

**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025.**

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in the Caucus Room at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Present: Council Members:** Gordon C. Short, James E. Carbone, James A. Kaminski, Kelly A. Kosek, 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.

Council President, Gordon C. Short, called the caucus to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

Planning, Zoning and Engineering Committee:

Chairman Spring - Thank you, President Short. First, I have Ordinance No. 2025-011, which we amended at the last Council meeting. It went to Planning...we sent it to the Planning Commission and it received a favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission. Today, we will be placing this on third reading and have a public hearing set for April 7, 2025. Does anybody have any questions for Ordinance No. 2025-011?

(No questions)

Chairman Spring - Next up, we have Ordinance Nos. 2025-015 and 2025-016; these are both kind of together. They are part of the Code of Codified Ordinances for the City of Strongsville concerning prohibitions of illicit discharges regarding the storm water management. I had talked to Lori Daley over in engineering and she explained that it was the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) that updated their guidelines, so we had to update ours.

Mr. Jamison - It is part of the storm water program and they do an audit every year. These were recommendations made by the EPA to bring us up to speed with what they would like to see in the storm water program. Engineering looked through it, and was okay with it, so it's our recommendation to go ahead and pass both of these.

Chairman Spring - Excellent, so we are trying to keep up with what the EPA recommends for the City of Strongsville. If you have any questions, please let me know. Otherwise, that will conclude my report.

(No questions)

Mr. Short - Thank you, Mr. Spring.

Public Service & Conservation Committee:

Chairwoman Roff - I have three items today. The first two are biggies, of course, with all our weather back and forth and all the phone calls we are getting about the roads not being driveable and the potholes. I tried to explain to them (residents) that you can't really do road work right now. Anyhow, we are going out for Ordinance No. 2025-017; allowing the Mayor to go out for bids for (ready) mix concrete. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt. We are going out for Ordinance No. 2025-018; this is for the Mayor to advertise for bids for paint striping of our streets and on highways for future road work; suspend and adopt for that. I have Ordinance No. 2025-019, which is to allow the Mayor to advertise to go out for bids for our 2025 and 2026 street sweeping. That's all I have unless anybody has any questions.

Mr. Clark - Can we put a comment in the street sweeping one on the preferred hours or recommended hours? I recall a couple of times over the years getting complaints from residents about the timing; specifically, during the morning rush hour.

Mr. Jamison - I will mention that to Mr. Walker.

Chairwoman Roff - That comes from outside, right?

Mr. Jamison - Yes.

Chairwoman Roff - That's all I have.

Mr. Short - Thank you, Ms. Roff.

Chairwoman Roff - I just wanted to, actually really quick, throw out that I saw Joe Walker the other day. Those guys did a phenomenal job - it's what everybody, that I talked to that came through here, from other cities said.

Mayor Perciak - They worked hard too.

Chairwoman Roff - That was a tough one. That was wet and a lot all at once.

Mayor Perciak - We have salt and other places are running out of salt and can't get it.

Chairwoman Roff - Can we sell it to them for double? No, I'm just kidding.

(laughter)

Mayor Perciak - I'm going to pretend the law director didn't hear that.

Chairwoman Roff - Yes, a lot of people are having trouble, and a lot of other cities are having trouble. It's not good with the winter we've had.

(Inaudible background conversation)

Chairwoman Roff - Yes it did, definitely, with the planning ahead. Thank you for that Mayor.

Mr. Short - Okay, we will move on. Thank you, Ms. Roff.

Public Safety & Health Committee:

Chairwoman Kosek - Thank you, President Short. We have two ordinances tonight, the first is Ordinance No. 2025-020. This is to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Utility Associates, Inc.; for the purchase of body-worn cameras and in-car video systems, for our police in order to replace equipment that is now obsolete. This is with Utility Associates, Inc., and it will be about \$110,000.00 for the first initial year. It will also continue for a total of five years for about \$550,000.00. If I am reading this correctly Mr. Law Director, there is a contract price that has been negotiated by the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, but we are actually getting it below the state-term contracting prices by going with Utility Associates, Inc.

