

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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 **Monday, October 3, 2022 at 7:45 p.m.**

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

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:47 p.m.

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee- Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2022-073 is to amend Section 1252.36 of the codified ordinances in connection with prohibited use of shipping and/or storage containers in residential districts. Planning Commission gave this a favorable recommendation. There was a public hearing for this on June 6, 2022. Mr. Kaminski advised there were some proposed amendments for this legislation; however, it would become very difficult for the building department to allow those changes to occur. Ms. Roff advised in her ward, there are many residents who do not live in a development and have the land to have storage containers. She is not sure if the ordinance is where it needs to be. She would be more comfortable with it not excluding shipping containers entirely; but to allow them with regulations. Mr. Kaminski advised this legislation would still allow residents to apply for a variance; and to take each situation as it is brought forward. Ms. Roff advised that not all variances are approved; and they can take awhile to get approved. In addition, it costs residents money to apply for a variance. Mr. Jamison advised Council could amend the legislation. It would then have to go back to the Planning Commission for their recommendation and continue with the process from there. This would cause further delay. Mr. Jamison opened this for discussion back in June; and at that point, no one commented. In talking to members of Council, the thought was to go with the original legislation as is. Mr. Jamison also reiterated what Mr. Kaminski said about residents being able to apply for variances. Ms. Roff advised she does not feel this is an urgent issue; and there is time to work on the legislation...to get more input and feedback from other communities. Mr. Jamison is not aware of any other community doing this, in terms of regulating it either by prohibiting it; or regulating it in terms of allowing it within certain parameters. Mr. Jamison advised it is up to Council how to proceed with this. Ms. Roff is more comfortable taking time on this. Mr. Clark advised when this legislation was brought forth in June, he had concerns about it. He had not received any complaints involving shipping containers. He spent time looking at his ward, and citywide, where these types of containers were located. He did find some; and he noted that some of these may have received complaints from other residents which is why this legislation was created. After his research, he agrees with Mr. Jamison regarding complications from trying to amend this legislation from its complete ban. Mr. Clark doesn't feel the proposed amendment properly and effectively addressed the concerns. The main complaint he has received from residents deals with the aesthetics of these containers. Mr. Clark feels that is a very grey area to address. This weekend, Mr. Clark drove around his ward and city again to look at these containers. Some residents have done a nice job camouflaging them. He spent time talking to a resident in his ward that currently has one on his property; as well as both of his neighbors. Therefore and at this time, Mr. Clark does not feel comfortable voting for the complete ban on these containers. He feels this matter can be addressed with the city's existing code enforcement. Mr. Clark also feels this potentially creates another need for the city to create complete bans on many other things. He would rather look at these containers as accessory structures; and to amend, if needed, the section(s) of the codified ordinances that pertain to those. Ms. Kosek agrees that a complete ban is not the way to go. She advised there is an entire industry of container homes that are popping up; and she does not want to be a city that completely bans them. She feels the aesthetic issue is the main issue that needs addressed; and that the city can address that without making it a complete ban.

