirty years. We get an annual income of around \$34,000.00 - about \$2,900.00 a month on that. That's a recommendation of suspension and of adoption on that as well. That concludes my report. Any questions?

Mr. Carbone - Thank you, Mr. Kaminski. Any questions?

(No questions)

Planning, Zoning and Engineering Committee:

Mr. Carbone - I will be taking these over for Ms. Kosek this evening. We have Ordinance No. 2024-174; this is a lot split for a Marks Road property - Permanent Parcel Number (PPN: 394-07-001) located at 17607 Marks Road. If you remember, this was a piece of property that was rezoned last year some time, and now they are requesting a partial lot split. We have Resolution No. 2024-175; this is the approval of the final site plan for the replacement of antennas and related equipment on an existing...on our existing telecommunications tower located at 18778 Roylton Road.

Public Service & Conservation Committee:

Mr. Carbone - We have Ordinance No. 2024-176; this is to enter into a contract for improvements to our wastewater treatment plants B & C in connection with the Wastewater Treatment Plants Rehabilitation program. Lastly, we have Resolution No. 2024-177; this is granting permission to transfer certain certificates for burial rights in our cemetery. All of these are going to be suspensions and adoptions. Did you want to add anything, Neal?

Mr. Jamison - Yes, for Ordinance No. 2024-176; this is obviously a big project for our treatment plants. It's anticipated that this is going to be a 2-year project. Great Lakes Construction Co. was the lowest and best bidder at that number. We put a lot of work into this project in terms of rehabbing and updating both facilities, again to bring them into the modern era. It's a big project for our infrastructure for continuing the service that we provide. Then for Resolution No. 2024-175, there's no new antennas; they are just swapping out antennas, so that it's really just keeping the similar equipment, and they are just swapping it out.

Mr. Carbone - Any questions on those?

(No questions)

Mr. Short made a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters related to the compensation of employees in the Council office. It was seconded by Ms. Roff 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 6:47 p.m. The executive session concluded at 7:03 p.m. and reconvened into open session.

*****Please note – The legislation discussed above on tonight's agenda can be viewed in entirety at: <https://www.strongsville.org/government/city-council/minutes-agendas> by clicking on the November 4, 2024 agenda link. *****

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING:

The Clerk of Council certified that the meeting had been posted in accordance with Ordinance No. 2023-182.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members: James E. Carbone, Gordon C. Short, James A. Kaminski, Annmarie P. Roff, Thomas M. Clark, and Brian M. Spring. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison, and Finance Director Eric Dean.

Absent: Councilwoman Kosek A. Kosek.

Motion made by Councilman Short, second by Ms. Roff to excuse Councilman Kelly A. Kosek for just cause. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on October 21, 2024 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

(None)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Clark: Thank you, Mr. President. There has not been an Economic Development Committee meeting since our last meeting. Again, in keeping with my theme of highlighting manufacturing here in our City of Strongsville, I have an organization - a manufacturing organization that I am going to highlight - no surprise. Heroux-Devtek, they are an international company that has a 100,000 square-foot facility here in our industrial parkway. This company has been around for 82 years - since 1942, when they were founded. The company is headquartered in Quebec, but again, has a 100,000 square-foot facility here in Strongsville. They specialize in the design, development, manufacture, repair, and overhaul of landing gear. Landing gear for the aerospace market - both commercial aerospace and defense aerospace. An example: the lunar module that put Neil Armstrong on the moon had some landing gear on it. That landing gear was made by Heroux-Devtek. Again, they have been around since 1942; that was a big event in 1969 with the Apollo 11 mission. They do the finishing and assembly of landing gear here in Strongsville. We're fortunate that they are here, and I hope they continue to grow in our cities. I just wanted to take a minute to highlight a great manufacturing company here in Strongsville and how important manufacturing is in Strongsville and throughout the State of Ohio. We do...it's not on your calendars, but we will likely have an Economic Development Committee meeting on Monday, November 28th (meant to say November 25th). That is the 4th Monday in November. More details to come on where the venue will be for that. That concludes my report, but I will happily take any questions.

(No questions)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Ms. Roff:

(No report)

PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH – Ms. Roff: I only have one item. I have Ordinance No. 2024-168, and that is to dispose of some equipment that is no longer needed and obsolete - suspend and adopt please.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Mr. Spring: Thank you, Council President. The first one we have is Ordinance No. 2024-150; this is an ordinance approving the new rates for the rental of facilities at the recreation center and senior center - it has been amended. The recommendation on that is to suspend and adopt. I also have Ordinance No. 2024-167...

