**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023.**

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in the Caucus Room at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Monday, March 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Present: Council Members:** James E. Carbone, Joseph C. DeMio, James A. Kaminski, Gordon C. Short, Thomas M. Clark and Kelly A. Kosek. Also Present: Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Finance Director Eric Dean, Law Director Neal Jamison, Engineering Director Ken Mikula and Service Director Joe Walker.

**Also present**: Dave Conley, Regional External Affairs Liaison, First Energy.

**Absent:** Councilwoman Annmarie P. Roff

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Finance Committee: Chairwoman Kosek advised Ordinance No. 2023-029 is a TIF (tax increment financing) ordinance for Camden Woods. In conjunction with this legislation is Ordinance No. 2023-030; an ordinance approving and authorizing the Mayor to enter into a project development agreement with Camden Woods, LLC. Both will be placed on first reading and referred back to the committee. Ms. Kosek did advise that because these are TIF’s, they are placed on three readings to allow time for questions to be asked and answered. Mr. Painter stated that the Camden Woods project is a substantial redevelopment project. There are a lot of rental homes in the community and this project will be redeveloping those homes into high quality cluster homes. Mr. Painter also mentioned that due to the current economic conditions and identified financial gap that the developers shared in their Performa, it’s difficult to make the project work without assistance; that is the purpose of this TIF agreement. Mr. Painter also wanted to emphasize that this TIF agreement does not take any revenue away from the City of Strongsville schools. The schools are made whole through this proposed TIF agreement as all of the city’s TIF agreements in the past. Also, the City of Strongsville will not be taking on any debt or liability with this project, as the city will just be acting as a “pass-through” between Cuyahoga County and the developer with the TIF pilots that come through. Mr. Painter also wanted to point out that the proposed TIF’s value is based on the increased incremental value at the site, and utilizing the value towards the project, so that it does not take tax dollars from the residents or other businesses. In addition, the corner of Prospect Road and Royalton Road has been on the market a long time due to the typography (the shape, height, depth and features of a place). That poses development cost challenges; and hence, a TIF would be required. The Wolsteins and Cohens are some of the current property owners and individuals that have substantial net worth within the county and within the region; Strongsville has had a lot of discussions with them throughout the years to try and get something done. Mayor Perciak wanted to clarify that the corner property in mention will continue under its current title and ownership. Mayor Perciak also mentioned that years ago, when he was a banker at Sterling Point, the developers at that time were Sachs and Goldberg along with Don Prebis and they had to halt construction due to the terrain of the property. As a result, the property has remained undeveloped for the last 30-40 years.

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Resolution No. 2023-031 is a resolution authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for the resurfacing of Howe Road in the City of Strongsville. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Resolution No. 2023-032 which is a resolution authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for the resurfacing of Prospect Road in the City of Strongsville. Mayor Perciak stated that at this point, Strongsville cannot wait for the developer to put in their subdivision near Boston Rd. because the cost of doing any type of major road work is becoming prohibitive. The concrete bids are even posing difficulty in just the escalation cost of the concrete itself. In some cases, there is even an inability to obtain concrete. As a result, Strongsville will move forward with asphalting streets, so that there is no further delay in any road projects. Each delay is costing Strongsville more money due to the rising interest rates and costs. Mayor Perciak will go into this subject further at the State of the City Address.

Mr. Carbone mentioned that the Mayor’s State of the City Address will take place on March 21, 2023 and would like any Council members interested in attending, to contact Aimee no later than Thursday, March 8, 2023 with their RSVP.

Public Service & Conservation Committee: Chairman DeMio advised Resolution No. 2023-033 is a resolution authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for materials and services in connection with the paint striping of certain streets and highways for 2023 and 2024. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Building & Utilities Committee: Chairman Clark advised Ordinance No. 2023-028 is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a grant program agreement in the amount of $119,834.00 with the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC, Inc.) for financial assistance through the “NOPEC 2023 Energized Community” Grant program to utilize energy efficient building materials and/or for energy infrastructure updates in connection with the City of Strongsville Town Center Enhancement & Walkability Initiative project. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

**Mr. Dave Conley, Regional Affairs Liaison for First Energy, was present to provide general updates and answer questions from members of Council.**

***\*\*Mr. Conley provided Council with a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is attached to the back of these minutes.\*\****

Mr. Carbone asked if Ms. Roff was involved in helping to resolve some of the power outages that occurred over the last couple of years by representing some of the residents in Ward 2.