Mr. Jamison - That is correct.

Chairwoman Kosek - That is impressive, so thank you for that. I'd ask that we suspend and adopt that so that we can keep our police up to, and exceeding, what they need regarding that kind of equipment. We also have Ordinance No. 2025-021, which would authorize the filing of an application for financial assistance with the Ohio Department of Public Safety for EMS Priority One and Supplemental Grant. I don't know Mayor, do you have an idea of what we would be asking for, or what we might receive?

Mayor Perciak - No I don't, I'm sorry.

Chairwoman Kosek - That's okay, but obviously any grant that we can get is a help to our city. I'd ask that we suspend and adopt that as well. That's all I have President Short.

Mr. Short - Are there any questions for Ms. Kosek?

Mr. Clark - Just one, on the software, is the service the same program that we have now even though we are going through a different provider for the body camera stuff?

Mr. Jamison - It's like any other pieces of equipment that uses hardware - it keeps evolving. It was five years ago that we started this and body cameras are a necessity now. This is hardware that goes with the new equipment.

Mr. Clark - Thank you.

Mr. Short - Just so you know, for Ordinance No. 2025-020, we will need all seven for that ordinance. Also, before we close caucus and start the meeting, there are two conditional objections to liquor permits on tonight's agenda.

***Mr. Carbone made a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining matters and pending or imminent court action matters. It was seconded by Mr. Kaminski 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 6:41 p.m. Also present from the Administration: Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison, and Finance Director Eric Dean. Eric Dean left executive session at 7:05 p.m. Mayor Perciak left executive session at 7:06 p.m. The executive session concluded at 7:16 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 February 18, 2025 agenda link. \*\****

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President Gordon C. Short called the meeting to order at 7:17 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:** Gordon C. Short, James E. Carbone, James A. Kaminski, Kelly A. Kosek, 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.

**COMMENTS ON MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 3, 2025, were approved as submitted.

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

(None)

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Clark:** Thank you, Council President Short. I will be brief tonight. Just announcing that this Monday, February 24, 2025, we will have our February Economic Development Committee meeting at 2:00 p.m. We are going to visit CCL Design, located at 17700 (17890) Foltz Parkway, on Monday, February 24, 2025.

Mayor Perciak - At two o'clock.

Mr. Clark - At two o'clock in the afternoon, that is correct. I will be happy to take any questions, but for the sake of succinctness, that will conclude my report.

Ms. Roff - Before I start my ordinances I just want to, again, thank the service department. Mayor, thank them from us for the last couple of days out there up and down all these streets with all that heavy snow taking time away from their families. A lot of people were at home having three-day weekends and they were having four-day weekends all packed into one. Thank them again from us. They did a great job.

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

**BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Ms. Roff:**

(No report)

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Ms. Roff:** I have three today. I have Resolution No. 2025-017; this is to allow the Mayor to go out for bids for our concrete. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt for that. I have Resolution No. 2025-018; and that is for the Mayor to go out for bids to strip the paints off the roads and highways...neighboring areas. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt. Then I have, Resolution No. 2025-019; that is for the Mayor to advertise for bids for our street sweeping for the 2025 and 2026 years. The recommendation for that is to suspend and adopt. That's all I have unless anyone has any questions.

