

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, JULY 3, 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, July 3, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.**

Present: Council Members: James E. Carbone, James A. Kaminski, Joseph C. DeMio, Gordon C. Short, and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Finance Director Eric Dean, Law Director Neal Jamison and Safety Director Charles Goss.

Absent: Councilman Thomas M. Clark and Councilwoman Annmarie P. Roff.

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:34 p.m.

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

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2023-099 is rezone property located at 11654 Pearl Road, (PPN 392-26-002) from GB (General Business) classification to R-RS (Restaurant- Recreational Services) Classification. This application is for a proposed Biggby Coffee. Mr. Kaminski advised they will be converting the existing building. This will be placed on first reading and referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendation. Ordinance No. 2023-100 is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a grant agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for financial assistance through the United States 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act, community grant FY 2022, in connection with the Prospect Road storm sewer project. Suspension and adoption is recommended for this legislation.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2023-101 is an ordinance amending section 250.01 of Title Six of Part Two-Administration Code, concerning vacancies in the position of patrol officer in the police department. Ordinance No. 2023-101 is an ordinance amending section 250.01 of Title Six of Part Two-Administration Code, concerning vacancies in the position of patrol firefighter in the fire department. Safety Director Goss advised this allows the Mayor the authority to hire a police officer or firefighter up to 6 months in advance of a vacancy. Mr. Goss worked with Mr. Jamison to make sure this was in compliance with civil service regulations. Mr. Carbone verified this pertains to only entry-level hiring of patrol officers and firefighters. Mr. Goss advised the promotional supervisor positions are something they can look at in the future. Mr. Kaminski echoed Mr. Carbone, that he would be open to looking at the supervisor positions in the future to better help in the transition and process of an upcoming vacancy. Mayor Perciak advised he is becoming concerned with attracting people to the police and fire services. In the past, over a hundred people would apply. During this last examination, only 8 were certified through civil service. Suspension and adoption was recommended for both pieces of legislation.

Economic Development Committee: Chairman Short advised Ordinance No. 2023-103 is an ordinance authorizing a job/payroll creation incentive grant for the Millcraft Paper Company. The Millcraft Paper Company, as an employer, is committing to the creation of approximately 60 new full-time jobs by October 2023 with a new payroll of \$6,244,000.00. Mayor Perciak advised this company is moving into the old Darice headquarters building on Foltz Parkway. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation.

Committee of the Whole: Ordinance No. 2023-094 is an ordinance providing for the submission to the electors of the city at the at the next regular November election certain amendments to Article III of the Charter entitled "The Council" in section 12, to provide for Council posting on the website of the city, and in public places determined by Council, all ordinances, resolutions, statements, orders, proclamations, notices and reports required by law. This will be placed on second reading tonight and referred back to the committee. Ordinance No. 2023-095 is an ordinance providing for the submission to the electors of the city at the next regular November election certain an amendment to Article IV of the Charter entitled "Administrative Offices" in section 6(c), to provide that the decision of the Board of Zoning Appeals granting a variance is final without requiring a (20) day delay for review by City Council. Mr. Carbone advised he feels this should be changed. Instead of removing Council's ability to review, the 20-day delay could be changed to review by the next regular Council meeting, not to exceed 14 days (because of Council recess or the times where there are 3 weeks in between Council meetings). Mr. Short does not feel there should be any delay for residential variances. Ms. Kosek agreed with Mr. Short's view on residential, but stated Council has exercised the review process with commercial (ex. Arby's); and feels that, along with council review of industrial, still needs to be kept in place. Mr. Kaminski feels this should be placed on the ballot as submitted by the charter review committee. He stated there is procedure already in place for Council to be involved, prior to the BZA making a decision. Ms. Kosek stated there is no ability, other than what is stated in the Charter. Mr. Kaminski advised Council receives the BZA agenda in advance. Ms. Kosek advised while she could communicate concerns with members of the BZA, but that doesn't mean they have to listen and vote accordingly. Mr. Jamison advised he can prepare an amended piece of legislation and let Council review. This will be placed on second reading tonight and referred back to the committee. Ordinance No. 2023-096 is an ordinance providing for the submission to the electors of the city at the next regular November election an amendment to Article IV of the Charter entitled "Administrative Offices" in section 7(a), to provide for (5) members of the Civil Service Commission of the city. This will be placed on second reading tonight and referred back to the committee. Ordinance No. 2023-097 is an ordinance providing for the submission to the electors of the city at the next regular November election certain amendments to Article V of the Charter entitled "Finance" in section 5(b), to provide that Council may authorize certain expenditures, in emergencies or other limited circumstances. This legislation is without public bidding; therefore, all 7 votes of Council are needed for this legislation to pass. Mr. Carbone noted there are two Councilmembers absent this evening; and that is why this section of the Charter needs changed. Ms. Kosek understands the issue with requiring all 7 votes of Council; but feels there is a public bidding for a reason, and sees a potential problem, if say, there is a 5-2 vote from Council. Mr. DeMio and Mr. Kaminski feel 5 is still a super majority and good with how the amendment is written. Mr. Jamison advised the reason the committee choose 5 was because that is the same requirement to approve the motion to suspend reading legislation 3 times. This will be placed on second reading tonight and referred back to the committee. Ordinance No. 2023-098 is an ordinance providing for the submission to the electors of the city at the next regular November election an amendment to Article X of the Charter entitled "Charter Review Committee" to provide that Council shall submit to the electors any proposed alterations, revisions and amendments recommended by the Charter Review Committee. Mr. Carbone advised this would completely remove Council's ability to amend or defeat the committee's proposed legislation from going to the ballot; therefore, anything the committee brought forth would directly go the ballot. Mr. Kaminski advised Council would still have the ability to submit any amendments to the ballot they so wished; therefore, he is in favor of this. Mr. Jamison echoed that Council, at any time, could submit Charter amendments to the ballot. If there was an instance where the committee was putting forth something Council did not like, they could then submit there amendment; and whichever amendment received the most electorate votes would take effect. Mr. Jamison advised the committee felt they were commissioned to objectively review the Charter and put forth any changes they feel are necessary for the city as a whole. Mr. Carbone is very appreciative of what the committee does; but also appreciates Council's role as well.

