

**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022.**

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, July 5, 2022 at 7:45 p.m.**

**Present: Council Members:** Thomas M. Clark, James E. Carbone, Annmarie P. Roff, Joseph C. DeMio, James A. Kaminski and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka and Council Office Secretary Marialena Beach. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison and Finance Director Eric Dean.

**Absent:** Councilman Gordon C. Short

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:56 p.m.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Kaminski recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2022-105; an ordinance to enter into an agreement with the Strongsville City School District to provide school resource officers to the middle school and high school. Mr. Carbone advised this is a partnership with the schools and it is a 50/50 split. Suspension and adoption was recommended for Ordinance Nos. 2022-106 and 2022-107; to file an application for financial assistance with the Ohio emergency Management agency, in connection with funds available with the American Rescue Plan Act First Responder Wellness, Recruitment, Retention & Resiliency grant, for the Southwest Emergency Dispatch center and police department, respectively.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Carbone recommended suspension and adoption for Resolution No. 2022-108; a resolution declaring August, 2022 as Council recess month.

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY  
JULY 5, 2022 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 18688 ROYALTON  
ROAD, STRONGSVILLE.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President, James Carbone, called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

**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:** Thomas M. Clark, James E. Carbone, Annmarie P. Roff, Joseph C. DeMio, James A. Kaminski and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka and Council Office Secretary Marialena Beach. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison and Finance Director Eric Dean.

**Absent:** Councilman Gordon C. Short

***Motion by Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio, to excuse Councilman Gordon Short for just cause.  
All members present voted aye and the motion carried.***

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on June 21, 2022 were approved as submitted.

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

***Administration of Ceremonial Oath of Office to Sergeant Brian M. Vlana of the Strongsville Police Department.***

Mayor Perciak – Chief.

Chief Fender – Tonight, we're excited to announce a promotion that is a replacement for one of our sergeants that retired earlier this year; so I'd ask Brian Vlana if he would come on up. Just a little bit about Brian. Brian has served the citizens of Strongsville since August 2000. Since then, he has served primarily on our night shift platoon. Brian is a member of several specialized units within the department, including the Honor Guard and the Southwest Enforcement Bureau which is a multi-jurisdiction SWAT Team. Brian also serves as a departmental in-service trainer, specializing in Firearms, Defensive Tactics, Active Threat Response, and Rescue Task Force. Brian has also participated with a team of Law Enforcement professionals to develop and train Rescue Task Force to surrounding emergency service departments in Cuyahoga County. During Brian's 21 years of service, he has received numerous commendations, including awards for Quality Service, Valor, and Officer of the Year. Brian is married to Stefanie, and they have a son, Ronin. Stefanie will be pinning his badge tonight, thank you.

***At this time, the Ceremonial Oath of office was administered.***

(Applause)

Mr. Carbone – On behalf of all of Council, congratulations. I've had the opportunity to know you personally, and your work ethic. We couldn't have asked for a better person to fill these shoes. Congratulations and congratulations to the family and congratulations to the Strongsville police family as well. They are getting a good sergeant here. I think that deserves another round of applause.

(Applause)