Mr. Kaminski advised that Council has two options, either place the legislation on third reading and continue to look at amendments; or vote on it. Ms. Kosek asked if it goes back to third reading, the process will have to start over again with it being referred to Planning Commission. Mr. Kaminski advised that is correct. Mr. Clark asked if Council votes on an amended piece and it fails, do they still have to vote on the original legislation. Mr. Jamison advised yes, they would have to vote on the original legislation if the amendment fails. Mr. Short asked if this legislation passes, residents still are able to obtain a variance if they wanted to put a shipping container on their property. Mr. Jamison advised that is correct. Mr. Short asked if the residents in Mr. Clark's ward that already have shipping containers are grandfathered in; or would their containers be banned. Mr. Jamison advised they are grandfathered in from this legislation. Mr. DeMio asked isn't there something already in our building code that allows residents to have these for a certain amount of time. Mr. Jamison advised yes, that is if someone is moving or remodeling their home. This is more for residents who want these containers as a permanent structure, like a work area. Mr. Jamison advised this legislation is making it clear about permanent structures. Mr. DeMio asked why does the city have to make this specific issue clear. Mr. Jamison advised because it is a grey area. If someone came in, they could make the argument that the containers aren't necessarily prohibited; and because some residents are now having these on their properties, that was the concern to make it clear and unambiguous to residents in terms of what the city will allow. Mr. DeMio isn't sure why this can't be addressed with the city's existing codes. Mr. Jamison advised residents have been placing these on their properties, and not pulled any permits to do so. It would be much clearer to have legislation making them prohibited altogether within our codified ordinances. Mr. Jamison advised the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission both feel strongly about this. Mayor Perciak advised when a resident has to appear in Mayor's Court for code enforcement issues, it is always the court's position to try and remediate the situation, not to fine, dismiss or fault the owner. The city tries very hard to work with residents and not punish them. Ms. Roff asked why not treat these containers as we do sheds. Mr. Jamison reiterated what Council's options were tonight on how to proceed with the legislation. Mr. Jamison does not feel it is a good option to turn down this legislation. He feels the two viable options are either to approve the legislation, or amend it and allow the containers with certain guidelines; as he put forth to Council with a proposed amended version of the legislation. Mr. Kaminski reiterated again that even by voting to approve this legislation tonight, residents still have the option to apply for a variance to have a container. Mr. Kaminski feels this is the best option. Mr. Clark appreciates what BZA and Planning Commission are trying to do to protect our residents, but he doesn't feel this legislation addresses the residents primary concern which would be the aesthetics. Mr. Carbone advised after this discussion, this ordinance should be placed on third reading and to look at it further. Mr. Jamison advised Council they can reach out to him to discuss proposals for amendments. Mr. Carbone encouraged Council to talk to Mr. Jamison regarding their concerns.

Finance Committee: Chairwoman Kosek Ordinance No. 2022-146 is an ordinance amending section 266.03(a) of Chapter Six of Title Six of Part Two-Administration Code of the Codified Ordinances concerning vacation leave. The legislation was amended to include granting vacation time, at the Mayor's discretion, for city employees who retire and are rehired back. The Mayor has the discretion to grant up to 10 days of vacation time at the start of their reemployment. Mayor Perciak advised up to this point, any employee who has retired and been rehired has come back with zero vacation days to start. They had to work a full year before they received any vacation time. Mayor Perciak, and Ms. Kosek agreed this is being brought forth in order for the city to be marketable in hiring quality employees for positions within the city. Mayor Perciak also advised that there is nothing illegal of employees retiring and being rehired back into service. The recommendation was to amend, suspend, then adopt as amended.

Public Service & Conservation Committee: Chairman DeMio recommended suspension and adoption for Resolution No. 2022-147; a resolution authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids for improvements to the Westwood lift station located on Westwood Drive and in connection with the Westwood lift station rehabilitation project. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Resolution No. 2022-048; a resolution granting permission to repurchase certain certificates for burial rights in the Strongsville Municipal Cemetery (Rezabek).

Recreation & Community Services Committee: Chairwoman Roff recommended suspension and adoption for Resolution No. 2022-149; a resolution authorizing the Mayor to advertise a request for qualifications and proposals for owner's representative professional services in connection with the Town Center enhancement & walkability initiative project. Mr. Jamison advised because of supply chain issues with obtaining materials and equipment it is hard to define a true budget for this project; therefore, it would be in the city's best interests to get an owner's representative to work together with the architect and with the city to help define the scope, materials and budget needed to keep the project on schedule. The contract itself will still need to come to Council for approval.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY OCTOBER 3, 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 8:25 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: James E. Carbone, Annmarie P. Roff, Joseph C. DeMio, James A. Kaminski, Councilman Gordon C. Short, Thomas M. Clark and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal Jamison and Finance Director Eric Dean.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 19, 2022 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Mayor's re-appointment and confirmation of Greg McDonald to a four (4) year term on the City's Planning Commission, effective November 30, 2022, and expiring on November 29, 2026.