Mr. Jamison - We have to amend that, then suspend and adopt as amended.

Mr. Spring - So, amend, suspend, and adopt as amended.

Mr. Jamison - Yes.

Mr. Spring - Perfect. We also have Resolution No. 2024-167, which is a resolution accepting a donation of money from Terry and Kathy Toth to be used in connection with the Strongsville Town Center Enhancement and Walkability Initiative. It was a donation of \$5,000.00, so thank you very much to Kathy and Terry Toth for that donation.

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Spring: There was a school board meeting on October 24th. It was a standard meeting, and there were some highlights. They did give recognition to K-9 Officer Miller and his police canine, Storm - that was nice to see. Besides that, I just wanted to congratulate our Strongsville High School football team for their first home playoff game since 2008. It was a win versus Cleveland Heights. They do play this Friday versus Mentor on the road. Congratulations to Coach Trusnik and his staff on the amazing turnaround this season. That is all.

Mr. Short - I actually just want to loop in there and jump into your report there, Mr. Spring. Also, a congratulations to the Sts. Joseph and John's 7th and 8th grade football team for winning the CYO City Championship last Sunday as well, so congratulations.

Mr. Spring - Coach Terrigno.

Mr. Short - Yes.

Mr. Carbone - Awesome job on both squads, and thank you for the report.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

FINANCE – Mr. Short: Thank you, Mr. Carbone. First for Finance, the Finance Committee did meet in these chambers last Monday with the administration and the finance director to discuss the 2025 budget for the City of Strongsville - that will be here before you know it. We do have that tonight on the agenda. Ordinance No. 2024-170 (meant to say Ordinance No. 2024-169) that will be placed on first reading and kept in the committee on the budget. It was a very productive meeting, and I think we had a good look at our financial picture for 2025 even in these uncertain times. Then tonight on the agenda, we do have other ordinances as well. Ordinance Nos. 2024-164 and 2024-165 both are going to be placed on second reading and kept in the committee. These deal with the Tax Incremental Financing improvement funds (TIFs) newly created for some projects in the city. Ordinance No. 2024-164 deals with Pearl V for tax improvements there using the Tax Increment Financing program. Ordinance No. 2024-165 is for the Sheetz 82 project as well. Again, those will be placed on second reading and kept in the committee. Again, Ordinance No. 2024-170 (meant to say Ordinance No. 2024-169) is the budget for 2025 to be placed on first reading and kept in the committee. Lastly, we have Ordinance Nos. 2024-170 and 2024-171; these are both to issue notes for the City of Strongsville. Ordinance No. 2024-170 is for \$2,365,000.00 to be used for renovations, upgrades, and remodeling costs at the recreation center here in town. Ordinance No. 2024-171 is for \$4,500,000.00 in notes for improvements and for payment of the construction of the Town Center. Over half, probably close to 60% of the Town Center costs, were through donations from the various families, citizens, companies of the City of Strongsville, and anything outside the city, we are very appreciative of that. We only had to, again, borrow \$4,500,000.00 for that at very fair rates. We discussed this at the Finance Committee meeting; when you're an Aaa bond rated city, you get the best rates. It's just like having good credit as an individual. We will be borrowing that money at a 3.75% interest rate, while our money is earning 5%. That in the finance world is what we call very good arbitrage. I want to thank the Mayor and Finance Director, Mr. Dean, for that strategy and taking advantage of the interest rates we were able to get at an Aaa bond rated city. Mr. Dean, any comments or anything on the budget or anything else discussed in the committee.

Mr. Dean - No, I think you nailed it, Gordon.

Mr. Short - Thank you, any questions?

(No questions)

Mr. Short - That concludes the Finance Committee.

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: We don't have a board meeting, just a very quick update from our CEO, Bill Young - the performance and improvement plan is being implemented hospital wide and across the system. We're starting to see some results there. A couple of just interesting facts of about how national events and even some world events affect the Southwest General Health System. Interestingly enough, the flooding current caused by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina damaged one of the main producers of I.V. solutions in the United States. This has caused, obviously, a supply shortage in the hospital world of I.V.s; however, the Southwest General Health System is in a good position with the inventory that it has on hand. There has been no cancellation of any non-emergency surgeries or procedures due to a shortage. However, they are watching their supply as the Ohio Department of Health has issued warnings to hospital systems to be careful of their I.V. supply. Interestingly, radio isotopes, which are produced for nuclear medicine procedures, are currently in short supply because there are only five nuclear reactors in the entire world.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short (cont'd): Five in the world - not the United States, but the world that make the radioisotopes used for these medical procedures, and there is a shortage of that currently right now. Although it has not affected patient tests yet, they are being conservative in using that technology. It's very interesting how some of these things affect even us here in our little corner of Northeast Ohio. That concludes my report on Southwest General Health System, but I will happily take any questions.