Mr. Carbone – I know our meetings can be very exciting; and if you guys would like to stay, you are more than welcome. If you would like to leave at this time and celebrate, that's okay too.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark:** Thank you Mr. Carbone, there was a Strongsville City Schools Board meeting on Thursday, June 30, 2022. I was out of town and unable to attend in person; but I did catch the meeting virtually as it is available to all of us on SCS TV at [www.strongnet.org](http://www.strongnet.org). The meeting began with the recognition of the Strongsville track & field, boys & girls, indoor & outdoor teams. Numerous student athletes were recognized; but I want to highlight a few names and results. Julia Ishim, third place at State in the 2-mile with a time to 10:48, a new Strongsville High School record. Sidney Wingler, captain, scholar athlete, ran a 4:07 mile at Regionals, within 1 second of the school record of 5:06. Kennedy Griffin, also a scholar athlete, qualified in 4 events and placed in multiple. Kennedy took third in State with an 18'9" long jump. There were numerous student athletes; and I won't name them all, but I have one more I must share. Andrew Beten earned "Indoor State Champion" with a 6'7" high jump. Yes, I said State Champion. He was also the "Indoor field MVP"; and competed at Indoor Nationals and is a scholar athlete.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark (cont'd):** We were introduced to our new Strongsville Middle School Assistant Principal, Bryan Szczepanski. He joins us most recently from Amherst Schools where he served as Dean of Students for multiple grades. From the treasurer's report that evening, the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2022; the same night as the meeting. At the time of the meeting, the revenue for the year was about \$365,000 above the 5-year forecast; and the forecasted Fiscal Year expenditure completion was approximately \$1 million favorable to 5-year forecast. Combined, the forecasted Fiscal Year 2022 close will be about \$1.4 million favorable. Revenue is down about \$1 million year over year; and thus, fiscal responsibility of our district continues to be a strength. During the Treasurer's report, Chartwell, the incumbent provider for the past 6 years, was recommended and approved as the vendor for the next food services contract. Later in the meeting, Director of Dining Services, Donna Holland, a Chartwell employee, provided the annual report and confirmed that we are in compliance with State guidelines. Emerald Woods, a new development in Columbia Township that will have about 600 homes when complete, will have about 90 homes that are within Strongsville City School's border. There are 16 homes right on the boundary, 12 of those homes will have the option to attend either school. Four of those homes will be only be able to choose Columbia. Operations Manager, Steve Breckner, reported on some surcharges that are being incurred for raw materials and transportation. The surcharges are still the prudent financial move, just as we are seeing with our contracts; and I commend the board for approving expense as early as possible to mitigate additional exposure to inflation. The savings, by being proactive earlier this year, is saving the district money, similar to what we are seeing in the city. Superintendent Cameron Ryba and George Anagnostou's contracts were extended for the period of 2023-2028; so thankfully, we have both of them continuing to work hard and lead great results for our school district now thru July 31, 2028. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> for grades 1-9; and Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> for grades 10-12; and finally, August 22 for preschool. That concludes my school board liaison report. I will gladly take any questions.

**BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. Clark:**

(No report)

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:**

(No report)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short:**

(No report)

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio:** Nothing new on this docket and on the horizon; other than our service department continues to maintain our streets. Just to remind everyone, as the Mayor has asked and has Joe Walker has asked, call in areas of need so they can at least get them patched and get a good evaluation on them. Other than that, we're good.

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

**FINANCE – Ms. Kosek:** We have no ordinances or resolutions tonight. I did want to check in with the finance director and the Mayor to see if you had come up with a time you wanted to have a finance meeting. I know you mentioned it at the last meeting that you had that...

Mr. Dean – We are still discussing the timing of that meeting. We did just want to note that we did complete our audit for 2021; and there is an option to have a meeting on that. It was a clean audit. There's no comments. I believe this is the 17<sup>th</sup> year we have gotten an award from the GFOA for "Work for Excellence." It was a good audit; but we can discuss a time to have that meeting.

Ms. Kosek – Okay, I just wanted to make sure, since we're coming up to August, if we were trying to have one before September or not.

Mayor Perciak – I'll be honest with you, if we could get definitive answers on this sewer project, I'll say yes; but just to get everybody in there just for assumption purposes, that's a waste of your time. That's where we're at right now.

Ms. Kosek – Okay, well let me know if something changes; otherwise, I guess we're looking at September then?

Mayor Perciak – What we're looking at too is we've already started, Eric and I and Brent Painter, discussing the impact on our balance sheet for next year already with the businesses in town that...we know for example Union Home Mortgage, they were a major contributor to income tax. We know that's going to be affected. Anybody related to the financial service industry, that's going to hurt on collection on taxes. We're now looking at all the businesses, and as diversified as we are, of all the businesses related to the auto industry that supply it. Well, that's going to have an impact on our income tax collection. So, what we're doing is we're actually doing a study by each individual industry. Once we have that study completed...and then, Eric and I are going to make a decision whether we want to bring in somebody from the outside, just to review to make certain that our numbers are accurate so that we know going into, really the second quarter of next year, where we're going to be. Did I miss anything on that Eric? I mean, that's where we're going with this. We're trying to patch together the uncertainty that's out there. I'll tell you, I have been doing this for a long, long time as you know; and this time, and I go back to the days of Jimmy Carter, and I still can't figure out what's going on from day to day as we watch the market fluctuations. Just look what happened today in the market. At one point, the market was down 700 points. It ended up...whatever it was...100 or something down. How do you have those swings in a day and actually prepare a budget so we know where we're going? The amount of dollars that have been lost in the system, in the bond markets, in everything else, everything we try to invest in – we have to be so extremely careful of the swings. That's where it's at.

