

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 18688 ROYALTON ROAD.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President Gordon C. Short, called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**CERTIFICATION OF POSTING:**

The Clerk of Council certified that the meeting had been posted in accordance with Ordinance No. 2023-182.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present: Council Members:** Gordon C. Short, James E. Carbone, James A. Kaminski, Kelly A. Kosek, Annmarie P. Roff, Thomas M. Clark, and Brian M. Spring. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison, Finance Director Eric Dean, Public Safety Director Charles Goss, Police Chief Thomas O'Deens, Fire Chief Jack Draves, and Communications and Technology Director David Sems.

Mr. Short - Before we get to ordinances and resolutions tonight, this is called a special meeting for the Strongsville City Council. As such, this is just to pertain to the business on the agenda. Any discussion, is between the administration and the Council. There is no public comment at tonight's meeting. Public comment will be at our regularly held scheduled meeting, which is September 2, 2025, here in this chamber. As such, before we get to ordinances and resolutions, the administration would like to present to Council its findings and reasons for Ordinance No. 2025-086. With that, I will turn it over to you, Mr. Jamison. Then afterwards, I would ask my colleagues to hold their questions until the end of the administration presentation. Then we can ask our questions to the administration and its directors. With that, Mr. Jamison, the floor is yours.

Mr. Jamison - Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last year, we've had two communities leave our regional dispatch center - Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township. They gave us notice about a year ago and left at the beginning of this year. We recently received notification from the City of Berea at the end of June, that they were leaving at the end of this year. As a result, the Mayor and members of the administration met. We explored our options going forward as to what is viable in terms of providing the proper safety for our residents and people who come to our community, and what's best for the city and its employees going forward. We basically looked at three different options going forward: Number one, was to try and maintain ourselves and the three communities - Middleburg Heights, Brook Park, and North Royalton to keep them together, and what that would cost and what it would look like. As we went through the process and started talking to different people, we discovered that at least one of them was already in discussions with Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD) to leave. That was something that we had to take into account as we went through this process in terms of what the center would look like. So, that was option one.

Mr. Jamison (cont'd) - Option two, was if we were to remain on our own and basically discontinue service for Brook Park, Middleburg Heights, and North Royalton and do it on our own. The third option was to see if this could be provided by a source similar to what we do with other kinds of services, be it HAZMAT, SWAT, and other things like that in terms of entering into a Council of Governments and see if we could provide that service. We identified the best potential for that to be Chagrin Valley Dispatch. As we went through that process, we were also under a time crunch because under our current agreements with the communities, they needed financial information from us by the end of July. We needed to make a decision around that timeframe to decide if we were going to keep the center going, either, as it's constituted on our own, or to try and go somewhere else. As we went through that process, we eventually decided that the best alternative was to join the Council of Governments with Chagrin Valley Dispatch and have the services provided by that. Tonight, Director Goss, Chief O'Deens, Chief Draves, Mr. Sems...David Sems, our IT Director, and (Finance Director) Eric Dean will give you their analysis as to why we feel that's the proper option going forward. At this point, I will turn it over to Director Goss. Thank you.

Mr. Goss - Thank you, Mr. Jamison. I was asked to give a few reasons why we believe this is the proper choice, or perhaps, the only viable choice for us - I jotted down a few of them. First of all, all of our current dispatchers will be offered immediate reemployment with a substantial pay raise and comparable benefits. This was a principal concern of ours, and one that is not possible with any other option. Any other plan would result in layoffs without reemployment assurance. Moreover, dispatchers can continue to work in our current site for about two more years, after which they will continue to work together as a team, at the new state-of-the-art facility. Secondly, both citizens and first responders will enjoy the same service. The same dispatchers will operate the same phones and the same radios under the same current platforms with no noticeable changes or reduction in quality or reliability. This will continue after we join CVD (Chagrin Valley Dispatch) because our team will be kept together servicing the same four communities. In fact, seventeen of our thirty-two dispatchers have already indicated they would stay on with CVD and have completed the necessary application process. Third, there will be significant cost savings - the numbers speak for themselves. Joining forces with CVD will open up economies of scale that would not be possible anywhere else. We will be better positioned to directly receive cell phone 911 calls and access the 911 funding that is associated with that improvement. Our agreement also includes the waiver of the standard start-up fee by CVD. Other options to us would cost us nearly double. Fourth, we will retain substantial control. We are not turning our operation over to an independent entity without inclusion - we are joining a Council of Governments. This is the same organizational structure that we operate our SWAT team, our HAZMAT team, and our radio users group. We will be the third largest of the thirty-seven communities in the partnership, giving us considerable influence over the operations. Fifth, the use of technology will advance exponentially. Some communities avoid technology advances, but we believe in putting them to work. Plans are already underway to extend our radio fiber network, which already links us to Cleveland - to the new CVD headquarters. This will provide instant voice and data transfer across the CVD region. The new CVD headquarters will be state-of-the-art and include the latest technological advancements, such as a drone heliport on the roof to instantly dispatch drones to the site of critical incidents. Sixth, there will be continuity of operations beyond what I mentioned regarding staffing. We are already operating on the CVD platform, so technology transfer will be automatic.

Mr. Goss (cont'd) - We use the same radio network, the same CAD software, and the same unified 911 system. We won't need to do retraining or retooling. Lastly, we know CVD, and they know us - we are not joining an unknown operation. We have been operating with them as partners for years. We are their backup currently, and they are our backup. We partner on technology advances and even share systems. We have deployed staff to disaster sites across the country and in the Caribbean under FEMA call-ups. When we have done that, we responded as a joint team. I will turn it over to Chief O'Deens, who has a few comments.

Chief O'Deens - Thank you, Director Goss. Some of the concerns that I have gotten from people are about whether or not our dispatchers will be receiving their 911 calls. It will be the same girls and guys in the dispatch group receiving these calls for the next two years while they are in our building. People are afraid that these dispatchers will be from Euclid or Cleveland Heights and not know our community. It will be our dispatchers receiving these 911 calls, so there will be no drop in service. There's no fear that people will not know the community that they are dispatching for - that's it right now.

Chief Draves - Thank you, chief. I have prepared a short statement that I will read to the Council. As fire chief, I am comfortable with the move to Chagrin Valley Dispatch. I anticipate there being some minor issues during the transition, but nothing that we cannot overcome. I have complete confidence in Nick DiCiccio and David Sems to resolve any technical issues. I have complete confidence in my command staff to address any operational, response, or procedural issues. From a technology standpoint, Chagrin Valley Dispatch has the ability to push information from the Motorola P1 CAD system into our patient care reporting system and into our fire records management system called First Due. In fact, we even pay Chagrin Valley Dispatch for our First Due fire reporting software because they are able to buy in bulk the software for dozens of fire departments across Cuyahoga County for a very competitive price. Chagrin Valley has transitioned many communities into their operations over the years. In fact, I work with chiefs from other Chagrin Valley Fire Departments, and I have never heard of any significant issues. Additionally, there are several Strongsville firefighters who work part-time in Chagrin Valley Dispatch Center fire departments, and I haven't heard of any complaints from them either. With that, I will turn it back over to David.