Motion made by Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio, to confirm the Mayor's re-appointment of Greg McDonald to a four (4) year term on the City's Planning Commission, effective November 30, 2022, and expiring on November 29, 2026. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark: Thank you Council President Carbone, there was a Strongsville City school board meeting on Thursday, September 22, 2022. One of the first items brought up during the meeting was an event that occurred earlier that day on September 22, 2022. Seven area schools joined Strongsville High School students at Pat Catan's Stadium for a unified sports event. The spirit squad and Strongsville High School students were there as well to cheer on the players. Unified sports take students that might not participate in regular sports...special education students, and involves them in a unified sports program. Again, it took place and was recognized during the school board meeting. Superintendent Cameron Ryba provided an update on the state report card; a brief update that evening. Since that meeting, more details have come out, and we have a lot to be proud of. At a high level, we learned that Strongsville City Schools were in the top 25% in every category. Only 31 out of 607 schools rated higher than Strongsville City Schools. Overall, that puts Strongsville City Schools in the top 10% and compared with tax rates, these results are being delivered at a significant value compared to other cities. Dr. Ryba and Director of Curriculum, Erin Green, will provide a more detailed presentation on that state report card later this month on October 13, 2022. Dr. Ryba also shared an update on facilities planning and specifically highlighted that we are over capacity at our elementary schools. Elementary capacity is 1,922, and current enrollment for elementary is 2,402; It's tight. One example is Surrarrer, 79 students over capacity; in total, we are 480 students over capacity compared to the 30-year plan for capacity. That essentially equates to another large elementary school; details from Dr. Ryba's presentation are available on www.strongnet.org and there is a facility planning meeting later this month. During that evening's meeting, Treasurer George Anagnostou shared his report and the district remains sound in favorable to budget. George did provide insight that his school year 2025 could begin deficit spending without levy renewals. That concludes my schoolboard liaison report; I will gladly take any questions.

BUILDING AND UTILITIES - Mr. Clark:

(No report)

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: Thank you, Mr. Carbone. A quick update as we will have a board meeting here in the next couple of weeks; so I will have a more robust report hopefully at our next Council meeting. Just the Covid-19 update numbers, again, more than 65,200 people have been tested at Southwest General; with 9,200 confirmed positive patient cases and 250 deaths related to Covid-19 going back when the pandemic started in 2020. Overall, positivity rate continues to be around 14%. The good news is, the hospital continues to see that people admitted with Covid-19 continues to be low; averaging 10 or less per day. Most of these patients do not require any critical care or critical beds; and therefore, just a low number of Covid-19 cases right now at the system. Couple other quick notes about Southwest General, they received the Berea Chamber of Commerce 2022 Legacy Award. The award is presented to a long-standing Berea business that has made a significant and positive impact on the community. Also, showing community care and quality care for their patients; two of their nurses were among 14 nurses recognized with a top nurse's award from Advance Ohio. They were 2 of 14 from Advance Ohio. That initial award recognizes nurses who go above and beyond their field in making a lasting impact on the community. We are going to say congratulations to Katie Abraham and Genai Wacker who were both honored with that designation. That concludes my report right now for Southwest General, but I will take any questions.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short: We did have a meeting last Monday night here in Council chambers, where myself, the Mayor, and Mr. Clark were present as well as several members of the Committee. I believe Aimee, this qualifies as my report for the minutes, correct?

Ms. Pientka – Yes.