Ms. Kosek isn't sure how Council could even create an opposing amendment to the committee's; especially when Council would just like to keep the verbiage of the Charter the way it's written. Mr. Jamison advised if Council did not like a Charter amendment, they could also campaign against it. Ms. Kosek advised residents also have the ability to submit an item to the ballot through the initiative petition process; therefore, does not feel the Council should give up their ability to review proposed Charter amendments brought forth by the review committee. In agreement with the committee, Mr. Kaminski feel strongly that their proposed amendments should go to the ballot, without Council review. This will be placed on second reading tonight and referred back to the committee. Ordinance No. 2023-104 is an ordinance providing for the submission to the electors of the city at the next regular November election an amendment to Article IV of the Charter entitled "Administrative Offices" in Sections 5(a) and 5(b), to amend the provision for members of the Planning Commission. This will be placed on first reading and referred back to the committee. Suspension and adoption was recommended for Resolution No. 2023-105; a resolution declaring the month of August as Council recess month. Ms. Kosek suggested that Council may want to consider July, instead of August, as recess month; due to the fact the school calendar has changed and this would coincide more when children are off for summer break. Mr. Jamison advised Council would just have to be mindful of the Board of Election's deadline (first week of August) to submit legislation to the November ballot.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 3, 2023 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 8:05 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, James A. Kaminski, Joseph C. DeMio, Gordon C. Short, and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Finance Director Eric Dean, Law Director Neal Jamison and Safety Director Charles Goss.

Absent: Councilman Thomas M. Clark and Councilwoman Annmarie P. Roff.

Motion made by Councilwoman Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio, to excuse Councilman Thomas M. Clark for just cause. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

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 June 20, 2023, were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Mayor's appointment and Council confirmation of Lt. Thomas J. O'Deens as Chief of Police, due to retirement, effective September 1, 2023 (Oath of Office to follow at a later date).

Mayor Perciak – Thank you Mr. President, good evening everyone. It's a pleasure this evening to announce the appointment of Thomas O'Deens as the new police chief here in the City of Strongsville, effective September 1, 2023. Tommy O'Deens is a 28-year veteran of the Strongsville Police Department. After graduating from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy, he served in the patrol division and detective bureau until his promotion to Sergeant in 2008. As a sergeant, he was assigned to the night shift platoon for the following 9 years. He was then promoted to the rank of lieutenant, and has been serving as the commander of the patrol division ever since. Tom is a graduate of Benedictine High School. He graduated from Cleveland State University with a bachelor's degree in social work and criminal justice. In addition to the thousands of hours of in-service training, Tom graduate from the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC), which is held at Ohio State University. I believe Lt. O'Deens is well-qualified and the best candidate for the position.

Motion made by Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio to confirm Lt. Thomas J. O'Deens as Chief of Police, due to retirement, effective September 1, 2023. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark:

Mr. Carbone – Mr. Clark did go to the school board meeting on Thursday, June 29th. The board did approve a motion to put a \$5.9 mil renewal levy on the November 7, 2023 ballot for the electors to decide. This renewal levy amounts to \$179 per \$100,000 value. Again, this is a renewal of an existing levy to cover current expenses. The board also ratified the Strongsville City Schools three-year agreement with the Strongsville Education Association, effective August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2026. The next school board meeting is Thursday, 7/13/23.