(No questions)

Mr. Short - Thank you.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Kaminski: Yes, we have two ordinances this evening. Ordinance No. 2024-172; this is allowing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Inversion6 and a master service agreement with Darktrace Holdings. This is for hardware and software related to our email security systems for the city; this is a four-year contract for \$76,000.00. The recommendation is suspension and adoption on that. We also have Ordinance No. 2024-173; that is an amendment to a ground lease agreement with Octagon Edge Towers, LLC. Within that agreement, it extends it for (6) five-year terms for 30 years. That does give rental revenues of about \$34,000.00 a year - \$2,900.00 a month. The recommendation is suspension and adoption on that. I'll be happy to take any questions.

(No questions)

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Ms. Kosek:

Mr. Carbone - I will be taking Ms. Kosek's report this evening; she is doing her due diligence with her son at the Washington, D.C. trip. Good luck to Kelly on that. We have Ordinance No. 2024-174; this is a lot split of a Mark's Road property for Permanent Parcel Number (PPN: 394-07-001), located at 17607 Marks Road. We have Resolution No. 2024-175; this is the approval of the final site plan for the replacement of antennas and related equipment on our existing telecommunications tower, located at 18778 Royalton Road. Those are both going to be suspensions and adoptions.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Ms. Kosek:

Mr. Carbone - We have Ordinance No. 2024-176; this is to enter into a contract for improvements to our wastewater treatment plants B & C in connection with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation project that we had discussed the last couple of meetings. We have been working on it for quite some time, and it's going to be a large, worthy investment there. We have Resolution No. 2024-177; this is granting permission to transfer certain certificate burial rights in the Strongsville Municipal Cemetery. Both of those are going to be suspensions and adoptions.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a few announcements: As most of you know, tomorrow is election day. Our polls will open at 6:30 p.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. here in the City of Strongsville. I spoke to our police chief this morning, and he is going to make certain that there is police protection at all of our voting places here in the City of Strongsville. Everybody please go out vote and understand that voting here in Strongsville, our police will be there just to make certain that traffic and law and order are the order of the day rather than the issue of the day. Next, Christmas lighting is coming, so those of you who got your letters from me to donate for "Santa is Coming to Town." - It is on Sunday, November 24th. It is kind of late this year because Thanksgiving Day is late. We always have the Christmas lighting the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Our merchants and our retail folks have requested that time over the years, so we're following through on that. That will happen usually at dusk at 5:00 p.m. because, of course, the clocks are turned back. We will have fireworks, and it will be a great night. Again, Santa will be coming with his elves. I'm not quite sure if he'll come on the firetruck or will be coming in a sleigh. It all depends what the weather is going to be like, so mark that down. Also, our annual Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Dance will be on Friday, December 6th. It's coming back to Strongsville here at the Encore Event Center, which is the former Michaud's. Anybody wanting tickets for that, just call the Chamber of Commerce or call our office here at the city, and we will be happy...Again, the proceeds from this dance are used for scholarships for our kids. Whether your child goes to Strongsville High School or any of the private high schools, if they qualify, they...if they are students at the high schools, they qualify for these college scholarships. Again, that event is Friday, December 6th. That ends my report.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you, sir.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dean: Thank you Council President, I certify that funds will be made available for all ordinances and resolutions on tonight's agenda requiring certification of funding, thank you.