Mr. Short – Okay, we did hear Brent Painter address the Committee on updates on businesses and developments in the business community in Strongsville. We did focus on the update on the Town Center project, and we did ask the community to help us raise money. As you know this project now cost us between \$7 million to \$8 million. With almost \$5 million in the bank we still have \$2 million to \$3 million to raise. We ask the community to help us reach out into the business community to start to solicit different levels of sponsorship and commitment as well. Hopefully, the community will come back with some good ideas and some ability to raise some money for that project. Some upcoming...it's a busy month in October for Economic Development here in the city; right now, our own Brent Painter is at the Ohio Economic Development Association's annual summit. The theme is "Preparing for the Unprecedented Prosperity for all Ohioans". The state and the country looks like with inflationary pressures and potential looming recession, I think that theme is very timely as we look at the storm clouds that are building on the horizon for Economic Development. However, we do have a lot of good things happening here in the city; which one will be on October 12, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the rec center. We will have the Strongsville Community Business Expo, which I believe Mayor is now sold out, correct? One hundred businesses will be there. I would say get there early and plan to stay late, as you'll see a lot of some of the finest businesses that Strongsville has to offer will be there; again, that's October 12, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the rec center. On October 14, 2022, two days later at 7:15 a.m., our own Mayor Perciak will be addressing The Rotary Club giving his annual city Economic Development update to the club so I believe they do take guests as well...the Rotary, so, if you can attend that at 7:15 a.m. at the rec center as well, correct Jim?

Mr. Kaminski – Yes, 7:15 a.m.

Mr. Short – Then we will talk about this again, but November 15, 2022 in partnership with the Strongsville Chamber of Commerce and in partnership with the city, we will have an Economic luncheon featuring Tom Partridge, who is the new President of Fifth Third Bank, discussing economic and business trends for 2023. Again, I think that should be a very interesting topic given the current state of the economy; what the Fed is doing and that effect of the rate raising and major counter inflation has on the economy as a whole, but also to us here in Northeast Ohio. We had a lot on the plate there, but that concludes my report and I will happily take any questions.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio: Thank you. Again, we have two pieces of...two resolutions; Resolution No. 2022-147 and Resolution No. 2022-148. One is to advertise for bids for improvements for Westwood Lift Station and the other is the repurchasing of burial rights; we would like to suspend and adopt that; I would conclude from there.

FINANCE - Ms. Kosek: Yes, we have Ordinance No. 2022-146, which is to address vacation for city employees. It allows Mayor Perciak to negotiate with individuals who are coming in with experience to the extent that he would like to offer them some vacation as part of their package. It helps us to be more competitive in the market place. There is an amendment that we had...or that I had requested that would address specifically individuals who are retiring and then being rehired by our city that would allow the Mayor to offer up to two weeks of vacation as opposed to unlimited vacation; which is how I read the initial draft. If anybody has any questions, I'd be happy to answer those but I would recommend after the amendment that we suspend and adopt.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Kaminski: Planning, Zoning & Engineering, we have one ordinance this evening; Ordinance No. 2022-073 prohibiting the use of shipping and storage containers in residential districts; we are going to put that on 3rd reading this evening. That concludes my report for Planning, Zoning & Engineering.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski: A couple of things we want to talk about this evening. We are having a great fun event, Halloween at Safety Town, which is put on by the Strongsville Police Department and Strongsville Rotary organization. If you're in kindergarten or first grade in Strongsville and you would like to attend, it's a free event; you can go to www.strongsvillerotary.org and sign up. It will be fun. It's this Saturday, October 8, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m....this coming Saturday, and it is at Safety Town. Also, some great news that I heard, we are going to be sending three dispatchers, which is part of the Tert Team to Lee County in Florida and Lee County happens to be the worst hit county in all of Florida. These dispatchers are going to be helping with dispatch services in that county for the next 10-14 days. These are tough conditions, they are going to be probably...most likely they will be staying in a tent and with very little provisions; obviously a lot of food and water, but they will be roughing it for 10-14 days and helping others in need in Lee County. I just wanted to mention that. I think that is awesome that Strongsville will be able to help out in that way. I know we also donated some gas as well that allowed some vehicles to get down there to help; so anything that we were able to do, was a great addition with so much that is needed down there right now...it's a tragic storm. We want to keep everyone in our prayers and keep these dispatchers in our prayers as well as they go down and serve the county there. That concludes my report for Public Safety.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES - Ms. Roff: I have just one item, which is Resolution No. 2022-149. This is to allow the Mayor to advertise for an owner's representative for the Center of Town project to help manage the supply chain, the cost and project issues. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY - Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Mr. Carbone: I have no resolutions or legislations tonight. I did want to make two comments on some things. There have been some things brought to light about political signs in rights-of-ways and in tree lawns. If we can just make sure, I know we want to support our candidates that we are keeping them out of those areas. Also, couple meetings ago, we did engage an engineering firm to perform a feasibility and traffic study for the Interchange at I-71 by Boston Road. We have not...NOACA does have public meetings; and we have not had a presence there. I think this is a big project, we want to support the administration. We also want to give kudos to Mr. Tom Patton, our representative, for his foresight and pushing this through. I think as a Council, maybe we should have a presence there at the meetings and we kind of divvy these up so they know that...hey look, we have one of the worst traffic areas; Interstate 71, Route 82 and Howe Rd. It's the black-eye of our city, and it's also a major safety concern. I think we have to push back a little bit. We might have a great opportunity here, and I think we all have to play a part in it. I would hate to...Ann, it's your ward, we would like to probably start off with that so Aimee, maybe we can find out when that next meeting is and then you can get that out to Ms. Roff and then we can start having a presence there.