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Clark:

(No report)

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: First, some exciting news for Southwest General. Once again, they have been named from the Plain Dealer's, "Top Workplaces List," which is a summary of the best places to work in Northeast Ohio. Not only did they receive that honor, they were recognized for having the biggest jump in the rankings this year, compared to last year, by improving up to 12 spots. This is now the 14th consecutive year that Southwest has made and received this honor from The Plain Dealer. This continues to shows as they continue to have good employee retention rates and first-year employee turnover is very low. To date, they have filled over 140 positions across the organization, including 65 critical nursing positions. Again, it's a great asset we have in our backyard and continues to retain and attract good quality people; however, just like I mentioned in my report last meeting, they are still having trouble filling positions, as we have seen across Northeast Ohio.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short (cont'd): To that degree though, again being very innovative and working with the assets that we have in our community here and across the suburbs, they have been partnering with Polaris Career Center for students to get interested in nursing and other medical positions. Also, working with students from the local school districts, including Strongsville, for a new healthcare internship program to begin this summer at Southwest; as well as having 40 new nursing students to the Southwest General nurse tech program. While employee retention is good, there is still a need for nurses out there and a need for good, quality people at the health system; but again, I think we have a great gem in our backyard for healthcare and being named again for the 14th consecutive year as a top workplace. That's a feather in their cap, that organization, and the CEO, Bill Young. That concludes my report on Southwest but I'll take any questions.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short: We had some good news here. Ordinance No. 2023-103 is to approve a job payroll creation grant. The Millcraft Paper Company will be moving to Strongsville at the old Darice headquarters building there off of Royalton Road, right near Foltz Parkway, bringing over 60 new jobs to Strongsville, along with over \$6.2 million in payroll. This would be to approve the incentive grant for bringing those to Strongsville. They anticipate operations commencing in October, 2023. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt on that. Any questions? Mayor, give our congratulations and appreciation to Mr. Brent Painter for attracting, again, another high-quality business to Strongsville and to our industrial parkway.

Mayor Perciak – He's watching this evening so I'm sure he'll...

Mr. Short – Nice job Mr. Painter, wherever you may be. I'll happily take any questions, thank you.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio: The nice thing tonight is we don't have anything on our agenda for public service, so we are in good shape here. I know that Joe Walker and the administration, you can double check, but, believe it or not, waiting for salt and snow and all those things around the corner. At this time, unless the Mayor has something that he wanted to share with us from the Monday meeting, we're pretty good here in public service.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you, and if that's around the corner, I'm going to walk very slowly to that corner.

FINANCE – Ms. Kosek:

(No report)

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski: Planning, Zoning, and Engineering we have two ordinances this evening. Ordinance No. 2023-099, this is amending the zoning map for real estate located at 11654 Pearl Road. That's the corner of Pearl Road and Progress Drive. It's the old bank building over there. It will be going from general business classification to restaurant-recreational. The application came in from Biggby Coffee. They would be using the existing building over there. It will be first reading this evening and then referred to the Planning Commission. Ordinance No. 2023-100 is authorizing the Mayor to enter into a grant agreement with the EPA for a community grant in connection with the Prospect Road storm sewer project. This is something that the administration has been working on for a long time. I know Kelly and several others have been waiting for this. We're very happy to see the progress here and to see that project get started here in the future.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski (cont'd): - Hold on, just a question Mr. President, I think we have to have the finance director talk about that a second.

Mr. Dean – Yes, this grant is really going to help pay for this project. We anticipate this project to be over \$3 million dollars per the engineer's estimate. We have secured these funds directly from the Feds in order to get this project started.

Mayor Perciak – Tell them what you're going to do to get it started.

Mr. Dean – We had to recently file online with the federal bureaucracies and finally got it approved. It's been a long process to get this trickled down to get at this point. I know that engineering is excited to get this out to bid. It should be out to bid shortly.

Mr. Carbone – When do you anticipate it coming back to us?

Mayor Perciak – I don't have an answer on that Jim because we have to update...remember, some of this data is two years old. We really have to update that and see where it's at; so that's what we're doing now. The matter of the fact is everything is set up from the Fed to us and back and forth, so that the money will come as it progresses. As I said, \$3 million was the number we used two years ago. We all know what happened in the last few years, so we will have an update for you shortly on that.

Ms. Kosek – I understand you don't know when it's going out to bid, do you think that this is a next summer project or do you think...