(No questions)

**PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH – Ms. Kosek:** Thank you President Short, we have two under Public Safety and Health. We have Ordinance No. 2025-020; this is an ordinance to allow the Mayor to contract to purchase from Utility Associates, Inc. for equipment for the police for both body cameras, in-car video equipment, and software related to that. This would be without public bidding because there is an Ohio Department of Administrative Services negotiated contract. We were actually able to get, from Utility Associates Inc., a contract that is below the state-term contract pricing - it is approximately \$110,000.00 per year for five years. I would ask that we suspend and adopt that. We also have Ordinance No. 2025-021, which is to allow for the administration to file an application for financial assistance for grants from the Ohio Department of Public Safety under the EMS Priority One and Supplemental Grant program. We don't know how much that award might be, but of course, every dollar is helpful as we are trying to keep everyone in the city safe. I'd ask that we suspend and adopt that as well. As President Short reminded us during caucus, Ordinance No. 2025-020 is without public bidding, so we would need all seven in order to pass that. I would ask that we all suspend and adopt. That's all I have unless anyone has any questions.

(No questions)

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Ms. Kosek:**

(No report)

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Mr. Kaminski:** I do not have any legislation this evening; however, I just wanted to mention that today at the recreation center we did have the Chamber Luncheon for the "State-of-the-Schools," which was great. Next month, the Mayor will be on, and his staff, for the "State-of-the-City." That will be on March 18, 2025, so mark your calendars. It's always a sold-out event, and we will be happy to see you there. Again, the "State-of-the-City" is on March 18th, thank you.

Mr. Short - I believe, Mr. Kaminski, it's at 11:15 a.m. when the doors open.

Mr. Kaminski - Yes, 11:15 a.m.

Mr. Short - It's a little early for that big occasion.

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

Mayor Perciak - Networking.

Mr. Short - Networking, yes.

Mr. Kaminski - Yes, networking - It's a great opportunity for business networking as well. That concludes my report, but I will be happy to take any questions.

(No questions)

**PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Spring:** Thank you President Short, I have three today. Ordinance No. 2025-011; this is for the Architectural Review Board. This was placed on first reading back in January - we amended it, placed it on second reading, and referred it to the Planning Commission. We then received a favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission on February 13, 2025. Today, we are going to be placing this on third reading and a public hearing will be set for April 7, 2025. Does anybody have any questions?

(No questions)

Mr. Spring - Moving on, we have Ordinance Nos. 2025-015 and 2025-016; both of these have to do with the Codified Ordinances. We are updating these to remain in compliance with the city and the Ohio EPA. These are both a recommendation to suspend and adopt. If nobody has any questions, that will conclude my report.

(No questions)

**SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Carbone:** Thank you, President Short. At the last school board meeting, the school's leadership team consisting of all their directors, updated the school board on multiple topics. Two of the topics were upgrades to the social studies and science curriculums. Also, Steve Brickner, head of buildings, talked about building safety, which he felt was in a very good place; especially, the partnership with our city for a full-time SRO (School Resource Officer) at the high school, a full-time SRO at the middle school, and the coverage at the elementary schools in our D.A.R.E program. That ends my report.

Mr. Short - Any questions for Mr. Carbone?

(No questions)

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:** We did not have a board meeting, so nothing to report on that front; however, I do want to address that at the last Council meeting, a member of our fire department addressed some concerns with the Southwest General Health System and diversions in the past few months. Albert Matyas, who is the vice president of ambulatory operations and business development at the Southwest General Health System did write a response back. I'm going to submit it for the minutes. In summary, diversion in the last couple of months has been, on a couple of occasions, not due to staffing shortages as was indicated, but more just because of the sheer volume of patients, and the care and attention needed. They thought it was best to divert patients to other systems. Also, on the stroke diversion, they do have staffing there, but they are down one doctor that they are looking to replace. That was the reason for the stroke diversion that happened back in November.

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

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short (cont'd):** Again, the full report will be attached to the minutes as submitted for this meeting. That concludes my Southwest General Health System report. Any questions for Southwest General?

(No questions)

*\*A copy of the email Mr. Short referred to is attached to the back of these minutes\**

**FINANCE – Mr. Short:**

(No report)

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Mr. Short:**

(No report)

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

**MAYOR PERCIAK:**

(None)

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dean:** Thank you, Council President. I hereby 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. Short - Thank you.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Deborah Thomas-Lemmers, 19160 Albion Road, Strongsville, Oh. 44149: Hi, I'm Deborah Thomas-Lemmers and my husband Ed.