Mr. Kaminski – Yes, if you can copy us on those dates, that would be great so we can plan ahead as well.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Mr. Carbone (cont'd)

Mr. Carbone – Sounds good

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

MAYOR PERCIAK:

(No report)

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

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

Mr. Carbone – Thank you.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Ms. Laurie Graff, 20905 Sun Meadow Trail, Strongsville, OH: My maiden name is Graff, first name Laraine. My address is 20905 Sun Meadow Trail, Strongsville, Ohio 44149. I'm here because I'd like the recreation center to please be open on Sundays. Pre-pandemic levels, the rec was open from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. I can go to Middleburg because now I am Silver Sneakers, but that is a 25-minute ride for me each way. It's 10 minutes to get to the rec; otherwise I'm at the rec pretty much every day. I'm not the only one who feels this way. It would be a better use of time too if they can keep that rec open for other people to use it. If you say it's a staffing issue, which is what everybody is always telling us, how do the other recreation centers staff their recs? At Middleburg, they appointed people working there on a Sunday. Almost all of the neighboring communities around us have Sunday hours with their rec; I don't know why Strongsville hasn't done that. If Strongsville can put in a splash pad, which I do think is a really good draw and people love that, why can't we keep a rec open on Sunday? Also, real estate is very competitive in Strongsville which I think it would be a wise idea to keep the rec hours competitive with other cities as well. I myself have already made up my mind, I don't think I will ever move to a city that doesn't have a rec. This rec is absolutely stellar. I wrote to Governor DeWine about two years ago when he was threatening to close the recs after we reopened on June 8th in 2020 because they thought they were dirty or something with the pandemic. I wrote a long email because our rec is extremely clean. It's one of the cleanest places I've seen and exercise keeps people alive. I'm here to say it for myself, I told my son one time, I said, "You know I'm spending \$260.00 on a yoga pass a year". "Mom, if it keeps you alive and we have to do it one more year, it is worth it". I absolutely agree; it is worth it. Yes, I have Silver Sneakers, but I wouldn't mind paying...I really believe in exercising. That's all I would like and I know it's going to cost money and I'm sorry about that; but I really do think it would be wise if you could do that. I don't know who decides something like that, but Middleburg Heights rec hours on here, Saturdays they're open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ours closes at 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays. They're open on Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. I think if you gave us a few hours, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., that would be great. Otherwise, the weekday hours are ok, but that's my opinion. Thank you for listening.