Mayor Perciak – No, we're hoping it's going to be this year because they should be able to work on this project during the winter months.

Ms. Kosek – Fantastic, thank you so much.

Mayor Perciak – We discussed that at staff this morning.

Ms. Kosek – Wonderful.

Mr. Kaminski – Any additional questions for Planning, Zoning and Engineering?

(No comments)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski: The last meeting, as well as this evening, we have discussed these two ordinances – Ordinance 2023-101 and Ordinance No. 2023-102. They were proposed, like I said, a couple of weeks ago; and we made some minor adjustments to them and we talked about that in caucus. This will allow us to basically amend the administration code concerning vacancies for both the patrol officers, which is Ordinance No. 2023-101 and for firefighters, Ordinance No. 2023-102. This will allow some additional hiring to have overlap for training purposes. The recommendation is suspension and adoption on both of those ordinances. I'll be happy to take any questions; and we also have our Safety Director here, Charles Goss, who can address any questions. Hearing none, that completes my report for public safety.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you, and Director of Safety, Mr. Goss, for being here this evening.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - Ms. Roff:

(No report)

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone: We've talked in length during caucus many Charter amendments that we are seeing. We are going to have Ordinance No. 2023-094 through Ordinance No. 2023-098...all of those are going to be placed on second reading and they are going to have a public hearing.

Mr. Jamison – There's no public hearing on those Jim. It just requires a vote at some point prior to the magic date in August so we can get it down to the Board of Elections timely.

Mr. Carbone – Okay, and then we have Ordinance No. 2023-104. This is amending the provision for members on Planning for Council or a person appointed by Council to act as their designee. This is going to be placed on first reading. Lastly, we have Resolution No. 2023-105. This is for the month of August to be Council recess month. The recommendation here is to suspend and adopt. Any questions for me on those?

(No comments)

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Thank you Mr. President, just a couple of quick reminders. Tomorrow is the 4th of July. As always, we will be having our 4th of July fireworks celebration on The Commons for the second year in a row. With that, we will have all the amenities for our children starting at 6:00 p.m. and we will shut them down at 9:00 p.m. so we have time to get everybody ready for the fireworks. We hope to start the fireworks at about 9:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – it all depends but that's where it will be. I want to thank the police department, the fire department, the service department...everybody pitching in for tomorrow night. We believe that The Commons is the place where we want to hold all of our activities, right here at the center of our town. Then, last but not least, July 12th is the beginning of our Homecoming. That will be July 12th-15th. Again, on the closing night at 10:00 p.m. we will have fireworks for the closing of the Homecoming. The final fireworks for the year will be when we light The Commons for Christmas. That pretty much ends my report for everything that is going on. I'm waiting...Charlie, do we have a decision about Breakfast on the Bridge yet?

Mr. Goss – Mayor, the way things look right now, I think the Breakfast on the Bridge will be the Breakfast on The Commons this year because, as we all know, the covered bridge is going to be torn down to the decking and rebuilt; so we just can't depend on it being in any state to hold an event there. We should all look forward to at least one year of having it right here at the center of town.

Mayor Perciak – That ends my report.

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

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

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Eileen Krejci, 3684 Boston Road, Brunswick, OH: Good evening, my name is Eileen Krejci, 3684 Boston Road, Brunswick. I'm here tonight to express my opposition to the proposed interchange at Boston Road. The Buckeye Pipeline, which carries jet fuel, runs across my property as well as across other properties on the Brunswick side of Boston Road. I know that's nothing new. According to the current plan, part of the Buckeye Pipeline will be relocated; and the problem is I shutter to think of them digging it up and relocating it...a jet fuel pipeline of that size and significance, and then moving it even closer to our homes. As a result, our front yards will be smaller and closer to the street than they were before; and the pipeline, of course, will be closer to our homes as I said. This certainly won't help our property values or the desirability if we needed to sell our homes. My biggest objection is that this situation creates an unnecessary safety risk and concern to all residents in the Brunswick road area which can be avoided if the interchange is not built at Boston Road. Please find another location for the interchange in Strongsville, thank you.

