

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL STRONGSVILLE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 18688 ROYALTON ROAD.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President Carbone called the special meeting to order at 5:00p.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 A. Kaminski, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, James E. Carbone, Tom Clark and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Perciak, Law Director Neal M. Jamison, Finance Director Eric Dean, and Economic Development Director Brent Painter.

**Absent:** Councilperson Annmarie P. Roff

Cuyahoga County Councilman Michael Gallagher was present in the audience.

**A motion was made by Ms. Kosek and seconded by Mr. DeMio to excuse Councilwoman Ann Roff for just cause. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Carbone – Next on the agenda, is Ordinances and Resolutions. What I would like to do is briefly go through some of the resolutions and ordinances that we have. We have Resolution No. 2022-117; this establishes a new fund to accept the donation for a downtown enhancement walkability initiative. We have Resolution No. 2022-118; which establishes a special revenue fund known as, "OneOhio Settlement Fund" for distributions to be received from the State of Ohio. Also, we have Ordinance No. 2022-119; which is appropriations for our annual expenses and other expenditures, repealing Ordinance No. 2022-090. I'm going to refer to Mr. Dean on some of the changes of what we are amending so we have it for the record.

Mr. Dean - Absolutely, thank you, Mr. President. The changes on the Ordinance No. 2022-119 include, an increase of \$8250.00 for fire vehicle repair that was paid for by insurance proceeds. There's an increase of \$25,000.00 in the Fire Levy Fund. That was for an increase in repair cost to Fire/Ems and fire vehicle repairs that we've had throughout the year. There's an increase of \$6,390.00 in the OneOhio Settlement Fund that is to use the opioid settlement money that we just received.... that is to use that for what was agreed upon in the M.O.U. There's a decrease in the Recreation Capital Fund and an increase in the New Town Center Improvement Fund. These are all set to budget for the capital project of the Town Center improvements; this is paid for by the grants that we have received recently, the donations and the general funds transfer.

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

Mr. Dean (cont'd.) - Lastly, there's a \$6,000.00 increase in the Worker's Compensation Fund to account for the estimated group retro-premium payments that we have at the end of the year.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you Mr. Dean, and thank you for sending all this out to all of Council on Friday. It was appreciated.

Ms. Kosek – I'm sorry Jim, I think we just need to say what the amendments are from what we received on Ordinance No. 2022-119.

Mr. DeMio - I was just going to say, Mr. Dean needs to spell out what the actual amendments are so that can be incorporated by the motion.

Mr. Dean- Sorry.

Mr. DeMio - That's ok.

Mr. Dean – To clarify, the amendments that I am asking for on Ordinance No. 2022-119, we are adding the OneOhio Settlement Fund under the... on page one under the "Earned Benefits". That is an addition of \$6390.00 that was not on the original. We are adding on page two, the Town Center Improvement Fund No. 448 and that is the \$4,750,000.00 that was being added; both of these were in the detail, but not in the front section. Finally, we are correcting the sub-totals in the "Special Revenue Fund" and the "Capital Projects Fund". Those are correct.

Mr. Jamison – So, the motion would basically refer to those amendments that Mr. Dean just outlined.

Mr. Mayor – Counselor, if you would... I think you need to expand on the Ohio Settlement Fund quickly.

Mr. DeMio – Yes Mayor, thanks, this is the first distribution; which actually.... \$6390.00 is the actual amount, it is the first initial distribution, which we received already. We are going to continue to get more, and these are very specific in terms of what we can use the money for. There are basically 8 categories. We have already discussed this at the administrative level; and moving forward, in terms of how to use these monies. It's required that we have to segregate it into a special fund, so that is why we are creating that resolution tonight.

Mayor Perciak – There is going to be approximately 18 distributions, there or there a bout.

Mr. DeMio – Correct Mayor, yes.

Mr. Carbone – Throughout the up-coming years?

Mayor Perciak & Mr. Jamison – Yes.

Mayor Perciak – I don't know how they're paying it; but we're still questioning all that.

Mr. Carbone – Ok.

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

Mr. Jamison– This is just one part of it; this isn't the only thing we're getting. This is just one settlement, remember, we have done others in the last year... year and a half. As we go through this process, we will go through the same thing probably. This is the one through the State of Ohio, the OneOhio Settlement and this is mainly against the distributors of the opioids.

Mayor Perciak – Mr. President, if I may, I also would like to talk a little bit quickly on No. 448 Town Center Improvement Fund which is its own individual line item now. I just want to acknowledge our County Councilman here, Mike Gallagher, I want to thank him for all the hard work he put into making this happen. Not only he himself, but the County Council President and his associates who asked their names to be attached to this legislation. As I understand, County Councilman Mike Gallagher, it was an 11-zip approval; it was a unanimous approval from the County Council. I want to thank you; that just did not happen by itself, so thank you on behalf of all of us here. I'm sure the President of Council may have a comment or two.