Mr. Carbone – We will definitely take that into consideration.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Sue Eibel, 16979 Falmouth Drive, Strongsville, OH: Good Evening, my name is Susan Eibel. I live at 16979 Falmouth Drive here in Strongsville, Ohio 44136. I just have a complaint with the rec center. I love the rec center; I have lived in Strongsville for over 30 years. I was a member when it was on Drake Rd.; when it was a small one. The sign says "Closed on Sunday"; that rec center is open on Sundays for basketball. I think it's discrimination; I mean...I play pickle ball, I have to pay to play pickle ball; I don't know why, and if it was Bryan who had anything to do with that, why basketball got it. What about the rest of us that pay taxes? We pay to join...I pay a senior rate but...or the sign at least has to be changed from closed on Sunday because you're not closed. From what I understand, I know there's a supervisor that's there. There's at least 50 people that are playing basketball and I have also heard that a lot of times there is a maintenance person. Now, I know there's nobody at the desk, but again, like Laurie was saying, as far as staffing being an issue...I don't know. I just don't think it's fair right now that...and I don't even know how much they're paying to play basketball, but you spend a lot of money on that basketball court; it's gorgeous. I think there are other areas, when I walk through basketball to play pickle ball, the lines for pickle ball half of them are no longer there. We were told that when the rec center was going to close to have work done at the end of the season...summer, that the lines...that they would put new lines in and it's never been done. Bryan has been told by many people, but nothing has been done. It's very hard to play a game when the lines aren't there. You don't know if the ball is in or out and you're talking three courts, that's it. I understand you know they have been putting a lot of pickle ball courts outside, which is great except the weather is really cold right now to play outside in the morning. My beef is, I think you either need to open up the rec center on Sunday for all or it's closed. I don't get it why basketball gets to play...I mean, did you all know that they play basketball on Sunday?

Mayor Perciak – It's the travel teams ma'am and they're in there on Sundays as far as I know; and the reason...and in fairness to every member up on Council, they receive monthly reports as far as the rec center is concerned and as far as...the only way we could open that place up on Sunday would be to increase the fees dramatically. That is something we don't want to do; it's oozing \$4000.00 a day ma'am, and someone has to pay for that. That's all I can tell you. You live on my street, I'd be happy to talk to you.

Ms. Eibel – I get it, I mean but for years, this rec center has been open on Sunday and a lot of people are leaving the rec center because they're closed.

Mayor Perciak – Years ago, we had 17,000 members too, pre-pandemic. That doesn't exist anymore. People have learned to exercise at home...Peloton equipment...and they have their own gyms and they just have not come back and no matter what we have done, we can't compete with the local gyms for the price they want...\$10.00 a month.

Mr. Clark – Is your mic on?

Mayor Perciak – It's on.

Mr. Clark – We can't get you...he is waving us down.

Mayor Perciak – Yes, it's on.

Mr. Clark – Didn't mean to interrupt.

Mayor Perciak – No, it's okay Tom, thank you. That's part of the reason, our employees, whether they're part-time or full-time, receive benefits. It isn't just a matter of paying them an hourly rate ma'am; it's a matter of paying them the hourly rate plus PERS; It's just the way the structure is here.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Mayor Perciak (cont'd) - If we could do it, we would do it and I know the lady came up before and said "How does Middleburg Heights do it"? I don't know...I just don't know. I'm just being honest with you.

Ms. Eibel – Well, I don't know. I just.... (inaudible)

Mayor Perciak – I'll be honest with you, we could look at it; but we can cut hours on another day and bring...

Ms. Eibel – We used to be open on Sundays. That's why I don't understand Mayor. I mean for years we were open.

Mayor Perciak – Because there was a membership that supported that. That membership no longer exists and hasn't...it started dropping pre-pandemic and that the pandemic...just like the lady said, she wrote the Governor and he closed us. There was nothing we could do about it. A lot of those people chose not to come back. How many paid members do we have here now, do you know? I'll gladly give you the financial report. You look at it and then maybe you can suggest to us what we can do...