Mr. Sems - One of the important things in all of this is to make sure that the technology is the best. We want to make sure that we are bringing the best technology to the table when it comes to these things. Now, technology as we all know, is not the cheapest thing in the world to acquire. By joining...we believe that by joining with Chagrin Valley Dispatch, we get the economies of scale, and we'll be able to tap into the best and brightest technology that we can get our hands on. That includes new technology as mentioned earlier, with drone technology that is coming out, and also with the system. Now, just to be aware that the wireless 911 calls as they exist today, we have been fighting for a long time to get those wireless 911 calls when you call on your cell phone to come directly to the first responders - our dispatchers, and get people rolling immediately. By moving over to Chagrin Valley Dispatch, they have already started the very arduous process of accepting their own wireless calls, which we would be part of. By being able to accept our wireless calls once we are part of that team, it becomes more difficult for the county to retain those wireless 911 calls. We can get people rolling immediately. Ultimately, it is going to be a public safety benefit for everybody. As we all know, seconds count on a lot of these issues.

Mr. Sems (cont'd) - If we can cut out 30 seconds, or 60 seconds in that process of someone just moving, acting as a switchboard, and be able to work as a team and move this and get first responders rolling quicker, that technology is worth every penny that we spend on it to save the lives of our residents. I encourage all of us that this is a good move. The other thing I want to make sure that we are aware of is that, unlike some other locations, I can tell you personally that I am committed to making sure that we are invested in Chagrin Valley Dispatch in terms of the same level, if not more, of investment in terms of moving the technology forward. My team will be pushing them to be innovative, and we will be involved in the process. I have been to other of their meetings where, unfortunately, some other cities say, "Hey, hands off; you deal with all the IT." We have been integrated with them for a long time. We have been assisting them both ways; it's a two-way street, and that will continue. We have a very good relationship with CVD. I am committed to the residents of Strongsville to provide them the absolute best technology that we can. This allows us, and opens up a whole other world for us, to do things that we couldn't do before - faster response, better technology, and better ways to serve our residents. Overall, I am very comfortable with the move. It's also going to leverage to make our fire departments, police departments, and their software work better. Everybody has commitments now because of this, to be able to do two-way communication with Sundance and also with First Due. We have been pushing for that, but as a small group, it's hard to do that, but as a large group, we can push that forward. Now, we can get that software to properly communicate in both directions, making it safer for our safety forces and for the residents.

Mr. Dean - Thank you. I am the city's finance director, and I just wanted to go over some of the costs for the center. Just a side note, I came from the City of North Royalton after eight years. My first year was 2014, when they came over to Southwest Emergency Center, so I have been through this. It was a tough decision when we did that back then. Just going back and looking at the cost of the center in 2021, the total expenditures, for the dispatch, were \$3.75 million dollars. Of that, Strongsville paid \$1.35 million dollars. In 2022, the cost went up to \$4 million dollars, and of that, Strongsville paid \$1.3 million dollars. In 2023, the cost increased to \$4.6 million dollars, and the City of Strongsville's portion was \$1.42 million dollars. Going into 2024, the total cost jumped to \$4.7 million dollars; with the city's cost at \$1.45 million dollars. In 2025, we did lose the two...Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township. We kind of had to adjust a little with our thinking on what we can charge back to the city. Overall, because of those two that left, we had to charge a little more because there were less entities paying into the group. The total increase was \$175,000.00 for the entities that were left. The total cost for Strongsville went up to \$1.54 million dollars. The total cost of the whole center went down to \$3.964 million dollars - that was a \$92,000.00 increase. I will be happy to answer any questions about finances from Council. Thank you.

Mr. Short - Mr. Jamison, is there anybody else from the administration that would like to address Council?

Mr. Jamison - I would just add on the finances that, in talking to Mr. Dean, under the agreement with Chagrin Valley Dispatch, the cost is going to be \$1.2 million dollars. If we were to keep the center on our own, without the other three communities, which is a very distinct possibility, the number for us to maintain it would be over \$2 million dollars. That was part of the analysis in going through this.

Mr. Jamison (con't) - I want to elaborate on one thing that Chief O'Deens brought up. In talking to Chagrin Valley Dispatch, they are going to create the Strongsville division. The dispatchers that currently serve our community, North Royalton, Middleburg Heights, and Brook Park, will continue to serve those communities so that there is a familiarity with not only the neighborhoods but also the personnel that they deal with. That will continue not only for the next two years but also going forward. The concern that we are going to have strangers...so-called strangers working the dispatch for our area is not going to be evident. The intent is for those individuals who move over, they will continue to work not only our area, but (also) the other three communities that stayed with us. Thank you; that's all I think we have at this point. I am open to any questions you might have.

Mr. Short - Before I turn it over to my colleagues, what I would like to do is start with the chair of Public Safety and Health Councilwoman Kosek and then move down the line. I do want to have you address the Council in terms of how the state and the county look at funding, regionalism, and the ability that if we do go for loans for funding from the state and/or the county, or if we decide to do the standalone center.

Mr. Jamison - I can start, and then David can finish. Everyone who has a cell phone, when you pay your bill, there is a tax on your cell phone bill. That money goes to the State of Ohio, and that is for the 911 funding. The state then sends it to each county to be parceled out. The mandate is that the money then has to go to what is called a PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point). There is a requirement that there has to be a certain number of communities to be eligible to be a PSAP to receive that funding. To date, we have never received that 911 money from the county even when we had the eight communities. If we go down to one community - ourselves - we will never get that 911 money. I know Chagrin Valley Dispatch has been working hard over the course of this last year to try and get the county because of the breadth and scope of what they do. That will certainly make things more affordable and allow them to invest, as David related, in the technology going forward to be at the forefront of providing service to our residents and the safety forces. I don't know if you have anything else, David.

Mr. Sems - Yes, we have been on the wireless 911 fees from the county. We have been battling that to try to get those to follow the calls. It has been an ongoing struggle for years in order to do that. The good thing now is that Chagrin Valley Dispatch is already receiving those calls. They already have that in place, so joining them will accelerate that far beyond what we could. We have been lobbying this issue for a very, very long time to try to get this to go through - this accelerates that. Again, going back to the safety issue, you would think that the money that would come from that off your bill...off your phone bill would go directly to the men and women in the back here that are responding to those 911 calls. But yet, that money doesn't flow to us. Now, once we make this move, that will finally be coming to the people that first respond.

Mr. Short - Thank you. Chief O'Deens, can you address that in terms of response time if calls are routed to the county versus routed directly to a dispatch center? I understand currently, in the Southwest Emergency Dispatch, calls are routed to the county and then to the Strongsville Dispatch Center. Is that going to change? What's the response time? Will it stay the same, be better, or be worse with the potential move to Chagrin Valley Dispatch?

Chief O'Deens - Actually, it will get faster when we respond, and when we work with CVD because they won't have that middleman. Chagrin Valley Dispatch can receive the 911 calls directly. I believe David Sems can respond to that better.

Mr. Short - How much time do we think that saves on a call?