Ms. Kosek – Well, thank you, and that's all I have other than if anyone didn't notice, my Beckett has been asking for, I don't know...as long as I've been on Council...oh there he is, hi Beckett, to come and see what we do at a meeting. Since our agenda was kind of short today, he came to say hi.

Ms. Roff – I think he should be allowed to sit up on the chairs up here for a minute too.

Mayor Perciak – Beckett, you let us know if Mommy does a good job today, okay.

Mr. Carbone – We're all proud of you Beckett, that you're coming to see Mommy tonight. She does a great job.

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

**PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski:**

(No report)

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski:** We have three ordinances. Ordinance No. 2022-105; that's an ordinance approving and authorizing a memorandum of understanding between the school district and the Strongsville Police Department concerning our Strongsville school resource officers in the middle school and the high school. It's a partnership with a 50/50 on all the costs. That's a great program and very much needed in today's world. Ordinance No. 2022-106 is an application for financial assistance from the American Rescue Plan Act. It's a first responders wellness recruitment and retention for the City of Strongsville's Southwest Emergency Dispatch Center. Ordinance No. 2022-107 is the same application for financial assistance; but this one is for the Strongsville Police Department. The recommendation on these three ordinances is suspension and adoption this evening. That concludes my report. I'll be happy to take any questions.

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Roff:** I do not have anything today; but Bryan did get back with me and offered a couple of dates. They are August 5<sup>th</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup>. I was leaning more towards August 12<sup>th</sup> if anybody has anything that they think though that would interfere. I thought that would be a nice kickoff...maybe go back to school with the movie night. Mayor, will you be in town?

Mayor Perciak – No.

Ms. Roff – No? When will you be then? I thought maybe you could announce some of the stuff going on...updates.

Mayor Perciak – I'll be back on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Roff – Okay, maybe we could have Neal come and announce some of the things that are changing in the center of town. If we could just get an update (unintelligible) information table and stuff.

Mayor Perciak – Brent (Painter) or Bryan (Bogre).

Ms. Roff – Okay, I don't want to take up anybody's Friday night, but I thought it would be neat for them to see.

Mayor Perciak – Both are very engaged; so they'll do whatever you ask them to, I'm sure.

Ms. Roff – That would be nice for the community to see what's coming and what there is to look forward to...if we could do it back in that little area. I guess we're going to look more towards the 12<sup>th</sup> if everybody is okay with that. I think we're looking at Toy Story...one of the Toy Stories, right Beckett? Do you want to see Toy Story as an outdoor movie? There we go.

Mr. Carbone – I guess that's it then. Thank you, guys, for the outdoor movie night. Any questions for Ms. Roff?

Mr. Kaminski – Just a comment concerning the recreation center activity that's going to be coming there as well is the Strongfest. It's beer, wine, food and live entertainment. It's Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. You'll see stuff out there on the website. It's a great opportunity to have some fun again right before school starts.

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

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

Ms. Roff – You said it's August 27<sup>th</sup> right?

Mr. Kaminski – Yes.

Ms. Roff – Maybe we can throw some of that on the information table too...drum up some business.

Mr. Kaminski – Absolutely, will do.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Carbone:** We don't have any legislation this evening; but we did have a committee meeting. We had David Sems come in and talk about some initiatives within our own Council Office...kind of went over the technology part of the city and some of the major players and the roles that they have in it. Thank you, David.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone:** We have Resolution No. 2022-108. This is a resolution declaring Council recess month, the month of August. We've been doing that for years and I don't think there will be any objection on that; but we still will definitely be available for all our residents if there's any questions or concerns with the residents and anything that has to give to city hall we'll get that to them still.

Ms. Roff – I think Gordon volunteered to cover that month here for any questions.

Mr. Carbone – You want to call him and tell him that?

Mayor Perciak – I think where he's at right now...I'm sure he has a bourbon in one hand and a cigar in the other hand and he is not thinking about us, in all due respect.