Ms. Eibel – Okay, well then take the sign down that says "Closed on Sunday".

Mayor Perciak – ...I'll be happy to share that with you...I'll drop it off at your house.

Ms. Pientka – Ms. Eibel, I'm so sorry, we can't hear you if you're not by the mic. I'm sorry, we want to get what you're saying on record, but you have to get close to the mic, thank you so much ma'am.

Ms. Eibel – (inaudible)...the way it's looking and I know life isn't fair.

Mr. Carbone – Ma'am, could you spell your last name for us too?

Ms. Pientka – I have it.

Mr. Carbone – You have it?

Ms. Pientka – I have it.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you very much, and we will...Ms. Roff heads up the recreation and we'll have her have some conversations with Mr. Bogre and then, Mr. Mayor, you can figure...

Mayor Perciak – Mr. President, like I've always said in the budget meetings, we can always do whatever the Council would like us to do. You just have to show me what other line item we need to cut in order to supply that line item; and we'll do it. I'm easy, I think you all know that.

Ms. Roff – Eric, will you be able to send me what the costs for the daily...

Mayor Perciak – We'll give you what we have on the monthly basis...the monthly PNL.

Ms. Roff – I'm looking, as the residents stated from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., what it costs hourly or every four to five hours to keep the rec center open.

Mayor Perciak – Again, it all depends if we have to have full-time people at time and a half or can we fund it with part-time people; or would we be able to...I'm sorry?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Roff – What did we use prior to not having it open then?

Mayor Perciak – Full-time and part-time people, mostly part-time but anybody that's full-time, that's time and a half or... I'm not sure if it's double time, but it is time and a half.

Ms. Roff – So part-time would be the way to go...

(inaudible background conversation)

Mayor Perciak – You can't just let a bunch of part-time people run the center.

Ms. Roff – Do we have a full-time/time and a half employee pre-closing on Sundays?

Mayor Perciak – Did we have it pre-pandemic?

Ms. Roff – Yes.

Mayor Perciak – Yes, and we paid them and we also had 17,000 members that we do not have now.

Ms. Roff – No I understand, I'm just asking.

Mayor Perciak – Did we...yes.

Ms. Roff – So there was a full-time employee that was paid time and a half to be there on Sundays?

Mayor Perciak – Or more, I would have to double-check exactly what we paid him or her.

Ms. Kosek – Ms. Roff, I would be interested in having a Recreation Committee meeting to discuss this; I know this is an issue that has been very important for residents. There's a lot of residents who are concerned about Sunday closures; we have raised this issue repeatedly. Families with children can't use the pool during the week and they can't use the center during the week, so when it's only on Saturdays, that is a big deterrent and I think that is probably impacting the number of people who are able to join or who are willing to join because of the closure.

Mayor Perciak – Kelly, I'm willing to do that, have your meeting, but just show me where I'm going to pay for it. That's all.

(multiple conversations)

Mayor Perciak - Kelly, you're Chairwoman of the Finance Committee.

Ms. Kosek – Yes

Mayor Perciak – Good, run with it.

Ms. Kosek – Yes, well I'm going to look into it because I do think it's important. I think that's...these folks came out.

Mayor Perciak – Please do...please do.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Roff – With all due respect Mayor, I'm fearful of cutting that, we are putting money into re-doing the pool there, if we don't have the members that are coming back and that are...and we are not upping our membership, maybe we need to allow some financing to go towards marketing or maybe we need to...I mean the more we cut the hours, the more we are going to...

Mayor Perciak – However you want to do it, please just let me know and tell me how to pay for it.

Ms. Roff – The more we cut the hours, the more in danger our rec is of not being able to stay open at all is what I would assume. People will start to go elsewhere. I guess we need to decide, are we trying to keep the rec open...we want our rec...