Ed Lemmers, 19160 Albion Road, Strongsville, Oh. 44149: Yes, Ed Lemmers, her husband. It's recently come to my attention that...there's two different things going on that I want to ask about. The first thing is that we were running an Airbnb. We just fixed up that really nice house there that was built in 1830; it originally was a hotel back then.

Ms. Lemmers - On the corner of Albion Road.

Mr. Lemmers - Albion Road and Pearl Road.

Mr. Short - Okay, yes.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Mr. Lemmers - I heard that there is like a new ordinance that you can't do rentals anymore like that. Is that true?

Mr. Short - Mr. law director? We can have you discuss...

Mr. Jamison - Once they are finished, I'll give a response.

Mr. Short - Okay, thank you.

Mr. Lemmers - Okay, so from what I can tell, an ordinance like that would be kind of for a short-term rental where the owners are not there. The renters just come in, and sometimes they cause problems, damage property, and have wild parties and things like that, that cause disturbances in the neighborhood. That would not be the case for us because we are always there. We are trying to run it as an actual BNB (Bed and Breakfast). We are there and it's not the entire house. There is a section of the house that's for these rentals, so there should be an exception if there is such a ruling against having Airbnbs. We wouldn't cause that kind of issue for the neighborhood. The other thing is that we'd like to expand it. I'm not sure what is the best way to go. We are looking into rezoning for travel service; and maybe some more ability to advertise - so that we are not tied to Vrbo, Airbnb, and those kinds of things necessarily. We really have a lot to give to Strongsville with this property; it's a beautiful house. We've had guests and they love it. The people that come are looking for a different kind of experience with a historic building like that. I think we have a lot to give to the City of Strongsville for what we have. That's all I have.

Ms. Lemmers - The barn is so magnificent. Obviously, we want to do weddings, parties, baptisms, and whatever. We would even like to put a Sunday mass in there - I think that would be nice. So many people have so many ideas. My husband plays in a couple of different bands and we would like to have all kinds of different music coming in. People can maybe go there on a weekend and have a place to do some square dancing, hoedowns, or whatever music people might like that night. In fact, he is playing at Forest City downtown off the west 25th street area next week, right?

Mr. Lemmers - No, tomorrow.

Ms. Lemmers - Oh, tomorrow...well, you guys all have to come down; it's great. It's a thirty piece band and there's hundreds of people there. Seeing the girls all dressed in their 1920's (attire) with their skirts and tennis shoes - it's amazing...all ages, and an amazing group of people. We would kind of like to pull that over to the barn too. We have a lot of different bands that want to work there. We also have a lot of interest in the theater department from the high school. We had heard that they wanted to originally...what is it? Talk to me with this.

Mr. Lemmers - They wanted a space, and they were looking to actually purchase the property.

Ms. Lemmers - Just the barn.

Mr. Lemmers - Just the theater...the Strongsville Theater group.



**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Ms. Lemmers - Before all the weather went caput, they all came out and there was about fifteen of them; and everybody loved it. They were very interested in helping us get the barn and the floor ready for dancing and get all the varmints out from underneath the barn floor. We just have a lot of plans - weddings, parties, and nice social nights on the weekends for the people in Strongsville. I really think it could be quite an asset for the city. Who doesn't want to go out on the weekend and just dance and have a good time. I'm not saying any liquor should be there because I don't drink at all - neither of us do.

Mr. Short - We have reached five minutes. Is there anything else in your conclusion for us? We will have Mr. Jamison respond to some of your questions that he can right now. For the rezoning, we could have you talk to our building department and Planning, Zoning and Engineering about how a rezone can potentially look.

Ms. Lemmers - Okay, well thank you for listening to me.

Ms. Roff - Jim, did you want to get their number, too, to maybe forward it over to the Board of Education so that they have that if they are really wanting to do some stuff over there?