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

**MAYOR PERCIAK:** Thank you Mr. President, good evening everyone. Again, as the Council President alluded to, I want to thank everybody who participated in yesterday's fireworks on The Commons. I especially want to thank our sponsors. Without them, as you know, that would not have been possible. We did something a lot different this year. A family event with inflatables and face painting and balloons and Kona Ice and popcorn and all the other things that were there; and the families loved it. They asked if we could do it again next year. David Sems actually has a video of this event streaming. We're pleased to do that. I especially want to thank our police department and our fire department. We had a very safe event because of them. When you see them, thank them. All you have to do is turn the TV on and you can find out what happens when the proper planning is not in place. Our planning...I have to give both chiefs and our safety director, they pretty much guided us to how this event was going to happen and why it would happen and why we need to do it in the fashion we did it in. It's because of the them that we can safely today that we had a very good family event on our town square. I want to thank them; and Jim, thank you for pitching in and helping too...both Jimmy's, and everybody who had something to do with it. Kelly, I missed you yesterday; they told me you were there. I looked for you but I couldn't find you.

Ms. Kosek – We were there for awhile and then we got a little bit further away from The Commons for the actual fireworks. We enjoyed some Kona Ice and the inflatables, Beckett will attest to.

Mayor Perciak – Good.



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

Mr. Kaminski – I will tell you, it was a great event, lots of compliments. We really, really loved it. The grandkids had a lot of fun on the square.

Mayor Perciak – And the strong presence of our police officers walking through the crowd, talking to the children, having a conversation, was absolutely amazing. Taking pictures with the kids... I'm telling you, they did a great job; and our fire department, having the water hosting up, and squirting it. Those kids waited in line just so they could spray these fire hoses.

Mr. Kaminski – I definitely prefer that venue. It was a big difference, hands down.

Mayor Perciak – Yes, so thank you everybody. Then of course, next week, a week from tomorrow, we begin our Homecoming festivities on our Commons again. That starts Wednesday evening. You can consult our webpages and get all the details, or simply call The Chamber office and they can provide you the details. It will be on the town's sign. Now, on Saturday next week, we will have fireworks for the closing of the Homecoming on The Commons. Again, we won't be able to accommodate as many people on The Commons, but I think everybody has learned that they can go to the senior center, they can go to the Heinen's parking lot, they can go to St. Joes or to the middle school and enjoy the fireworks. Again, another great community event that's going to be available. Lastly, I just want to talk about last Monday. Brent Painter and I made our presentation to the county for our Town Center project. Of course, some of you have probably read that there was somebody over there talking about how we shouldn't get this money. I didn't take it very kindly. At the end of the day, the Council voted unanimously to give us the money. The final date for the readings is going to be July 19<sup>th</sup>. We should know shortly thereafter as to when we will be receiving our funds. I want to make certain everybody understands that if it wasn't for our own Mike Gallagher and for Mr. Tuma and some of the other members up there on Council... Sunny Simon from the Shaker Heights area all joined in and asked their names to be a part of sponsoring this legislation. There was not one person up there who did not join in wanting their name as a part of the legislation. Fingers crossed, I think the presentation went well. I believe the County Council believed the presentation went well. I believe as I read the legal opinion from the county prosecutor Neal?

Mr. Jamison – yes sir.

Mayor Perciak – He believes it's good too. From that point on, I will say no more. I truly, truly am never happy. This is our community, this is our home; and someone decides to speak ill of why we should or shouldn't do something... I think that should be done here. I made that perfectly clear, if you know what I mean, thank you.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dean:** I hereby certify that the funds will be made available for all ordinances and resolutions on such agenda requiring certification of funding.

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

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

(None)

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Ordinance No. 2022-105** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE STRONGSVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ORDER FOR THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS TO THE STRONGSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL, 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. 2022-105 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2022-106** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, A DIVISION OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, IN CONNECTION WITH FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FIRST RESPONDER WELLNESS, RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & RESILIENCY GRANT, FOR THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE SOUTHWEST EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER; AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS, 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. 2022-106 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2022-107** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, A DIVISION OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, IN CONNECTION WITH FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FIRST RESPONDER WELLNESS, RECRUITMENT, RETENTION & RESILIENCY GRANT, FOR THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT; AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS, 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. 2022-107 ADOPTED.**



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

**Resolution No. 2022-108** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2022 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. 2022-108 ADOPTED.**

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:**

(None)

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

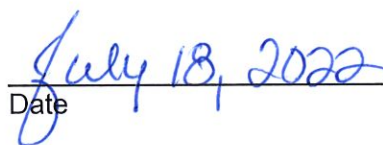
(None)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Council President James Carbone adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.



Aimee Pientka, MMC  
Clerk of Council



Date