Mr. Sems - It's depends on the call, but that can be anywhere between 30 seconds and 60 seconds - depending on how it is. Again, that time...if you have someone in distress on the call, they have to say...they are relaying all this information, and now, "Hold on, I'll transfer you." Then, we have to ask those same questions. It's not really efficient or effective. It works, but there are better ways to do it. By joining CVD, we believe, is a better way to do it - by getting those calls directly. Not to get too technical, but Strongsville is in one of the best positions that we can be because of where our cell phone towers are, where they are positioned, and which direction they are of any of the CVD...anyone in Cuyahoga County. I won't get into the details about FAA flyovers or anything, but based on where our cell phone towers are, we are in the best position to receive our wireless calls - I believe that it's close to 90% of our calls. The towers are pointed in our direction, which means there is less chance of those going to the wrong dispatch center. If we are all at CVD...anyways countywide, the first responders will get there and get there quickly.

Mr. Short - Just to clarify, Southwest Emergency Dispatch has been trying for years to get the county out of the middleman, as you said, Chief. We are still not able to do that, so our calls are routed through the county currently, but that would disappear at CVD.

Mr. Sems - That would go away. The good thing is that the funding has also increased because of the last budget that was just passed. It goes up from twenty-five cents, to I believe, don't quote me, but I think it's forty cents or something. The price does go up. Again, we are finally moving in the right direction on this. I think this is just going to speed up that process to provide better safety for our residents.

Mr. Short - Okay, thank you. With that, Councilwoman Kosek I will turn it over to you to start the questions from Council.

Ms. Kosek - I want to thank everybody for coming in and giving us an explanation of the work that you've done over the last month. I also want to express some frustration. As Gordon has mentioned, I am the Chair of Public Safety and Health Committee. I found out that Berea left, or gave notice that they were leaving, last Tuesday afternoon when the law director called with President Short to tell me while I was on vacation. I feel like I am behind on knowing what we've done, what our options were, and why the communities have left us. I feel that we needed to have an opportunity to hear from our dispatchers and other safety forces on how they would feel about this before we make this decision. One concern I have is that our dispatchers are part of a union. I understand that there will not be a union at Chagrin Valley Dispatch. I don't really have any additional questions today. I may have some, and I will follow up, but I am hoping we will have an opportunity to hear from our dispatchers before we make a decision.

Ms. Roff - Kelly, if I may, can someone tell me how many dispatchers they have at CVD right now?

(Background conversation)

Mr. Jamison - This is not audience participation.

Ms. Roff - I am asking us, since we are looking to go to them. That's something we should know, correct?

Mr. Goss - We have thirty-four full-time dispatchers, and four part-time dispatchers, I believe.

Mr. Short - She is asking how many for CVD. How many are at CVD?

Mr. Sems - CVD has roughly 100 (dispatchers). It fluctuates, but they have roughly 100.

Ms. Roff - To represent thirty-three cities, and then possibly up to thirty-seven now. I know that we said that seventeen have committed from our dispatchers to go over there. We have thirty-two right now, so what are we doing with the rest?

Mr. Sems - They have sixty days to decide if they want to make that move.

Ms. Roff - I don't want to throw anyone under the bus, but I did ask if we could have an email out to our safety forces and all of our police officers. Not just administration, but to all of our men and women on foot - fire, police officers, and our dispatchers for their opinions. What they feel is best for our city, since they have been doing this the longest. We don't have that yet, so that concerns me to have a vote on something like that. Also, we talked about a two-year span that they are going to keep these dispatchers. What happens after two years? The other question that I have is if CVD has been getting financing from the county and from the state? Where have we fallen short where we don't get that? If somebody can answer that, that would be great.

Mr. Jamison - So...

Ms. Roff - Then, when we look at...wait, wait just a couple more.

Mr. Short - Let me...one at a time so we can get...

Ms. Roff - Okay, go ahead.

Mr. Jamison - If I can answer, I think, the second to last one, which was...what was your second last question?

Ms. Roff - Two years...after the two years.

Mr. Jamison - Alright, so the two-year is basically...Chagrin Valley Dispatch is in the process of acquiring a site in Valleyview. It's an old AT&T call center that they are going to...it's basically up and running. It's going to be a state-of-the-art facility, but they have to retool it. That's going to take anywhere from a year and a half to two years to accomplish that. During that two-year period, those individuals who will be in the Strongsville division will be working out of here. Then, at the point where the new center is available to be opened and used, those individuals will then move over to the Valleyview site to work in that one central location.

Ms. Roff - All thirty-two?

Mr. Jamison - All...maybe 100, or all 240.

Ms. Roff - All that want...

Mr. Jamison - You add the numbers they have along with the individuals who might move over. As far as...all the individuals who work in our center have been afforded the invitation to go. It's clearly up to them whether they choose to go to that or not. They can choose to go elsewhere or follow other options. In going through this process, the reality that we might be winding up on our own, as Director Goss stated, was a distinct possibility that there might have been layoffs. We wouldn't have needed as many individuals to staff just us. One of the considerations in doing this was that by us going into this Council of Governments, there would be the opportunity for these individuals to continue in this line of work if they were to move over to Chagrin Valley Dispatch. The last question was again...?

Ms. Roff - After that, I asked about the money from the state.

Mr. Jamison - Okay, Chagrin Valley Dispatch has not received it yet. This has been an...

Ms. Roff - They have not received it yet?

Mr. Jamison - They have not.

Ms. Roff - We have both been trying to...they are waiting as we are waiting.

Mr. Jamison - Correct. Again, this has been an ongoing challenge that both of us have had with the county to release those funds. Chagrin Valley Dispatch, again, because of the breadth and scope of what they serve and who they serve, as David related, are closer to potentially getting it. That's not a done deal. If we were on our own, the possibility of us not getting it would be pretty remote, if not at all. Why we haven't gotten it, you'll have to ask the county.

Ms. Roff - I just know that this is something...

Mr. Jamison - Since I have been here, we have been asking that, and we haven't gotten a decent response.

Ms. Roff - I just know that some of the things I addressed during our finance meeting, I thought we were a little bit more comfortable with where we were at. Also, if you go back...the last thing is...if you go back to 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, (you see) \$3.5 million dollars, then our portion, and then you go all the way down those numbers. Our portion has changed minimally; where some of the other portions have changed a little bit more dramatically. Can you tell me why? And...

Mr. Jamison - Go ahead, Eric.

Mr. Dean - If you look at our history, we've had a couple of grants that came through, and we've had a couple of reimbursements - specifically, when the group went to St. John in Florida. That was in 2022, so our cost was a little lower. It's been steadily rising since 2023.



Mr. Dean (cont'd) - Every time we lose a member of the SWEDs (Southwest Emergency Dispatch), the more the costs increase for Strongsville, and the less we are able to spread out the cost for the equipment and the subscriptions that we pay for the Motorola. It just adds up to the numbers that are still there.

Ms. Roff - It doesn't show that on our numbers. It shows increases and decreases from what we get from outsource. On our numbers, yes, it shows a decent difference between 2021, and 2022, but when we start to go down, it does not show that. As we go up in years, it doesn't show a big difference in what we are paying.

Mr. Dean - Yeah, I'm not aware of what you are looking at. I'm sorry.

Ms. Roff - You said in 2023: \$1.4 (million dollars), in 2024: \$1.5 (million dollars), and in 2025: \$1.5 (million dollars). Those are the same compared to...

Mr. Dean - Are you looking at the contributions for Strongsville?