(Applause)

Sue Krejci, 3365 Sliding Rock Trail, Brunswick, OH: Good evening, my name is Sue Krejci, I live at 3365 Sliding Rock Trail in Brunswick. I am basically here because I have been watching these meetings. I oppose the Boston Road interchange as well. While I don't live there now, I did grow up there; so I am very familiar with the traffic challenges around the St. Rt. 82 corridor. According to the experts, interchange by formula is not the way to solve this problem; and this is, in fact, legislation in search of a problem. The fact that we are the only area that this legislation was written for goes against everything I feel like Republicans stand for. This should be small government, not trying to legislate cooperation. I've been watching these meetings and I wanted to clarify a few things. Mayor Perciak, in your initial statement, you said that, "This is an issue of public safety, not convenience." However, your own city study shows that this will not help the St. Rt. 82 traffic. From the recent Cleveland Plain Dealer article over the weekend, the study indicates that, "A new interchange at Boston Road would not improve conditions 2.5 miles north at the intersection of Howe Road and St. Rt. 82 in Strongsville; ostensibly, one of the big reasons for a new I-71 interchange." It really puzzles me that the study is not even looking at how to solve the traffic at St. Rt. 82. Again quoting, "...the study goes on to say obtaining acceptable operational performance at this intersection is outside of the study's scope," and that intersection being at the St. Rt. 82/Howe Road intersection. Previously, you have stated that NOACA determined the scope of your study; but Grace Gallucci is quoted as saying that, "The study was led by Strongsville and that her agency had no role in it other than providing customary traffic data." This feasibility study...you also said in your statement that, "This feasibility study will evaluate several alternatives, from no-build to partial interchange to a full interchange and many alternatives in-between."

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Krejci (cont'd) – However, I was shocked to see that there were not many alternatives in-between; in fact, there were no alternatives outside of the 4 partial and full interchanges at Boston Road, as well as the no-build situation. Why would you not at least include an option like Drake Road which already dead ends into Foltz Parkway, which you're clearly still putting businesses into and developing, and would not involve moving a jet fuel pipeline? Especially, when according to the study, the St. Rt. 82/Howe Road intersection typically resulted in poor/failing level of service throughout each scenario, including the no-build conditions. Again, each of the possible proposed Boston Road solutions will not help the traffic; it's still poor/failing at St. Rt. 82. Has anyone studied a basic step like widening Howe Road to 3 lanes? According to the article, you made the choice to exclude the study at Howe Road at all, which is perplexing from a safety perspective, unless this really isn't about safety at all. This is about commerce; and I think we all can just say that. We all know that the goal is to connect Boston Road to your industrial park and make it a truck route. You said at the last meeting that there has never been a discussion about extending Boston Road to Pearl Road, or to the business park, and making it 4-5 lanes. "Nothing like that has even been considered and won't be considered." I just want to clarify that these are not the imaginations of citizens running wild, spouting conspiracy theories. These are actually things that have been discussed by city officials for over a decade, as evidenced by the articles that citizens were pulling up at the last meeting; with quotes from Strongsville City officials stating that was your city's intention. Case in point, Duke Southworth in 2013, "The whole point of the Boston Road interchange is to possibly connect it to the Foltz Industrial Parkway. That's what things are being lined up for. Our stake in the industrial parkway is a lot bigger than Brunswick's stake in the industrial parkway." This was echoed at the NOACA board meeting last month where the discussion was less about safety and more about the, "...incredible access opportunities for industrial and commercial development." Now, you said last week that you cannot connect Foltz Parkway to Boston Road due to environmental impacts; and having been trying to get the Army Corps of Engineers for 18 months. A 2012 Strongsville Patch article about extending Foltz Parkway to Boston Road states, "In the meantime, the city is dealing with wetlands issues. It has gotten permission from the Army Corps of Engineers to fill in some wetlands area for the road." So clearly, these are barriers that you have overcome in the past and that you were working on overcoming currently; and I have no doubt that you will. You guys are smart people and clearly motivated. Ironically, this legislation, while expensive, extensive and heartless, will not solve the problem that has been stated that it's there to solve. However, this will lay the groundwork for Strongsville's stated purpose, creating a truck route when they connect Foltz Parkway to Boston Road. I just wanted to clarify these things because we are not blind, we are not deaf, we are not stupid, we're reading things that you guys have, in your own public documents or have stated to the press, we see what's happening. It's not fair to Brunswick. This is not how you solve problems, by going and legislating when you don't get your way. This is not a Brunswick problem, this is Strongsville's. You continue to overdevelop on St. Rt. 82, but this will not solve that traffic problem, thank you.