Mr. Conley mentioned that Ms. Roff was very involved and also wanted to mention how involved the residents in her ward were as well. For instance, when there are “short blinks” in the power, Mr. Conley stated that those “short blinks’ are signs of possible issues on an adjacent circuit that may be the cause of a shortage, but that The Illuminating Company would not see those “short blinks’ on their end, unless a resident documented those types of issues. He emphasized how important it is to report those issues to The Illuminating Company, so that they can put together the clues necessary to get the problem(s) resolved. Mr. Conley stated that at the end of 2021, First Energy did a large portion of an area near Admiralty Drive. Now, they are doing the next part of it in terms of changing cables and reconfigurations that need to be done, to limit the events that customers see.

Mr. Kaminski thanked Mr. Conley for meeting with him and with the residents of Huntington Park in Ward 1. Mr. Kaminski stated that the residents in that area are already seeing the benefits of less outages, and are very happy.

Mr. Conley stated that he was happy to hear that because Huntington Park was one of last year’s finished projects that consisted of getting 8300 feet of cable replaced.

Mr. Clark stated that he too appreciated Mr. Conley’s help, and that Mr. Conley has been a good source of information when residents had questions. Mr. Clark asked Mr. Conley, on the basis of a supply chain aspect, if his company is doing anything proactively for the residents to avoid supply chain delays and material shortages.

Mr. Conley stated that The Illuminating Company is not immune to shortages and supply chain constraints. He stated that there are programs within The Illuminating Company system that looks at transformers and other equipment, that may still have useful life, and they look for ways to use those recycled materials to help mitigate any potential shortages when emergencies happen.

Mr. Short thanked Mr. Conley for addressing the street light issues and will follow up with him concerning Drake Road in his ward. Mr. Short asked Mr. Conley if The Illuminating Company is doing anything to ensure that their systems can handle the additional power needed to power electric vehicles in the future, as the electric vehicle industry advances.

Mr. Conley stated, for example, if Strongsville had a new electrical vehicle charging station in the center of town, The Illuminating Company engineers would look at the requirement for that particular area, and make sure that the equipment in that area can handle that charging station. Each order is reviewed to make sure that no issues arise, and then transformers and other equipment is Right sized for each individual order. Mr. Conley stated that The Illuminating Company does have groups that specialize in this area, and that each state is different. Mr. Conley did state that since this is out of his scope of practice, he would be happy to provide Ms. Pientka any additional information to share with Council about this issue at a later date.

Mr. Carbone thanked Mr. Conley for taking the time to speak with Council. He also thanked Mr. Conley for his transparency, taking our residents calls, and working hard behind the scenes to make sure that the issues are resolved

***Ms. Kosek made a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing the sale of property. It was seconded by Mr. DeMio to adjourn from open session into executive session [Article XI, Section 9, City Charter]. All members present voted aye and the motion carried. Council adjourned into executive session at 7:36 p.m. Present from the administration was Mayor Thomas Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison, Finance Director Eric Dean, Engineering Director Ken Mikula and Service Director Joe Walker. The executive session concluded at 7:57 p.m. and reconvened into open session.***

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President James E. Carbone 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:** James E. Carbone, Joseph C. DeMio, James A. Kaminski, Gordon C. Short, Thomas M. Clark and Kelly A. Kosek. Also Present: Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Law Director Neal Jamison and Finance Director Eric Dean.