Mr. Short - You said you've spoken to the high school already, correct?

Ms. Lemmers - Who was it? I think it was someone's father that was really interested.

Mr. Kaminski - I think it was Strongsville Theater, right?

Ms. Lemmers - Yes.

Mr. Kaminski - We can get you that information.

Ms. Lemmers - I have her business card here in my purse here if you want to see her name. You know, I'm a photographer too. Can I tell them what I said? It was so funny.

Mr. Short - Thank you. Mr. Jamison?

Ms. Roff - It does sound like you guys are enjoying yourself so far, so it's nice to hear.

Mr. Jamison - These folks have been talking to Mr. Painter and Mr. Smerigan for the city. They have been instructed that before they even entertain in trying to do any kind of Airbnb, that they need to contact the building department. To my knowledge, they have not done that to this point. In regards to Airbnb, that is correct; we passed an ordinance that does not allow short-term rentals, and there is no provision in there for exceptions. As far as the other activities that they want to do there, I would have to go through the whole list, but some of that would be prohibited based on the zoning that is in that area. I'm sure the neighbors in that area would have some say about what they would like or not like to see in that area. It's not as simple as...these all sound like very nice ideas, but that's why we have zoning laws. You have to fit the square box or the square peg in the square hole. We will certainly continue to talk to the folks. I know Mr. Painter and Mr. Smerigan have talked to them on numerous occasions. We will certainly try and help in any way whatsoever, but they were directed before they even started thinking of doing anything; they have to bring that facility up to Code. My understanding is that it's not up to Code at the present time.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Mr. Jamison (cont'd) - There is a lot of work that they need to do, but even getting to that point, some of the things they want to do are not permitted in that area unless they come to Council and get the appropriate zoning change. The other thing complicating things here, is that there is a high-pressure gas line running down the middle of this property. That restricts some of the things they can do there from a building perspective. For those of you that were here when...it's the place that is now in Columbia Station.

Mr. Short - Is it Del Webb?

Mr. Jamison - It's like a small version of Home Depot...Tractor Supply. Tractor Supply looked at this area but couldn't make it work, before they owned it, just because of that gas line. There are some things associated with this property that make it a challenge for them to try and do certain things that they want to do. Certainly, we will continue to work with them and try to see what we can do. Like I said, Brent and George have done numerous conversations and will continue to do so, thank you.

Mr. Short - Thank you, Mr. Jamison. Is there anybody else that would like to address Council tonight?

(No comments)

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Ordinance No. 2025-011** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1246.02 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWELVE-PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading 01-21-25. Amended, second reading and referred to the Planning Commission 02-03-25. Favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission 02-13-25.*

***Placed on third reading and set for public hearing on April 07, 2025.***

**Ordinance No. 2025-015** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1057.05 OF TITLE FIVE OF PART TEN-STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ILLICIT DISCHARGES WITH REGARD TO STORM WATER MANAGEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Kaminski.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2025-015 ADOPTED.**

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

**Resolution No. 2025-017** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF READY MIX CONCRETE MATERIALS FOR USE BY THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Kaminski.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2025-017 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2025-018** 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 2025 AND 2026, WITHIN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Kaminski.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2025-018 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2025-019** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR SWEEPING OF STREETS FOR 2025 AND 2026, WITHIN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Kaminski.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2025-019 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2025-020** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH UTILITY ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF BODYWORN CAMERAS, IN-CAR VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT AND RELATED APPURTENANCES, IN ORDER TO REPLACE OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT, WITHOUT PUBLIC BIDDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Kaminski.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2025-020 ADOPTED.**

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

**Ordinance No. 2025-021** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY UNDER THE OHIO EMS PRIORITY ONE AND SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE TRAINING OF PERSONNEL AND/OR THE PURCHASE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT; AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Kaminski.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2025-021 ADOPTED.**

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:**

**Application for Permit: TRFO - D5I:** To: BDB Other States LLC; **DBA: Buca Di Beppo**, 16677 SouthPark Center, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 2/22/2025).