Ms. Roff - I'm looking at the numbers you gave us just like 10 minutes ago.

Mr. Dean - That wasn't me.

Mr. Jamison - If I can answer part of that. Part of what has happened over the course of time is that we've also had to adjust the contribution by the other communities. We've been able to keep the number pretty constant because of us passing some of that increase or cost onto the other seven, now three, members. That's been a challenge, particularly as a couple have left. That was going to be the challenge going forward in terms of not having that ability to spread that cost around. That's really...as the term that was used earlier - economies of scale. The more communities you have, the better it is to spread those costs around to make it more affordable. If you have less communities, guess what? It becomes more of a challenge. I think that's why Eric, along with David and the chiefs have been good in the last couple of years to be able to address that and to keep it at a more affordable number for us. Then, I think that was also potentially a reason why some of these communities started looking elsewhere at other options - which is their right to do to see where they thought they could get, quote-unquote, the best deal that they can get going forward. As personnel cost rises because of the nature of what people make increases each year, and the cost of technology and software - it's not constant, and it keeps going up. That's a challenge, and that was one of the factors we looked at in moving forward with this.

Ms. Roff - That's fair. I guess my last statement, or it could be a question, but we used this as an emergency meeting, which means that we are not allowed to have audience participation. I represent not only my ward and the residents there and their concerns, but I represent all of Strongsville as we move forward from there. I also represent each and every employee that is here, not just from our safety forces, but administration through all of the other areas. As I had asked...I asked for an email or something to be available for any concerns from our safety forces; whether it be on the record or off the record, of what they feel could give us a...where it could be detrimental to our city, or if it could increase the response and safety of our city by outsourcing things. We've heard of things being called "a family" here. There is a close connection here with police, fire, and our dispatch - it is a family.

Ms. Roff (cont'd) - By outsourcing that, and those employees not being there, what does that offer for our residents to not have the dedication from the people that are here in our city doing what we do every day? The other thing is, that I would like to know if there was a response letter from the communities that pulled away from us of the reasons why they pulled away?

Mr. Jamison - As far as the communities that left, they just gave us a letter - one or two sentences. There was never any formal indication of why they left. You would have to ask them.

Ms. Roff - Did we not ask them?

Mr. Jamison - We didn't feel it was appropriate.

Ms. Roff - Okay.

Mr. Short - I would just like to say, in terms of if anybody here is from dispatch, police, and fire, the Council office is always open and welcome to comment both on and off the record. Our information is on the website, or you can always reach our Council office. Our Council clerk, Aimee Pientka, is here as well. Again, our information is on the website, or you can see us afterwards for our information. I think all of Council would welcome comments from our...

Ms. Roff - My personal phone number is 440-503-2890.

(Background conversation)

Ms. Roff - Correct.

Mr. Short - With that Mr. Kaminski, do you have any questions for the administration?

Mr. Kaminski - The only question that I had was really just looking at regional dispatch versus a single community dispatch center and their response to a major emergency management or crisis. If one of the chiefs could maybe address this issue. Would a regional dispatch or single community dispatch center have an advantage over a major crisis situation; such as an apartment fire, active shooter, tornado, or something along those lines?

Chief Draves - Sure, Mr. Kaminski, I'll take that. Fire departments have been using the regional services since the late 1980s around here, when we developed the West Cuyahoga Regional HAZMAT team. Those regional services have continued to develop in the southwest area with our Southwest Council of Governments, which is the SEB team - Swat and Bomb Tech. Also, the SERT (Southwest Emergency Response Team) on the fire side, which is HAZMAT, technical rescue, and our fire investigation. As Director Goss also said, "We developed the Southwest Council of Governments Regional Communications Network." With that kind of natural progression, came regional dispatch centers as they started to develop across the area. You have to kind of ask yourself, why has this happened?

Chief Draves (cont'd) - Well, because resources are tough to come by. Not only human resources, but financial resources, equipment, and the cost to maintain those things. It's very tough for one community to go it alone to develop these types of teams. When you look at regional dispatch centers, in my opinion, versus a single community center, our regional dispatch centers are able to "flex up" when they need to. When there is a major incident like you mentioned for major fires, police pursuits, and, God forbid, an active shooter situation, or any natural disasters. That's kind of what we call around here "Storm Mode." "Storm Mode" is when an immediate incident happens, and the dispatch center is quickly overwhelmed, and our resources in the field are also overwhelmed. As an example, tomorrow, August 6, 2025, is the one-year anniversary of the EF-1 tornado that hit Brook Park. Due to the staffing in our center, our dispatchers were able to "flex up" and respond to the immediate demand for those resources in Brook Park, and still able to provide our five or six communities the services they required at that time. As an example, just to kind of put numbers to it, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with seven dispatchers on duty, our dispatchers were able to handle fifty-eight 911 calls, 543 administrative calls, and 329 CAD entries. Not to mention handling all of the police and fire radios. On an average day, during that same time period, they would get eleven 911 calls, 108 administrative calls, and seventy-three CAD entries. They did an outstanding job during that time, but there is no single community dispatch center that would have been able to handle that situation for the volume of calls and the demands on resources. Therefore, in my opinion again, it illustrates the point that there is a huge benefit to being in a regional center where they can "flex-up" and they can alter their staffing to cover the situation at hand. If you are in a single dispatch center with one or two dispatchers on duty, it does not work.

Mr. Kaminski - Thank you.

Ms. Roff - I appreciate the work that you guys do, the safety that you offer our city, and the dispatchers that you offer for other cities. I think I would love to see us move forward and figure (out) a way to continue to do the great work that we did last year.

Mr. Short - Mr. Kaminski, any other questions?

Mr. Kaminski - No, not at this time.

Mr. Short - Mr. Carbone, do you have any questions for the administration?

Mr. Carbone - Yes, how long have we been exploring options with dispatch outside of our own regional...?

Mr. Jamison - What do you mean by options?

Mr. Carbone - Have we been collaborating...have we been talking to other centers about moving and disbanding our dispatch and going elsewhere?

Mr. Jamison - As you know, because you and I had that discussion, North Olmsted approached us, but they wanted to dramatically change our mode of operation. We felt that it wasn't a compatible fit on a number of different levels because of their CAD system and their radio system, which is totally different than ours. We felt at that time, North Olmsted was not a viable option.

Mr. Jamison (cont'd) - They moved forward and spoke to other communities and Olmsted Falls, Olmsted Township, and Berea have decided to move over there. We never felt that North Olmsted was a viable option at that time. Even in this process, we felt that because of what I just articulated, and because of the technology with the CAD systems and also with the radio system, it would not have been a smooth transition. It would not have provided the type of service that our residents, and the people in this community, have received and are entitled to receive. As far as exploring other options, we did not want to expand out of county. We felt that would have been a challenge on a number of different levels - "i.e." Brunswick, or Columbia Station. It's sort of like the term, "We were sort of landlocked." Parma is an entity onto themselves, and probably...not probably, it's the biggest community in this county; they have their own center. Does David talk to all these different people every week, every month, or every year? Yes, on a number of different levels - on technology, on different issues that come up, and the radio systems. We talk to Cleveland all the time. It's a continual process. This whole thing has changed over the course of time because of technology. Things are advancing, and we have to stay in front of it. Have we talked to other communities? Yes, but we never felt that the opportunity was there to either expand it or do other things. We feel at this time; the best option is to go the way that we are going.