(Applause)

Joe Casaregola, 16743 Sunwood Oval, Strongsville, OH: Joe Casaregola, 16743 Sunwood Oval. I don't know that I can be as articulate as that young lady; however, my two cents is that we came to Strongsville almost 30 years ago. We wanted to downsize and put together...build a house for our retirement; and we did that in Strongsville. This interchange has been hanging over our head for 30 years; and now, as she has very well stated, there have been decisions made that are affecting many, many people on Boston Road.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Casaregola (cont'd) - That article in The Plain Dealer yesterday really brought to light a number of different things, things that I was only thinking would happen should that go in – such as the noise level, additional truck traffic which is really the main goal of this whole situation, the value of my house, value of my neighbors' homes. We've put thousands of dollars into our properties...new roofs and landscaping to maintain that property. In one fell swoop, you are going to destroy that...over 30 years, without apparent concern for doing that. I know Mr. Perciak lives in a nice, little area off of Saratoga, Mr. Patton off of Pearl Road in Echo Lake...nice and tucked away, really nice and no problems with Boston Road. Those of us who are around Boston Road and who will be affected by all of this, those are the people that I am concerned with. I'm not sure how many of you are in that category. It troubles me to no end that nobody is concerned about us. It's the citizens that you are supposed to be, not only serving, but protecting. I get none of that feeling from any of you or the Mayor, to be quite honest. I'm a very honest person; so I had to tell you that face-to-face. I am not for this. I've talked to the Mayor about this several years ago. This was supposed to be a dead issue, as I understood, and it's not. For whatever reason, the format for doing this process is all screwed up and the procedure is not being followed properly. That's not government. That's government gone amok. I'm sorry to see that and I'm sorry to see that in Strongsville.

(Applause)

Buckley Wilford, 18583 Benbow Road, Strongsville, OH: Hello, my name is Buckley Wilford, I live at 18583 Benbow Road, Strongsville, OH. I'm here to talk once again about this. It's something that's a very heartfelt issue to me. What I've been thinking about lately is they have closed off the Howe Road section from my type of area. From Drake Road over to Boston Road, everybody is driving down my road at like 60 mph. It's very dangerous. My road is very narrow. I bet...they recently did this awful patch job all through my street. They ran the lines...the lines are actually on the dirt on the sides of the road in some places because the road is not even wide enough to support two lanes. I think, why don't they fix my road? Why is there so much trouble with my road and why don't we have like a speed bump or something, it's 25 mph. Then, I think about this and I think about Howe road; and I think how many times have I gone down Howe Road and there's an Amazon truck or something. We all get stuff from all these delivery-type people, and it's backing it up for a long way...for a school bus or for a postman. I feel terrible for the postmen that go down Howe Road. Why don't we widen that road? I mean to me, I want to have my road widened there on Benbow. I would imagine that some people on Howe Road would want to have their road widened too. Then I hear from people that it's too expensive to widen Howe Road; but then I listen to the meetings and we are doing so well with all of our commerce, with the business, with the taxes and with the different things. Why can't we look at some type of options like this? At the end of the day, what about being neighborly? The option of building the interchange is literally taking people's homes away from them. That's doesn't seem like a good option. That should be the last-ditch option you should consider. I'm a strong conservative. I think as a strong conservative, we go for justice, we go for the right things, we want the rule of law, we want to move forward, we want to be a better society, we want to look out for everybody's best interest. I would think the last thing for the best interest is to take somebody's homes away from them. There has to be better options than this. Listening to that lady's talk that she gave right here about how we're going to view other options; and yet, no other options are being viewed whatsoever. It just doesn't seem like things are right. I was in the military for 20 years. I was a Master Sergeant, that's like a top leader, one rank from the top. I was a Green Beret. I did a lot of things and I did a lot of the administration and the leadership. I know leadership is very difficult. It's not easy, you never make everybody happy. There's always kinds of trouble and toil.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Wilford (cont'd) - It's not easy for anybody; but it's important that you do it with the right intent and you go in the right direction and you think about everybody. I really feel that people around our area are not being felt about, are not being supported; and that's the worse thing of all of this. I would love to see some of you guys say some different options, speak up, tell us something. I'm a chaplain at a hospital. As a chaplain in a hospital, I have my distinct religious beliefs; and yet, I can deal with any single person that comes in that hospital. I can make a connection. I can make a friend; even if they are totally different than I am, I can find some way to bridge over the gap and to meet this person. I think that's what good leadership is about. It doesn't mean that I have to change my mind; but I need to be able to find a way to connect. I really feel like there's no connection going on here at this point; and I'm really hoping that somehow as this goes forward, as we get to 1(b) if we haven't got it yet...the different things, that we're going to be able to make some type of connection with this. That's what I have to say tonight, thank you very much.

(Applause)

Mark Oktavec, 116 Duxbury Lane, Brunswick, OH: My name is Mark Oktavec, I live at 116 Duxbury Lane in Brunswick Ohio. I would appreciate that during my 5 minutes that I would get everybody's attention please. Ladies and gentlemen, can I get your attention? I really appreciate it. We gave you all of our attention while you guys were all speaking. Excuse me, can we get your attention as well? Thank you, I live at 116 Duxbury Lane. I'm at the very end of a cul-de-sac that looks straight up the street at what you folks are applauding as the answer to 2.3% traffic is what I believe? Once you get past Drake Road...excuse me, I'm sorry, I'm really looking for your attention, thank you.