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

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Amber Gibbs, 4434 S. Meadow Lane, Strongsville, Ohio 44136: Good evening. My name is Amber Gibbs, and I live at 4434 South Meadow Lane. I am here tonight as the CEO and Superintendent of the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. I just want to take a couple of minutes to reintroduce you to our organization and talk about the work that we do to support people throughout the county and here in the City of Strongsville. Our mission is to support and empower people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work, and play in the community. We support about 15,000 people each year with developmental disabilities in Cuyahoga County. Last year, we served over 500 people with developmental disabilities in Strongsville and their family members. Two-thirds of our \$150 million dollar budget, comes from a levy...a tax levy - a 3.9 mill continuous levy that was last passed by the generous voters of Cuyahoga County in 2005. From birth through adulthood, our goal is to support people to live their best lives in the community.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Gibbs (cont'd) - We provide things like early intervention services for kids 0 to age 3. We have therapies like occupational speech and physical therapy. We provide consultative services with schools in every district to help support students with disabilities. We provide transition services as they are aging out of school and looking for employment or activities in the community. We also provide housing and assistive technology services to help people be very independent. We are a different agency than we were even just five years ago. In late 2019, just before the pandemic, we privatized our adult day services and our transportation services, which were tangible, visible ways that people knew us in the community. We have repositioned ourselves to be an agency that is a leader in the state when it comes to supporting people with disabilities. Just a few examples I want to give you of some really innovative things we've done recently: In 2023, we launched a new program with Cleveland State University called the "CSU Rise" program, which aims to give students who have graduated from high school with a disability a typical college experience. Even if they are not ready to go out on their own on a college campus, they get extra support so that they can learn independent living skills, be part of a campus community, and take general education classes. We are doing a lot of innovative work with housing. In 2022, we launched what we call our "TryTech Smart Apartments" in Lakewood. They are four apartments that allow people with disabilities to live short-term, in an apartment on their own, with every type of assistive technology and remote monitoring in place, so they can learn what works for them and take that onto a new place and be independent and on their own in the community. Within the next year, we are going to launch our first of two tiny homes right on the site of another community home, so that someone can have independence yet have access to staff at all times as a safety and support measure that they might need. We partner with DCFS (Division of Children and Family Services), the ADAMHS Board (Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services), and the Family and Children First Council to support the young people who are in crisis. In 2022, we opened the T-Suites, and we are a part of the county's planning for the Children's Wellness Campus. We also invest in all communities in a lot of different ways. Since 2021, we have granted over \$1 million dollars to various cities and municipalities to help community libraries, art centers, and recreation and leisure organizations become more physically accessible and make their programming more inclusive for people with disabilities. By the end of this year, Cuyahoga County will have ten new universal changing tables throughout the county, making available free, safe, and dignified access to restrooms for everyone with special needs. We also do a lot to support people in Cuyahoga County, and we try to be a resource for different communities. I just wanted to be here tonight to let you know a little bit about us and say that if there is ever anything we can partner with the City of Strongsville on, if you are having a hard time with the situation, we would be certainly glad to help in any way. Thank you very much for your time today.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you, that was very informative, and we will pass that on. Anybody else this evening?