Mr. Carbone – Yes, I think on behalf of all Council, we've talked multiple times over the phone and it's so appreciative. I know you bleed green and white like us up here, and having these amenities, is just going to strengthen what we have here so it's very appreciative all your efforts. Once I finish these two pieces, I would like to have you come up for some comments. We are going to Ordinance No. 2022-120, and this is actually accepting the \$3.5 million from Cuyahoga County that will be used for our Downtown Enhancement Initiative. Lastly, we have Ordinance No. 2022-121. This is the acceptance of the funds from the July 21, 2021 National Opioid Settlement Agreement in connection with the opioid litigation. The recommendation for all of these is suspension and adoption. Without further ado, if we could have Cuyahoga County Councilperson, Michael Gallagher come to the podium.

Mr. Gallagher – Thank you Mr. President, it's been a long time; it's nice to be back here. Oh, my name for the record, "Bill Vassil (laughter) 14240 Fox Hollow Drive. God Bless his soul; he was an institution in this institution. As the Mayor and the Council President... thank you Council also, had said, these are funds that literally dropped out of the sky and we are so happy from the County Council and through myself to provide these funds for our cities and our townships. We know where the dollars are going to be spent and who knows how to spend them the best. As you probably have read, the zeitgeist of today with today's media, they like to go out year after year, and that was fine. I went out first because I knew I would get whacked but I think I could handle it and my friend from Parma also did the same thing. We took it on the chin for our colleagues; you noticed, it's kind of fallen off. The reality is, there is nothing they can say that would deter any of us from doing our jobs, and our jobs are to provide best we can for our cities, our districts and the County itself. There are tens of millions of dollars being spent in the County, especially for those that are most in need. I think that needs to be stated. The Mayor and Brent came down and I can tell you, started us off and hit a home run. It set the tone for actually what we did today. Rocky River was in today for their funds and my staff is still talking about how Strongsville and North Royalton, but in particular. Strongsville, set the table to go forward. After they were done, there was no question as far as need, certainly the want is there, but that's the human thing that we all want to do. The need was there and now the money is there, and we are so happy and so grateful. Again, as the Mayor said, it was an 11-0 vote. On the Council, we are very diverse, we are from different parts of the County, we are different religions, different colors, different sexes...different everything.

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

Mr. Gallagher (cont'd) - The one thing that we started from at the beginning, and we continue to do now, is regardless of our differences that we may and do have, we come through as a team. We support one another as best we can, an 11-0 vote, and many of these I suspect will be 11-0 votes for the sixty-odd requests that we have now on the table. Of all of those, to have this Council come together and sponsor each and every city and organization that's requested funds, they are going to get funds most likely, I can't say definitively, but most likely. I'm hopeful that they will and I will be a proud sponsor as we move forward. I watch you from afar, I don't get in your way, I think you're all wonderful. I think we are luck as a city to have leadership in the Mayor's seat and the Council President seat and the Council seats. I know how important it is because I was there; I know how tough it is, because I was there; and I know how rewarding it is because I was there. Now, you're here, and I'm so happy to have you representing the City of Strongsville. Thank you very much. Spend wisely, I know you will; and if there is anything else I can do for anybody, just let me know. Congratulations to you all. As the County Council is a team, we are a team on this. There's no one taking credit for this; we are all taking credit for this, congratulations.

(Clapping)

Mr. Short – Mr. President if I may, Mr. Gallagher... Councilman Gallagher, thank you very much. Thank your colleagues for us, we have been working a long time to put this project together with the administration and the Council and this money today will go a long way to fulfilling that vision of having a community and family center right downtown. Thank you... thank you for your leadership, and keep up the work downtown in representing us there at the County. Thank you very much.

Mr. Carbone – Very excited, thank you again Michael for everything. You said if we need anything, to reach out to you. If you ever need anything, please feel free to reach out to us. You had mentioned that you were excited, your counterparts there at the County were excited, I think we are equally as excited. I think when we get this project done, the families and the kids that are going to utilize this for all ages, are going to be just as excited and ecstatic about it. Thank you very much for really half the piece of this, and now it's up to us to work together, to try to work out the other half. Thank you again, without further ado, we are going to go to Ordinances and Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 2022-117** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A NEW CAPITAL PROJECT FUND TO BE KNOWN AS THE TOWN CENTER IMPROVEMENT FUND, NO. 448, 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. 2022-117 ADOPTED.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: (cont.)**

**Resolution No. 2022-118** by Mayor Perciak and all Members Council. A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TO BE KNOWN AS THE ONEOHIO SETTLEMENT FUND, NO. 225, 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. 2022-118 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2022-119** by Mayor Perciak and all Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR 2022 AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-090.

**Motion by Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio, to amend pursuant to the changes identified by the Finance Director, Mr. Dean. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.**

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 as amended by Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2022-119 ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**

**Ordinance No. 2022-120** by Mayor Perciak and all Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PROJECT AWARD AGREEMENT WITH CUYAHOGA COUNTY AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM CUYAHOGA COUNTY IN CONNECTION WITH THE TOWN CENTER ENHANCEMENT & WALKABILITY INITIATIVE PROJECT IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2022-120 ADOPTED.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: (cont.)**

**Ordinance No. 2022-121** by Mayor Perciak and all Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS UNDER THE ONEOHIO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, CONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THE JULY 21, 2021 NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPIOID LITIGATION, 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. 2022-121 ADOPTED.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this council, President James Carbone adjourned the meeting at 5:17p.m.

Marialena Beach  
Marialena Beach, Council Office Secretary

September 6, 2022  
Date of Approval