Mr. Jamison – I'm listening to everything you are saying.

Mr. Oktavec – I'm really looking for your attention though.

Mr. Jamison – You got it.

Mr. Carbone – Sir, if you could continue on...

Mr. Oktavec – I understand, but this... I would like part of my time back when I have to keep asking for this. Now, 116 Duxbury, I invite everybody in this room this Friday at 5:00 p.m. to my home to look up the street from my home. Right where my home is at, you guys are taking a main road, North Carpenter, and cutting it down the street to connect it up to Howe Road. Now, what does that do? We're going to put in interchange exits in both directions. We're going to redirect a road into a development. As I'm looking up my street, what am I looking at? I'm currently looking at houses. What am I going to be looking at? Infrastructure to support exits, industrial parkways, 4-lane Boston Road, how many GetGos, McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts and everything else have to go there to support the traffic that is going to have to go through there. I would love to hear the people on Nob Hill discuss what's going to happen when Boston Road goes to 4 lanes and the one driveway, which I'm sorry but it wasn't put far enough off the road, but in their \$1.4 million dollar home will now have Boston Road 10 feet from it? Do you guys even understand the infrastructure that's going to have to go in? I'm talking about lights. I'm talking about gas stations. I'm talking about more things than 4 lanes. People are talking about a jet fuel line and a gas line. Those are simple. Those are simple moves. I don't put it down that somebody is going to have that moved onto their property farther. It's going to have to be done if it's done.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Oktavec (cont'd)- I understand that; but what you folks aren't seeing, or maybe you are and maybe you've already been presented with the opportunities from these franchises and companies, to put these things on Boston Road to support truck traffic. I don't care what anybody says, this has everything to do with truck traffic because you open up Boston Road and you open up Foltz Industrial Parkway to Boston Road, how are you going to get fuel to these people? Are they going to go down to W. 130th to get fuel? No, there's no place for them to go to get diesel fuel for a 53 foot tractor trailer, let alone when you're talking about multi-axel, 13 axel vehicles that are going to have to bring in the equipment that are going to have to go into these facilities that are going to go on Foltz Industrial Parkway. We are talking major, major things that are going to have to be put in place. All of the houses on Boston Road all the way up to Howe Road, on both sides of the road, will be gone. Benbow Road, Benbow is the least of the worry. Those two little cul-de-sacs, one that is on Boston Road, one that is on Benbow, they will be gone. Waite Farms, these people just built their homes. It will be gone. What comes next? Avery Denison decides they want to build a national office building here off of Foltz Industrial? It's basically, you guys need to understand, you're not seeing the bigger picture. It looks great from your house. It doesn't from mine. Everything looks great from your house. Come to my house Friday, this Friday, 116 Duxbury and let's look up the street. I invite all of you. I highly doubt any of you will show because you don't really care. It's all about tax dollars, we're taxpayers. The people on Benbow, they're taxpayers. You move them, you lose them.

(Applause)

Sam Mazzola, 3440 Boston Road, Brunswick, Ohio 44212: Sam Mazzola, 3440 Boston Road. You know what that means, right? I got your six. You should know.

Mr. Carbone – Yes.

Mr. Mazzola – That's what we have done down there. As a matter of fact, there is a neighbor across the street. The lady is about 92 years old now. For the last 25 years, I've been going over and cleaning her snow for her. I saw her shoveling one day. People ask me why I do that. I don't charge her; it's not business to me. You know what I tell them? It's the right thing to do. Do you guys know what the right thing to do is? Let me ask you, last week when I was here all I heard was about the businesses. You guys have 30 or 40 new ones. You talk business, business, business. Yet, like everybody says, the safety is why you want to put the highway there. The report, like they said, says it won't do anything, correct? I question that. Common sense tells you people from Parma aren't going to come down St. Rt. 82, turn around, go all the way up W. 130th or Ride Road, go to Boston Road, get on the highway to drive all the way back to get to St. Rt. 82 where all your stuff is. I like to deal with facts. One of the facts is you guys created the problem on St. Rt. 82, there's no doubt about it. Brunswick didn't do it, Parma didn't do it. You put Costco in there that nobody wanted. You're residents didn't want it. You turned around and... St. Rt. 82 building there. Tonight, you're talking about more places going in. I have a question, because I might not be as smart as all you guys are because I'm from "Brunstucky" as what I've heard for years, you talk about safety and you want to reduce the traffic, but all you talk about is business...help me out here, I got one question for all of you...I think, just me maybe, is that you bring more business is going to cause more traffic, not less...that's me. Can I ask you? Will there be more traffic or less traffic do you think if I add more to business that you all talk about? More or less? Simple question. No answers? How about you Kelly? You not going to answer it?