Bonnie Thoennes, 9407 Brushwood Lane, Strongsville, Ohio 44136: I'm Bonnie Thoennes, 9407 Brushwood Lane. I would like to make a comment about tomorrow's levy. I just don't think that the current offer of a 4.9 mill levy is a good compromise. The residents are told that it will reduce their taxes, and it will, but by how much? The amount of tax reduction is posted on the "Continue the Excellence" Facebook website and reads, "It's just math. Your taxes will not increase due to a passage of Issue 53. Tax payers will save 58 cents per month per \$100,000.00.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Thoennes (cont'd) - If you have a quality education from Strongsville City Schools, you can definitely do that math. Vote yes for Issue 53." I took...I did the math and I took a \$200,000.00 home since it's hard to find a \$100,000.00 home in Strongsville; especially after this reappraisal. A resident of a \$200,000.00 home will save \$12.72 a year. Now, let's look to see what the school district is getting. The original levy generates \$9.8 million dollars, which is \$300,000.00 more than when it was passed in 2019. The current 4.9 mill levy, will generate around \$9.2 million dollars. That is about \$700,000.00 less than the original levy. In 2021, there was a windfall from reappraisal, which was around \$1 million dollars. The windfall amount for 2024 is about \$2.4 million dollars, which will be collected in 2025 and every year after. There's also interest revenue earned from the current cash balance. It will reduce over the years, but it is a significant amount. In 2024, the interest amount earned was over \$2.8 million dollars. In 2025, it is forecasted to earn \$2.5 million dollars. So, in 2025, this district will have an extra \$4.9 million dollars. If we subtract the tax reduction that the residents will receive, the Strongsville district is already ahead by \$4.2 million dollars. That's just this year, and the minimum \$3 million dollars after...until the next reappraisal. If we divide those \$4.2 million dollars by the number of students, which is 5,704, we get \$736.00 per student, and the residents only got \$12.00 per year; and the 2024 expenditures per pupil was at \$15,373.00. The \$736.00 is a 4.8% increase per pupil, and the forecasted amount per pupil for Strongsville for 2024/2025, is \$16,158.00. Districts in Cuyahoga County, including Strongsville, are spending per year more than what the tuition is per year in Ohio State University. For 2024, per year, the tuition at Ohio State University was \$13,000.00. For 2025...now, it's \$13,244.00, which is a lot less than in Strongsville and it's guaranteed for four years. College tuition at Ohio State University for the next four years will cost college students \$52,976.00, and for a student in Strongsville the cost will be \$69,643.00 - taking under consideration a 5% increase every year. That is \$17,000.00 more, and this kind of increase is unsustainable. When it comes to picking up these fees...now I'm talking about the fees and the kindergarten tuition - it's unfair to do it now. It was time to do it when there was no deficit spending. By offering it now, it only adds to deficit spending, and that will result in a larger next operation levy. It wasn't offered when revenues over expenses were \$11 million, \$9 million, \$8.7 million, and \$5.3 million dollars in the last four years - that's what it was. Now that we are deficit spending, we suddenly are offering this tuition. Possible full-time free kindergarten was offered in 2019 before the 2000 levy was passed, but it was never implemented. In closing, I would like to say that it's sad to see what this board of education and the school administration are doing already. They spent the time planning cuts and reductions and making everyone worry instead of coming up with a compromise that's in the best interest of everyone in this community. The first thing on the list is always busing. What's hard to understand is that someone who would make, after cuts, \$90,000.00 a year and has a savings of \$77,000.00 cannot absorb \$2,500.00 a year for the next five years. Especially if that person will be getting \$2,400.00...I'm talking now about a person instead of the school. I'm closing, just another sentence. So, saving \$77,000.00 cannot absorb \$2,500.00 a year for the next five years while receiving dividends of \$2.4 million dollars, and receiving \$2,500.00 of interest; that isn't right. To treat residents that way over \$12.00 a year for a \$200,000.00 home - that is not right when the school is getting over \$4 million dollars.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you, ma'am. Anybody else this evening?

Richard Micko, 20520 Wildwood Lane, Strongsville, Oh. 44136: President Carbone, Mayor Perciak, and members of Council, thank you for the opportunity to once again address you. In case anyone has forgotten, tomorrow is election day. We have 9 polling locations in Strongsville. It's a nice partnership between the city and the school district - 7 of them are at our schools. We have chosen year after year, during presidential elections, there is no school.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Micko (cont'd) - Thank you to the Mayor and to the police force for the aid and the help tomorrow. The Mayor already talked about the election; it's from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. I'd like to remind everyone that a valid ID is required to vote. A valid ID is an Ohio driver's license, a State of Ohio ID card, an interim ID from the BMV, a passport, a passport card, or a military ID. As Ms. Thoennes eluded to, Issue 53 is on the ballot, and it is a 4.9 mill continuing levy. It will generate approximately \$9.2 million dollars for the school district, and it is 1 mill less than the previous levy of 5.9 mills. It represents a continuing and enduring commitment to our children's education, and it is based on current property values. It is not based on the property values that will increase next year. Passage of Issue 53 will lead to financial stability - as has been discussed, all day kindergarten without fees, elimination of pay to participate, and common school fees. Failure will result in large budget cuts to programs and services similar to Medina School what they are experiencing right now. I remind the City Council and the Mayor that the school district is a five star rated school district, which is what we want, which is what we expect, and which is what we deliver. The school district motto is "Inspiring and Empowering Today's Learners to Build Tomorrow's Leaders." That's our mission, that's our drive, and that's what we are about. A quick response to the previous person who was at the podium. Ohio State's tuition is \$13,000.00 a year. That is not how much it costs, and it is not how much the State of Ohio spends per pupil to go to Ohio State. It's not necessarily a fair comparison. The \$16,000.00...and all of Bonnie's numbers are 100% accurate. The reason I know that they are 100% accurate is because the majority of them come from our treasurer, George Anagnostou. There is no debate about the numbers, but there is debate about proper financial planning. I come to you again to repeat and reiterate what the school board is doing to make sure that we balance the needs of the taxpayer with the needs of our school district. I can stand before you with integrity, and I can stand before you and ask you humbly to vote yes for Issue 53. I will leave you...we're a school district and we try to teach our students. I will leave you with two historical statements. Back on October 5, 1944, during one of his fireside chats, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt shared with the public, "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote, except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting." President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in 1955 shared, "Some politicians some years ago said that bad officials are elected by good voters who do not vote." After election day, Veteran's Day is on Monday. I can suggest that there's no better way to honor a veteran than by exercising your right to vote. If you have not all voted already, please vote tomorrow. Please be patient because the lines will be long. Thank you for your attention.