Mr. Carbone - Before I get to the options, like Councilwoman Kosek said, she was on vacation, and I think many of us were on vacation last week. It just so happened to work that way. I think saying it was a bomb was an understatement when we have employees in the audience that received a letter saying what was going to take place at the end of the year. Following that, before there was even a vote of Council, Chagrin Valley Dispatch sent a letter saying, "You have sixty days if you want to join on with us or not." I have a really hard time because of what Councilwoman Roff said, "We are a tight-knit family." I remember when we were doing the awards ceremony here when we had policeman, we had fireman, we had our dispatchers, we had our CERT workers - everybody together. It may have come out of my mouth, or somebody else's that this is a family. We don't put a dollar on our safety forces. It is the number one, two, and third reason why our residents buy homes, invest, and raise families here, and it's the reason why businesses move into our town. With that being said, and I don't know what the wish of this Council is going to be, but if it is moving forward with Chagrin Valley Dispatch - option 1, I would hope that once that decision is made, our employees have the sixty days from there to make sure that this is the right fit for their families. I don't know if that's possible or not, but I hope that is. I also wanted to say that I think one of the questions I had was, why are the cities leaving? I think it is appropriate to ask why. That's how we learn, and we can't grow unless we know; that's kind of bothersome. We have three options, or do we have three options? Option 1 is: Going to Chagrin Valley Dispatch. We will be here for two years in our dispatch center. It was said that our dispatchers, while they are in our buildings, will be answering 911 calls. How about after two years - will they be? It is said that we have thirty-four full-time dispatchers and four part timers. Will CVD take every single dispatcher? If they don't take every single dispatcher, how do we cover Strongsville, Brook Park, Middleburg Heights, and North Royalton if we don't have the appropriate dispatchers? That means that other dispatchers are going to have to go and cover those calls from other cities out of thirty-three other communities. That's kind of...we know that right now, yes. We put our employees in a position where they have to make a quick decision. I believe that it's already seventeen that applied - most of them.

Mr. Carbone (cont'd) - If it is the wish of the Council, we will vote over to Chagrin Valley Dispatch, but over time, as dispatchers retire, or maybe they go in another direction, it's not going to be our own people who know our own city like you guys do. Now, we have option 2: We keep our current cities. Is that even an option? I know a letter went out to the Mayors, I believe. Is that even still an option that we have?

Ms. Roff - In other words, was the decision already made?

Mr. Jamison - You were going on there. To answer the first one about the two years, as I answered Ms. Roff, they will be at our facility for a year and a half to two years while the CVD site in Valleyview gets built out. At that time, then, those employees will then move over to that central site. They don't go away after two years. They are still going to be part of CVD, but they will be over at Valleyview. As far as will they take every dispatcher, yes. Everyone was afforded that opportunity to move over there. Whether they choose to do so is their decision. That was one of things we discussed with them that was important when we went through it. What was the last one?

Mr. Carbone - Just to get back, I understood that they will take all of our dispatchers; and after two years, they would be going into...roughly two years, a new facility. The point made, that was only seventeen out of the thirty-four. That cannot cover Strongsville, Middleburg Heights, Brook Park, and North Royalton, so other dispatchers will have to cover it. Which goes back to - they don't know the community like our current dispatchers know Strongsville, Brook Park, Middleburg Heights, and North Royalton.

Mr. Jamison - Well, that number keeps going up every day. We will see how that plays out.

Ms. Roff - We can't see how it plays out, though, when it's the safety of our residents.

Mr. Jamison - I can't hear you.

Ms. Roff - We cannot see, though, how something plays out when it's the safety of our residents. Mayor, every year during your address to the city, you pride yourself on the safety of our city. We put our budget towards the safety of our city. We need to continue to do what we can to make sure the safety of our residents here, with the community around us who also help in all kinds of different emergencies, have that advantage.

Mayor Perciak - I still and always will put the safety of our residents in front of everybody. I also have listened to the experts in this whole transaction here with CVD. Now, if I can't trust people like Charlie Goss, who has been doing this for forty-four years or more, Chief Tom O'Deens, Chief Jack Draves, and the expertise that these men offer on safety for our residents and our businesses, whom do I trust?

Ms. Roff - The people on the ground.

Mayor Perciak - Wait...wait; this guy...

Ms. Roff - The people on the ground, Mayor.

Mayor Perciak - Let me finish. This guy here went from patrolman to police chief to safety director. He has walked every path of safety in this city. The same thing with our fire chief. He has gone from a fireman/paramedic, up the ranks to a chief. If I...the same thing with Chief O'Deens. If I can't trust these men with the safety of our city, there's something wrong with me.

Ms. Roff - I believe you can trust them, but we can also trust...

Mayor Perciak - That's what this is about...

Ms. Roff - ...all of the other employees you have here.

Mayor Perciak - ...I am trusting them.

Ms. Roff - Which ones have you reached out to?

Mayor Perciak - I'm sorry?

Ms. Roff - Which, on the ground, safety forces have you reached out to besides just our administration? They do it every day. Which dispatchers have you reached out to?

Mayor Perciak - You need to understand...

Ms. Roff - Which officers have you reached out to? Which firemen?

Mayor Perciak - You need to understand, I am unable to reach out to individuals when each of these individuals are represented by a collective bargaining agreement. I cannot do that.

Ms. Kosek - Have you reached out to their union then?

Mayor Perciak - My lawyers have advised me that I cannot do that.

Mr. Short - Mr. Carbone, do you have any other questions for the administration?

Mayor Perciak - Hold on...go ahead.

Mr. Jamison - Particularly, in light of the fact that there's ongoing contract negotiations with the bargaining unit for the dispatchers, there are certain things that were constrained in terms of that interaction, Ann. That's one of the reasons. It's not a personal choice.

Ms. Roff - Do we have that available now?

Mr. Jamison - No, we are...

Ms. Roff - Do we have that available...

Mr. Jamison - ...still in negotiations.

Ms. Roff - ...from our firefighters and our police officers who do this every day?

Mr. Jamison - The dispatchers have their own bargaining unit.

Ms. Roff - I understand that...

Mr. Jamison - We are still in the process of negotiations.

Ms. Roff - ...but there's also other people here in the audience.

Mr. Jamison - That's why we have chiefs that the Mayor talks to. That's just the way... it's the chain of command. That's the way this works, right?

Ms. Roff - It works as a group and as a family like we've talked about a million times.

Mr. Short - Mr. Carbone, do you have any other questions?

Mr. Carbone - Just two - Is option two off the table still?

Mayor Perciak - What's option two?

Mr. Carbone - Option two was...

Mr. Short - The regional dispatch center.

Mr. Carbone - ...keeping our center with our cities. Is that even an option? Or, after the letter it's not an option anymore?

Mr. Jamison - I know North Royalton has already met with CVD. The day after we spoke to them and informed them of what was going on, the two chiefs and the Mayor went over to CVD. In already talking to them...and I can't speak for North Royalton, but there's a strong likelihood that they will move over. Middleburg Heights and Brook Park, when we had the discussions with them, thought that this was a good opportunity for their communities. They are in the process of setting up those meetings as well. It's a very distinct possibility that those three communities will be moving over in the near future.