Mr. Carbone – No.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mr. Mazzola – Oh, I'm sorry, I needed somebody smart to tell me that I was wrong. Okay, I guess I must not be wrong if you don't want to answer it. Okay, I got another option for you Mayor...there's too much traffic on Howe Road, too much traffic on Boston Road. We all know that; so how about if we build a bridge over to your neighborhood and drop it off right in front of your house? How would you like that? And then we could take an exit ramp from Carpenter. Makes sense to me. You said it won't be 4 lanes. There won't be trucks going down, right? Tell your neighbors it's progress...see what they have to say for you. How's that? You going to smile at me? Go ahead. Well, I don't know...this study you guys spent \$300,000.00 on. I know you guys have all that money. I hope there's no kickbacks coming. I mean, that wouldn't be any (unintelligible). By the way, I hope some day if this goes through...you greasing up palms...you have the decency to come to me personally and ask me for my keys. I'll be glad to give them to you.

(Applause)

Mr. Carbone – Anybody else for audience participation?

(No comments)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2023-094 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AT THE NEXT REGULAR NOVEMBER ELECTION CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE III OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY ENTITLED "THE COUNCIL" IN SECTION 12, TO PROVIDE FOR COUNCIL POSTING ON THE WEBSITE OF THE CITY, AND IN PUBLIC PLACES DETERMINED BY COUNCIL, ALL ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, STATEMENTS, ORDERS, PROCLAMATIONS, NOTICES AND REPORTS REQUIRED BY LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on second reading and referred back to the committee.

Ordinance No. 2023-095 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AT THE NEXT REGULAR NOVEMBER ELECTION CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE IV OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES" IN SECTION 6(c), TO PROVIDE THAT THE DECISION OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS GRANTING A VARIANCE IS FINAL WITHOUT REQUIRING A TWENTY (20) DAY DELAY FOR REVIEW BY CITY COUNCIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on second reading and referred back to the committee.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-096 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AT THE NEXT REGULAR NOVEMBER ELECTION AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES" IN SECTION 7(a), TO PROVIDE FOR FIVE (5) MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on second reading and referred back to the committee.

Ordinance No. 2023-097 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AT THE NEXT REGULAR NOVEMBER ELECTION CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE V OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY ENTITLED "FINANCE" IN SECTION 5(b), TO PROVIDE THAT COUNCIL MAY AUTHORIZE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES, IN EMERGENCIES OR OTHER LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES, WITHOUT PUBLIC BIDDING, BY A VOTE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE (5) OF ITS MEMBERS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on second reading and referred back to the committee.

Ordinance No. 2023-098 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AT THE NEXT REGULAR NOVEMBER ELECTION AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE X OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY ENTITLED "CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE" TO PROVIDE THAT COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS ANY PROPOSED ALTERATIONS, REVISIONS AND AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on second reading and referred back to the committee.

Ordinance No. 2023-099 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE ADOPTED BY SECTION 1250.03 OF TITLE SIX, PART TWELVE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STRONGSVILLE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 11654 PEARL ROAD (PPN 392-26-002) IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FROM GB (GENERAL BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION TO R-RS (RESTAURANT-RECREATIONAL SERVICES) CLASSIFICATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on first reading and referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendation.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-100 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE UNITED STATES 2022 CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, COMMUNITY GRANT FY 22, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE PROSPECT ROAD STORM SEWER 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. 2023-100 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-101 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 250.01 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWO-ADMINISTRATION CODE, CONCERNING VACANCIES IN THE POSITION OF PATROL OFFICER IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, 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. 2023-101 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-102 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 252.01 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWO-ADMINISTRATION CODE, CONCERNING VACANCIES IN THE POSITION OF FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, 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. 2023-102 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2023-103 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A JOB/PAYROLL CREATION INCENTIVE GRANT FOR THE MILLCRAFT PAPER COMPANY, 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. 2023-103 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2023-104 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AT THE NEXT REGULAR NOVEMBER ELECTION AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES" IN SECTIONS 5(a) AND 5(b), TO AMEND THE PROVISION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on first reading and referred back to the committee.

Resolution No. 2023-105 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2023 AS COUNCIL RECESS MONTH, 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. 2023-105 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 8:52 p.m.



Aimee Pientka, MMC
Clerk of Council

07-17-23

Date