Absent: Councilwoman Annmarie P. Roff

***Motion made by Councilwoman Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio, to excuse Councilwoman Annmarie P. Roff for just cause. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.***

**COMMENTS ON MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 21, 2023 were approved as submitted.

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

(None)

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**SCHOOL BOARD** **– Mr. Clark:** Thank you President Carbone, there was a Strongsville City School board meeting on February 23, 2023 and last week, most of us attended Dr. Cameron Ryba’s “State of the Schools”. I will summarize quickly…the “State of the Schools” are excellent. Financially, the “State of the Schools” are strong and solid and are favorable to budget forecast for the immediate future. During the last school board meeting and the monthly report, as well as the state of the schools, 2027 looks like a challenging time frame. We have a good team trying to get ahead of that to make sure we are in the right spot. Also, we have to focus on the facilities that we’ve heard a lot about. I would encourage anyone that hasn’t seen the “State of the Schools”, to go online and watch a review of the “State of the Schools”. To highlight one good thing happening this month, we have a student, Cal Klinzing, who is chasing an aggressive fundraising goal that he has to complete by March 18, 2023 that benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Strongsville was honored quite a bit last year for the success of last year’s student, Mackenzie Shulz. We’re hoping to set another record with supporting a great student, and that whole campaign group that he has going on to support Leukemia and Lymphoma. Pending any questions, that concludes my school board report.

**BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Clark:** Building and Utilities has one piece of legislation tonight, Ordinance No. 2023-028 which we talked about in caucus…any questions at this point? The recommendation is going to be suspension and adoption.

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:** Thank you Mr. Carbone, Southwest…we have not had a board meeting since our last Council meeting, but I do have the monthly updates from CEO Bill Young. A couple of things he mentioned is that we continue to provide high quality, safe patient care, by complying with our core quality measures. The system is meeting two or three organizational goals…reducing cost for acquired conditions and reducing readmissions. Efforts to support a culture of zero patient harm continues. This hospital has now gone more than 197 days without a central line bloodstream infection and more than 18 days without hospital acquired C-diff infection. On the award note; again, Southwest was recognized recently by Healthgrades as a recipient of it’s 2023 Specialty Excellence Award for cardiac care. Hospitals receiving this recognition have demonstrated excellent clinical outcomes for heart bypass surgery, coronary interventional procedures, heart attack treatment, heart failure treatment and heart valve surgery.

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

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short (cont’d):** Again, receiving good cardiac care at Southwest General Hospital. Also, in terms of awards, the system…Southwest General was once again recognized with the “2023 Top Workplace USA Award”. This marks the second consecutive year we have received this recognition which is based on feedback from the employees. Finally, Lifeworks was named an MXM 2022, “Locations of Excellence Award” winner for providing members with an outstanding experience. MXM is the leading national organization for majoring member experience in the fitness industry. Again, while the system is still going through the post Covid struggles that I think all hospital systems are, from the big ones like the Clinic to the small ones like Southwest, they continue to be recognized for providing excellent customer care and service at the campus. Lastly, I just wanted to touch on something quickly that…and on that note, speaking of continuing to recover from the post Covid pandemic, patient volume is increasing; but, there is a nice decrease in the average length of stay, which is a good mix for the system. Overall, patient volume is continuing to increase at the hospital system. The system continues to make gains and strides after the pandemic, and continues to provide excellent service across the street in Middleburg heights. That concludes my report on Southwest General, but I will happily take any questions.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short:** We have not had a meeting…we are probably tentatively looking at a meeting for either late April or May 2023; to be determined at the next meeting. That concludes my report. Again, any questions?

Mayor Perciak – Just one comment…tomorrow afternoon, Economic Development Director Brent Painter and I will be going downtown to meet with the county executive with Momentive and a few other issues. The county executive called the meeting, so that is where we will be at tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Short – Excellent…yes, I forgot about that. Also, it is economic development…the Mayor’s “State of the City” speech is on March 21, 2023. The highlight, I’m sure, will be some of the achievements of the city; which will include our economic successes in 2022, and what to look forward to in 2023. That will be at the recreation center, correct?

Mayor Perciak – Yes.

Mr. Short – Thank you Mr. Mayor.

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio:** First and foremost, we have to wish Kelly Kosek…her birthday was yesterday. So, join me in singing Happy Birthday…

*(At this time, all of Council along with administration, sing “Happy Birthday” to Ms. Kosek)*

Ms. Kosek – Sung twice by Joe DeMIo…that’s really special Joe, thank you and thanks everybody.