Ms. Roff - Thank you guys for the time that you put in representing our schools and the hard work that you do there. I will be at the polls with you tomorrow.

Mr. Carbone - Anybody else this evening?

Ms. Pientka - No one else signed in.

Mr. Carbone - Anybody else?

(No comments)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2024-150 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING NEW RATES FOR THE RENTAL OF FACILITIES AT THE WALTER F. EHRLFELT RECREATION AND SENIOR CENTER, THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE OLD TOWN HALL, AND THE NEW STRONGSVILLE TOWN CENTER AREA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading 10-07-24.*

Motion by Mr. Short to amend the legislation "Exhibit A" as referred to in Section 1, second by Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

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

Motion to adopt as amended by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-150 ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Ordinance No. 2024-164 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCELS, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCELS TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING A PEARL V MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40, 5709.42 AND 5709.43, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading 10-21-24.*

Placed on second reading and referred back to the committee.

Ordinance No. 2024-165 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCELS, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCELS TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING A SHEETZ 82 MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40, 5709.42 AND 5709.43, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading 10-21-24.*

Placed on second reading and referred back to the committee.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Resolution No. 2024-167 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A DONATION OF MONEY FROM TERRY AND KATHY TOTH, TO BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRONGSVILLE TOWN CENTER ENHANCEMENT & WALKABILITY INITIATIVE.

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2024-167 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-168 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF CERTAIN ITEMS UTILIZED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND WHICH ARE BEYOND THEIR SERVICE LIFE AND/OR OBSOLETE, AND NO LONGER NEEDED NOR SAFE FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-168 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-169 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR 2025.

Placed on first reading and referred back to the committee.

Ordinance No. 2024-170 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,365,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF REMODELING, RENOVATING, FURNISHING, EQUIPPING AND OTHERWISE IMPROVING THE CITY'S WALTER F. EHRENFELT RECREATION AND SENIOR CENTER AND EQUIPPING AND IMPROVING ITS SITE, 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 Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-170 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2024-171 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$4,500,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING, FURNISHING, EQUIPPING AND OTHERWISE IMPROVING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AS THE CITY'S TOWN CENTER PROJECT, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF A PAVILION, GAZEBO AND STORAGE BUILDINGS, A SPLASH PAD/WATER FEATURE, PLAYGROUNDS, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL, VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL COURTS, MULTIPURPOSE WALKWAYS, RELATED STREET IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING A ROUNDABOUT, AND EQUIPPING AND IMPROVING THE SITE 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 Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-171 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-172 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH INVERSION6 AND A MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DARKTRACE HOLDINGS LIMITED ("DARKTRACE") TO PROVIDE HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND SERVICES RELATED TO E-MAIL SECURITY SYSTEMS FOR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, 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 Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-172 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-173 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FIRST AMENDMENT TO GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN OCTAGON EDGE TOWERS, LLC AND THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, FOR AMENDMENT OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO THE GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT CURRENTLY IN EFFECT FOR THE EXISTING TELECOMMUNICATIONS PREMISES LOCATED ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 16099 FOLTZ PARKWAY, IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, 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 Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-173 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2024-174 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING FOR RECORDING PURPOSES THE LOT SPLIT PLAT OF MARKS ROAD PROPERTY, LTD, FOR PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 394-07-001, LOCATED AT 17607 MARKS ROAD, 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 Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-174 ADOPTED.

Resolution No. 2024-175 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL OF THE FINAL SITE PLAN FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF ANTENNAS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT ON AN EXISTING TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER ON CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 18778 ROYALTON ROAD (PPN 396-10-014) IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, 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 Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2024-175 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-176 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS B & C, IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS REHABILITATION PROJECT, 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 Ms. Roff. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-176 ADOPTED.

Resolution No. 2024-177 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO TRANSFER CERTAIN CERTIFICATES FOR BURIAL RIGHTS IN THE STRONGSVILLE MUNICIPAL CEMETERY. [Baeslack]

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

Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2024-177 ADOPTED.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

(None)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

(None)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Carbone adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.



Marialena Beach
Council Secretary



Date