Mr. Carbone - Lastly, I just want to make sure that the employees here have ample amounts of time. I know that thirty to sixty days seems like a lot, but when you're talking about your family, your shifts, what they do, how they are going to do it, and where they are going to do it, eventually, I hope that will be...if it is the will of this Council to go to Chagrin Valley Dispatch, which seems like...and I don't know what options we have left here, but I would hope that they would have enough time, and that they weren't held to that sixty days.

Mr. Short - That's actually a good question. Our next meeting is September 2, 2025, if at that time this is approved by Council, would they have sixty days from that date? Or is it sixty days from the date of the notice?

Mr. Jamison - We can talk to Chagrin Valley Dispatch. They have been very accommodating on all levels of this process. That's something that we can discuss with them to allow these individuals to make the decisions that they need to make. That's something that we can talk to them about.

Ms. Roff - Could we also reach back out to those who are still part of our dispatch center and the communities around us and let them know that we are still looking at other options? Ask them to also be patient, and let them know what we are looking at.

Mr. Jamison - What other options are we looking at?

Ms. Roff - I would hope that we are looking at all options to possibly keep our group here. When I looked at the numbers, the numbers still seem that they are doable with the people that we have now.

Mr. Jamison - So, the number that we gave you tonight to stay on our own is over \$2 million dollars. That's just the personnel cost.

Ms. Roff - Not to stay on our own. If we could reach back out...

Mr. Jamison - ...That's just for Strongsville.

Ms. Roff - ...to those that are part of us right now.

Mr. Jamison - Pardon me?

Ms. Roff - The current people...the current cities that are a part of us, we have due diligence to reach back out to them and see if they are still interested, in, if we stay here, do they want to be a part of this team? What could we do to keep this team?

Mayor Perciak - Ann, I can't speak for the other three cities, but I think...

Ms. Roff - We could reach out to them, though.

Mayor Perciak - Well, hold on. I have spoken directly to every Mayor. When I spoke to the Mayor of North Royalton, for example, he also indicated to me of the ongoing discussions that they were having, so I cannot speak for what North Royalton would do. When I spoke along with the Mayor of Brook Park, he immediately asked that a meeting be set up so that he could meet, or his staff that he appoints, to discuss this. Of course, at the present time, he has other issues that he is dealing with. We did not want to get involved. When we spoke to the Mayor of Middleburg Heights, he said that he would cooperate in any which way. Maybe, I call him back and say, "Matt, this is going on here." I wouldn't hold out much hope for North Royalton, and I wouldn't hold out much hope for Brook Park. Not because they don't want to, but because they have so many other things on their plate right now that they have to deal with. I'm not sure that...do you want to answer that, Neal?

Mr. Jamison - With Brook Park, there is a changing dynamic. They are building a facility there that's going to change the nature of service that they are going to require. That was one of...

Ms. Roff - Which would also constitute for a higher cost for them to come and stay here, and to have maybe even just them with us. We have to look into the future, not just what we are looking at right now.

Mr. Jamison - I missed the first part of what you said.



Ms. Roff - If they are going to need more coverage, and they are going to need that with what's going on, and if that stadium is built, there could be collaboration there. I think we are jumping the gun without looking at all of our options because all the stuff was thrown out there. I know that you guys do this every day. That's why I would have loved to have had some conversation prior to today about this, or prior to last week about this. I think that we need to exhaust all of our options. There needs to be open dialogue and public dialogue without there being any prejudice against any residents, or any employees that have stuff to say about this - or any of the other cities that have stuff to say about this. We need to take into account everybody around us - all the cities that are with us on this, all of our employees, and our residents first and foremost. They have not had the option to come in here and give any opinion because there's no public comment today. They haven't had this voiced to them.

Mr. Short - We will have that opportunity September 2, 2025.

Ms. Roff - In the meantime, we need to do what we can to keep what we have together. I'm hoping that we do that because that's our responsibility. That's our city's responsibility, and that's our administration's responsibility.

Mr. Short - Mr. Spring, do you have any questions for the administration?

Mr. Spring - Yes, I just have three things. I know a lot of the questions were answered already, so I don't have a lot to talk about. Number one, I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of our police officers, firefighters, and dispatchers that are here today. Thank you for all the work you do, thank you for keeping our citizens safe, thank you for keeping my family safe, and thank you for keeping Strongsville safe. You guys do a hell of a job, and I just wanted to not miss the opportunity to thank you for your service. Thank you - number one. Number two, I know we had a bunch of questions in conversations. I've actually had conversations with the people on the right and on the left. Thank you very much for your conversations with me before today's meeting; I appreciate it. I have not had any conversations with anybody from the back, or that are sitting down. If you do get the opportunity to reach out to me, please do that - I would love to hear from you. Number three, the only thing that is in the back of my head, as we were talking about the future and things like that, it sounds like you guys gave a lot of good insight as to the safety and the included, or the upgrades in safety with the technology and the cost savings, which I'm sure everyone in Strongsville is worried about where their tax dollars are spent. Is there any...I always think forward here, but I'm thinking, is there any landing spot for Strongsville if something doesn't work out with Chagrin Valley Dispatch? If that's the choice that looks like is going to be made. If it doesn't work out, is there a landing spot? Is there somewhere for Strongsville to go if that doesn't work out?

Mr. Sems - Absolutely, let me just state this: The dispatchers are in the building that I work in every day - we have rock stars. We have the best dispatchers in the county, first of all. Every single one of them is great, and they are going to be rock stars wherever they land. Hopefully, we can stay together like you said, as a family. I will be there to help and go through that process. To your question specifically, we...our plan is to keep a portion of the dispatching center open indefinitely in order to be a backup facility.

Mr. Sems (cont'd) - Things can go wrong, and there are backup needs, so we like triple redundancy, and quadruple redundancy. As mentioned in...as we mentioned earlier, and maybe it was passed over, but I have been working tirelessly to try to see if we can extend our fiber-optic network throughout the entire county. That would enable us to, again, be a center-point to be that. Our fallback is if something happens at CVD, we still have facilities here that we will maintain in order to provide safety to our residents.

Mr. Spring - Excellent, thank you for that answer.

Mr. Jamison - Yes, if I can just expound on that. One of the discussions we had with Chagrin Valley Dispatch is that we would be an emergency backup center for them. If there was some kind of disaster, be it a tornado, or something else. Let's say their center gets compromised, we would be the emergency backup. Our backup is that if it doesn't work out with Chagrin Valley Dispatch, we will then have the equipment and technology there to then move back if we had to. It's not like we are abandoning everything and putting all of our marbles into the middle, we are going to maintain that ability if it doesn't work out. I'm hoping that it does, and it will. We still will have that ability, if things in five or ten years, don't pan out the way we sought, that we are going to leave ourselves that option to do so. That was David and his staff, along with Safety Director Goss pushing that with them. We will have that protection in that sense.

Ms. Roff - Thank you so much for that. That is reassuring. Cost effective are we able to do that?