Mr. DeMio – …with that said, Resolution No. 2023-033 is a paint striping advertisement that the Mayor will put out; you will get a bid down the road. We would like to suspend and adopt that.

Mr. Carbone – Any questions for Mr. DeMio?

(No comments)

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

**FINANCE – Ms. Kosek:** We have two ordinances on the agenda tonight in Finance. We have Ordinance No. 2023-029 and Ordinance No. 2023-030; these two go together. They relate to a potential TIF project at Route 82 and Prospect. The first actually would be approving the agreement…excuse me, the second is allowing the Mayor to sign the agreement, and the first is the actual legislation. Because this is a TIF, as we always do, we will have three readings for that. Obviously, Mr. Painter is here and Mr. Dean and the Mayor if anyone has any questions. We did discuss it…we did have a little presentation during caucus, but I will cede the floor if you would like to add anything or do anything in the main meeting, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Perciak – Not at this time, unless Brent does.

Ms. Kosek – We have plenty of time if folks have questions to get those questions over to the administration, and with that, I will close the committee.

**PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski:** Yes, we have two resolutions this evening, Resolution No. 2023-031 which is authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for the resurfacing of Howe Road. Resolution No. 2023-032 which is authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for the resurfacing of Prospect Road; that will be Route 82 going south up to Prospect…I’m sorry, up to Boston Road. My recommendation is suspension and adoption on both of those. Lastly, as a reminder, we will have a public hearing at the next Council meeting on March 20, 2023 concerning some rezoning issues over at Drake Road and Pearl Road area. If you want to attend that, again, that will be March 20, 2023 at the next Council meeting. That concludes my report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski:**

(No report)

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - Ms. Roff:**

(No report)

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Carbone:**

(No report)

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone:**

(No report)

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

**MAYOR PERCIAK:**

(No report)

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

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

**LAW DEPARTMENT – Mr. Jamison:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, I would just like to let Council know that for the two properties on Howe Road which you gave the law department authority to move forward with, we filed the complaints in Common Pleas Court last week. I will keep Council appraised as to the development on those properties on Howe Road. All ordinances and resolutions are in proper legal form; that concludes my report.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

(None)

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Ordinance No. 2023-028** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC, INC.) FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE “NOPEC 2023 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY” GRANT PROGRAM TO UTILIZE ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING MATERIALS AND/OR FOR ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE TOWN CENTER ENHANCEMENT & WALKABILITY INITIATIVE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Ms. Kosek 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 Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2023-028 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2023-029** 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 OWNER OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCELS TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING CAMDEN WOODS 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.

***Placed on first reading and referred back to the committee.***

**Ordinance No. 2023-030** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH CAMDEN WOODS, LLC, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

***Placed on first reading and referred back to the committee.***

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont’d):**

**Resolution No. 2023-031** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE RESURFACING OF HOWE ROAD IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Ms. Kosek 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 Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2023-031 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2023-032** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE RESURFACING OF PROSPECT ROAD IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Ms. Kosek 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 Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2023-032 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2023-033** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR MATERIALS AND SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PAINT STRIPING OF CERTAIN STREETS AND HIGHWAYS FOR 2023 AND 2024, WITHIN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Ms. Kosek 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 Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2023-033 ADOPTED.**

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:**

(None)

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

*Set public hearing on the matter of the possible re-appointment and re-employment of Stephen F. Kilo (who will be submitting his retirement notice with the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) to be effective May 31, 2023) to his current position as Human Resource Director for the City of Strongsville to be effective June 1, 2023. The public hearing date will be set for May 15, 2023.*

Mr. Carbone – Meeting adjourned.

\*\*Ms. Kosek brought to the attention of the Council President that there was a need for a formal motion to set the public hearing on the matter under Miscellaneous Business. The meeting was then called back to order.\*\*

**Motion made by Ms. Kosek, pursuant to Section 145.381 of the Ohio Revised Code, to set a public hearing for Monday, May 15, 2023 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 Stephen F. Kilo (who will be submitting his retirement notice with the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) to be effective May 31, 2023) to his current position as Human Resource Director for the City of Strongsville, to be effective June 1, 2023. 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 Carbone adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

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Marialena Beach Date

Council Secretary