***Motion by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Kaminski to file a conditional objection to the application for permit based upon the applicant's lack of compliance with the City's Building, Health and/or Safety Codes; provided that when and if compliance is confirmed by the Building Department, the Clerk will withdraw the objection in Columbus. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.***

**Application for Permit: NEW – D1:** To: Ohio Springs Inc.; **DBA: Sheetz Convenience Store**, 9037 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 2/22/2025).

***Motion by Mr. Carbone, second by Mr. Kaminski to file a conditional objection to the application for permit based upon the applicant's lack of compliance with the City's Building, Health and/or Safety Codes; provided that when and if compliance is confirmed by the Building Department, the Clerk will withdraw the objection in Columbus. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.***

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

(None)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Short adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.



Marialena Beach  
Council Secretary



Date

## Marialena Beach

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**From:** Gordon Short  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 9:31 AM  
**To:** Aimee Pientka; Marialena Beach  
**Subject:** Fwd: Southwest General Ambulance Diversion Testimony at February 2025 Strongsville City Council Meeting

For the minutes. I may or may not read it in its entirety but would like it entered into the minutes

Gordon Short  
Strongsville Councilman, Ward 4  
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Matyas, Albert" <AMatyas@swgeneral.com>  
**Date:** February 14, 2025 at 11:59:09 AM EST  
**To:** Gordon Short <Gordon.Short@strongsville.org>  
**Subject:** Southwest General Ambulance Diversion Testimony at February 2025 Strongsville City Council Meeting

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Please do not reply, click links, or open attachments unless you were expecting this mail.

Dear Council President Short,

It has come to our attention that you received testimony at the February 2025 Strongsville City Council meeting regarding cases of ambulance diversion at Southwest General Health Center. First, I would like to state that the care and safety of patients at Southwest General is a top priority for our dedicated caregivers and support staff. As noted in the minutes, we did go on diversion once in November and once in December.

The diversion time in November was because we did not have a neurologist available for stroke patients coming to the Emergency Department (ED). In 2024, we had two neurologists practicing at Southwest General. They were responsible for providing stroke coverage for our emergency rooms. Unfortunately, one neurologist retired leaving one physician to provide coverage. We have been actively recruiting for a replacement but have not been able to find anyone yet. When our neurologist takes time off, we are required to go on stroke diversion to ensure patients receive the appropriate care in a timely manner. To avoid this in the future, until a second neurologist is hired, we are in the process of finalizing a contract for telestroke services. Once completed, we will have backup neurology coverage and avoid the need to go on stroke diversion.

The diversion in December was the result of a significant influx of patients coming to the ED in a very short period and the hospital inpatient census being extremely high. We had a high number of patients



waiting in the ED waiting room along with all beds full in the ED and in the hospital. To ensure the safety of our patients and caregivers, we went on diversion. I would also like to note that the diversion was not caused by a lack of staffing. We had adequate staffing throughout the hospital but did not have space or bed capacity to care for the volume of patients. Additionally, even when we are on diversion, we are still receiving walk-in patients along with some ambulance traffic.

By going on ambulance diversion during this high-volume period, we were able to focus our efforts on caring for the patients in the hospital and safely discharge others to create capacity for incoming patients. The decision to go on diversion is a last resort caused by the volume of patients in the hospital, patients coming through the ED and the physical capacity to deliver care. Southwest General, which provides medical control for the city of Strongsville and others in our S.A.F.E.S. community, will always pursue the medical care that we think is in the best interest of the patient.

We appreciate the support we get from the City of Strongsville, and we endeavor to demonstrate that appreciation by delivering safe, high-quality care to the community.

Sincerely,

**Albert Matyas, MBA, FACHE**

Vice President

Ambulatory Operations & Business Development

Southwest General Health Center

O: 440.816.6683



# Southwest

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