Mr. Sems - Yes, we have made the investments, so we have that stuff - the equipment is in place. We will be able to maintain a small dispatch facility within there. Again, this is a long...there's a lot of details. The devil is in the details. There's a lot of details that have to be worked out from a technical standpoint. Which, we are going to be...I'm going to be spending a lot of time on if we move forward with this.

Mr. Short - David, in terms of technology, once the twenty-four months is up, and our staff, if we go through this, will be on-site in Valleyview, what happens to the technology that is sitting at our center here today twenty-four months from now?

Mr. Sems - We made a big transition because the technology that is used for the dispatch, which is the Motorola P1 system, that is housed at CVD already. We are connected to them through a secure connection, and will continue to be over the fiber-optic and other secured connections that we do. We have multiple ones, but I can't discuss those in public. We do have multiple connectivity with them, so that will remain. There's no major...the transfer of hardware that goes over to there is going to be...there's going to be some, but it's not going to be the entire center. Again, most of the dispatching...all of the dispatching software, and their servers already exist at CVD. That's how they are working out of there.

Mr. Short - When our center shuts down, can it be used as a backup center? What would happen after twenty-four...after our personnel...

Mr. Sems - We will remain a backup center indefinitely.

Mr. Short - Even after twenty four-months?

Mr. Sems - Yes.

Ms. Roff - What would the cost difference be for that?

Mayor Peciak - Gordon, it's no different...in the private sector, we have disaster recovery centers for everything we do. This is...I don't want to call it that, but it's very similar and designed the same way.

Mr. Short - I understand.

Ms. Roff - What would the cost difference be from keeping that here as a backup compared to what we are paying to go over there? Are we including that in our cost to go over there?

Mr. Sems - I have to keep the lights on in that facility to run the rest of the city. There's not really an opportunity for cost difference there.

Ms. Roff - I'm just saying, so we are paying a cost to go there in two years just to keep our system here active and compatible with theirs. I know we have a cost in mind to go over there. What is the additional cost to keep everything here going as a backup? Are we including that in?

Mr. Sems - It's de minimis.

Ms. Roff - Are we including that in there?

Mr. Sems - It's de minimis, so there's a very small amount of money.

Ms. Roff - I just wanted to know if we were including that in there.

Mr. Sems - There's electrical cost to keep the computers on, and the lights on.

Mr. Jamison - I would also point out...

Ms. Roff - And to update the system?

Mr. Sems - Yes, we are already paying that, so no additional costs.

Mr. Jamison - So, if I could also point out, as David just related, about a year and a half ago, if Council remembers, you passed an ordinance for us to go onto the Motorola P-1 system - that's with Chagrin Valley Dispatch. We acquired that because of the economies of scale and their ability to acquire it at a cheaper cost. Moving forward if we do go to Chagrin Valley Dispatch...I forget what we pay a year for that...

Mr. Sems - I believe it's \$90,000.00, and that goes away.

Mr. Jamison - Yes, \$90,000.00 or \$100,000.00 a year. At the end of the day, that cost will go away because we will now be part of CVD. We won't have to pay that anymore.

Ms. Roff - We would have to keep it active, though, so that if we are going to be a backup, we would have to keep it active somehow, correct?

Mr. Jamison - No, it will be still part...we will be part of the system. We will still have it.

Mr. Short - Mr. Clark...

Mr. Clark - Thank you, Council president. A couple of questions, and then at least one comment. Director Goss - I am going to direct my first question to you, or whoever is best to answer, but I am directing it to you. Training - can we make sure, regardless of what mode we go with in the future, that our new dispatcher training; whether it happens here in Strongsville, as part of Chagrin Valley Dispatch, or anywhere else in Cuyahoga County, that it's the same as it was for our thirty-eight people that are on staff today in terms of orienting them to Strongsville, boxing out Strongsville, and tracing through and making sure that they are familiar with our community, and our city? I have to believe that that's a best practice across dispatch centers all over the country. Am I missing anything?

Mr. Goss - No, we were assured by Chagrin Valley Dispatch, that once we leave our facility here and move over to their new facility, that they would keep our work team together operating as a group and servicing the four communities that we currently serve. If you look, some of the dispatchers are here. I am looking up and down the roster, David referred to them as "rock stars." I think he is right. Many of them came from other communities and came here. A lot of them came from Cleveland and other places. We reoriented them to this part of the county. They learned the nuances that exist here, and they became part of our family. The same thing would happen at Chagrin Valley Dispatch, I'm sure over time. As our team retired out, or moved on, slowly others would be crossed trained. New people would come in, and they would become part of our family.

Mr. Clark - Thank you. There was a comment earlier about a drone being dispatched from a roof. Is the intent that would be dispatched from the SPD (Strongsville Police Department) roof, from the Chagrin Valley Dispatch future state mega center, or from some other site?

Mr. Sems - I can comment on the technology. That's emerging technology that's coming out. The current technology requires that those be strategically placed in certain locations. The latest one would be...Flock Safety has a product. I believe they have a twenty-six square mile radius, I think, or something of that nature. It's like four miles in each direction. In order to cover the whole county, there would be a requirement to place multiple of those units out there - that is future state. It is coming rather quickly as these things do change. It's also a very expensive thing. There would have to be placements throughout. The idea is done to go belabor the point, but it is a less than a three-minute response time to get that overseen. The companies that designed those systems is less than three minutes to get that in place.

Mr. Clark - In what you are talking about as future state is in addition to what we currently operate within SPD, correct?

Mr. Sems - We have drones that operate, but those are...

Mr. Clark - Different technology?

Mr. Sems - ...operated by our pilots.

Mr. Clark - I'm pretty sure we walked under one as we came in tonight, but thank you.

Mr. Sems - Yes, so those are operated by our pilots. These would be independent. The dispatcher could launch this.

Mr. Clark - First, that's it for my questions as many good questions were asked and a lot was shared. I appreciate everyone that has made time to answer questions and have dialogue since this kind of first came out. A lot has been said about the dispatchers. Before I even lived in Strongsville, I was visiting Strongsville on Christmas Eve and unfortunately, we had to make a phone call. That phone call presumably went to a dispatcher in this town. In about two and a half maybe three minutes, Strongsville Fire Department, or EMS arrived. We had that family member for another ten years. I wasn't the one that made the phone call, I was giving CPR. When I hear talk about you guys being rock stars, and this family and this team being rock stars, I fundamentally believe it. I want to make sure that you all have, so that we as a community have what is best. I have done some homework since this came out. I have reached out to several of the cities that are originals; as well as cities that are additions to Chagrin Valley Dispatch. I heard a lot of, "It's the best option we had." That was from police officers, that was from dispatchers, that was fire, and that was from our Council peers. As we look at this, and we investigate this decision, I ask that we make the decision as fast as we can for the benefit of those thirty-eight individuals that are going to be impacted. They got some news last week, and we owe it to them and their families to make a decision as fast as we possibly can. That news, and that turmoil and change and uncertainty, impacts them. Their job is stressful enough with calls coming in. I just encourage all of us to investigate it, reach out and get our questions answered. If we are not going to make a decision tonight, then we need to be prepared to make a decision on September 2, 2025, and get everything that we want to know and listen. We did have some dispatchers...I received emails from dispatchers today, and I replied to as many as I saw. If you have additional comments or questions, the phone is at the bottom of that email. I welcome enlightenment and insight from every perspective. We want to continue to have impeccable safety forces here in Strongsville. This family is part of that, so I would just encourage just when the time comes to make a decision, we need to be ready to make that decision. We owe it to these people to do it as fast as possible.

Mr. Short - Thank you, Mr. Clark. Lastly myself, one final question and comment in talking about family and turmoil. I did hear earlier that this was going to be a nonunion shop. In terms of benefits, seniority, health insurance, and those types of things for our dispatchers, what is that looking like under CVD should they move there and accept a position, if it's the way this Council goes? Secondly, does that go beyond the twenty-four months that they sit over here in Strongsville before they move to the new facility?

Ms. Roff - Could you add retirement to that list also?

Mr. Short - And retirement credit too, yes.

Mr. Kilo - Council president, that was one of the things, when we met last week with the dispatchers, that we wanted to make crystal clear - when Mr. DiCiccio stopped out and we met, that their benefits start on the date that they would become a CVD employee. There's no probationary period. We still, as you know, as it was mentioned earlier by Law Director Jamison, we are still in negotiation currently with the dispatchers.

Mr. Kilo (cont'd) - Until that time, that they would go to Chagrin Valley Dispatch, those terms and conditions would still have to be figured out as far as what exactly those are. They maintain all their health insurance, and they maintain their longevity when they move over. Mr. DiCiccio explained to the groups that came out that they maintain their same level of vacation accruals, their same level of seniority, and their same level of all these different items as they move over. Also, there's a little caveat with the healthcare because it's not exactly the same as what we have. They have a very rich program as far as benefits go, and as far as their healthcare goes. They will get upwards of a sizeable increase in what their current compensation is. There is a lot of opportunity that was explained, for growth, as far as leadership opportunities and different things where they can earn substantially more. I think over the next three years, their most recent...what they did with their Council of Governments when they had their compensation committee, which members from the unit have the ability to serve on, I think for the next three years, they are receiving 5% 5%, and 5% increases. Depending on the different things they can attain, it could go up to as much as 8%, 8%, and 8% (increases.) Those types of items were discussed. Make no mistake, that was first and foremost. When the Mayor, Director Goss, and Law Director Jamison...when a lot of these conversations were had, was that first, all thirty-three...all thirty-four were guaranteed an opportunity to come over to work. Secondly, what do those things look like? There are other items that we tried to clarify because these are emotional, and these are very strong things that people are making. As Councilman Carbone and Councilman Clark are saying, these are things where you have to make decisions for your families, and what-not. We assured if there...just as an example, if there is a current situation where one of the current dispatchers, for us, is on family medical leave for like a maternity leave or something, they will recognize and keep along with those types of things with them, so that they won't miss out those types of things. We will just track from our office to their HR office, so that there is no misstep, and so that everybody is recognized. They won't lose any of those opportunities for that time, so we wanted to make sure those things occur as well. I know that there is some...when they move over, Charlie, myself, and Colleen from my office, we've done over the years, successive collective bargaining agreements, which are a way to attract different dispatchers. I'm sure that you are aware that on Council, we have done things to make sure that those that came to us from other jurisdictions, and they came with certain accrual benefits for vacation and those types of things, that when they go there, they maintain those. There's no going backwards, or anything like that. Those are very important items that...and Mr. DiCiccio, he explained those. I do think, too, that there will be an opportunity, as dispatchers think of anything else, they are always welcome - we always have an open door, Colleen, and myself, with any questions that anybody has. Also, I know that Mr. DiCiccio, after he comes back because he is gone for a couple of weeks, that there is going to be other opportunities. I'm sure that there is going to be tons of questions or thoughts. As these, again, are emotional situations where you are thinking about your family, you're thinking about coverage, and you're thinking about what is going to happen to this situation or that situation. Rest assured that my office will do anything it can. Also, I know that he will come back out, and I know Charlie wants to make sure that those opportunities, for that dialogue, keep going. We don't want to misstep anybody, or have anybody think that we are not going to try to do everything we can so that they are taken care of.

Ms. Roff - If we can go back to just the last thing that I added. Especially, because any employee that has the confidence and the security with where they are at, is a better employee. Retirement?

Mr. Kilo - They are all part of OPERS. They don't lose...they are part of the OPERS system.

Ms. Roff - It will continue as they go over?

Mr. Kilo - Yes.

Ms. Roff - So, they will still be a union when they go over?

Mr. Kilo - No, they are part of a Council of Governments; it's a little bit different. They really have...they still have what they call...

Ms. Roff - A retirement that we offer?

Mr. Kilo - ...they have a handbook. Basically, everything they have is based on these committees. As a Council of Governments, they determine their terms and conditions. It's similar, but it's not a bargaining unit.

Mr. Short - They are still part of OPERS, and their OPERS credit carries?

Mr. Kilo - They are still OPERS, and part of the pension. They are part of the Ohio Pension, yes.

Mr. Short - Thank you, Mr. Kilo. With that, before we move over to ordinances and resolutions, let me just say, you've heard it tonight. I think several of our Councilmembers said it, but I think all of us here, from the seven of us, do view this as a family. This Council, for the ten years that I have been on it, I have always supported our safety forces - police, fire, and dispatchers. Whether it be technology, cars, fire trucks, or collective bargaining agreements. We respect what you do, and we need you in this community. We certainly appreciate the service you do for us every day. Having said that, this is the decision that was brought to Council by the Administration. This is not a legislative action. We can only vote on and approve what is before us that is best for not only you as employees as a city, but also for the residents and the safety of 48,000 people that live here, and those that come and work every day here. Based upon that, this Council is always open. Again, you can reach us by cell phone, email, or talk to us in person. At the end of the day, we can only look at the options that are presented to us as a Council. This is not something we do legislatively. We can only approve the funding for what is brought before us by the administration. We will do our best to work with this administration to come up with the best solution for the city and the community. We always do it with the best interest of you and our residents in mind.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Ordinance No. 2025-062** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF THE POLICE, PARMA LODGE #15 (SERGEANTS AND LIEUTENANTS UNIT) AND THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2027, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading 05-19-25.*

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

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

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2025-062 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2025-063** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A NEW COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF THE POLICE, PARMA LODGE #15 (PATROL OFFICERS UNIT) AND THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2027, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading 05-19-25.*

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

**Ordinance No. 2025-086** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A NEW MEMBER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CHAGRIN VALLEY DISPATCH COUNCIL IN ORDER FOR THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE TO BECOME A PARTICIPATING MEMBER IN THE CHAGRIN VALLEY REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER FOR THE DISPATCH OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

**Ordinance No. 2025-087** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE SENIOR CENTER RESTROOM RENOVATIONS PROJECT AT THE WALTER F. EHRLFELT RECREATION & SENIOR CENTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2025-087 ADOPTED.**



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

**Ordinance No. 2025-088** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT IN CONNECTION WITH A ROADWORK DEVELOPMENT (629) GRANT FOR THE FOLTZ PARKWAY EXTENSION PHASE II PROJECT IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

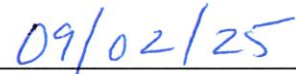
**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2025-088 ADOPTED.**

Mr. Short: This Council is adjourned until September 2, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Short adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marialena Beach  
Council Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date