Mayor Perciak – Our rec is open and our rec does serve the public, it serves the senior citizens, and the new Town Center project is outdoor projects which will continue to serve our children and our families with amenities they currently do not have today.

Ms. Roff – Absolutely, I appreciate that...I appreciate the work you're putting in to it. Like I'm saying, I'm fearful the more we cut, the less hours that we have there, the more people will put in a membership.

Mayor Perciak – Ann, I know what you're telling me and I know your fears and I understand your fears. Just tell me how to pay for it and if you want to do that. Kelly, you're the Chairwomen of the Finance Committee, tell us what line item you want us to take the money from and we'll do it and something else suffers, that's it.

Ms. Roff – I would just like to see the finances that we...for Sunday prior to closing it.

(multiple conversations)

Mr. Carbone – If we could find out what it would cost to operate the rec center on a Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Perciak – We can do that.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

Ms. Kosek – Do we have another...

Mr. Carbone –Welcome to our Council meeting.

Ms. Becky Khoury, 18162 Fawn Circle, Strongsville, OH: Rebecca Khoury, I live at 18162 Fawn Circle, Strongsville, OH. 44136. I think most of you are probably unfortunately familiar with my name, but I thought that at this point, I just wanted to bring in the pictures and I think you all saw them. We've tried to be really patient with that home, but it's been at least a year and a half that we've been having to look at that. We had wanted to sell, a real estate agent came and said, "As soon as you turn down that street, people are going to look at that and you're going to sell your home, but you're going to take a hit." We missed that golden opportunity. Now, we still would like to sell but actually for different reasons, just kind of get away from that. It seems like it's a really slow process. Sometimes it's hard to get information from people. I know a lot of people have tried to help and we really do appreciate it. I just thought that the pictures were worth a thousand words to show what we've gone through and what it looks like every year at Christmas. It's beyond just a little bit of an eye soar.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):

Ms. Khoury (cont'd) - We're just hoping that at some point it will be taken care of. I understand the Mayor said he likes to work with people and not penalize them, but I feel that we're being penalized in the process of allowing that to continue.

Mayor Perciak – We're going to get our building commissioner out there and just have him take a look at it and see if this individual is in violation of any of our Codes. There has to be something we could do there; just if anything, out of being respectful to all the neighbors there so, I understand your frustration.

(Background unintelligible conversation)

Ms. Roff – He's been out there a couple times and they've had their 30 day notice more than once, I believe...

Ms. Kosek – Yes.

Ms. Roff – For different items.

Mayor Perciak – Can we let the Law Director speak please, go ahead Neal.

Mr. Jamison – The process has been started and if the person doesn't come into compliance, then that person will be sited into Mayor's Court and/or Berea Court and go through the legal process. It started already, so the building commissioner is aware of it. He started the process and if the person doesn't come into compliance, then we'll follow-through. I know this came in last week and I know just because of issues they were having in the building department; they were short staffed the last couple of weeks because a couple people are out. He did get on it, and he did get that 30 day notice out, and we'll follow it up from there. I spoke to the prosecutor about this and he is aware of it and we'll follow through.

Ms. Khoury – Okay, I appreciate it because our first complaint was probably registered in March of 2021 and a formal one was May of 2021. A lot of 30 days have come and gone and we've been waiting and waiting and waiting and...but I appreciate it, thank you.

Ms. Roff – I know but, maybe Neal would explain it better also but once an area is cleaned up or taken care of and there's new items or new things that are out there, I almost...I believe that it starts the process over again. There were things that were picked up, cleaned up, put away...

(unintelligible)

Ms. Roff – Yes, correct. That's kind of where that is because...they were...they've been out there more than once. They get the 30 days and then it's picked up when they go back; then it gets put back in again once the things come back out again.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you very much ma'am for coming in and letting us know; we started the process, we'll continue the process and we'll follow the process to make sure it's looked into, okay?

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2022-073 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1252.36 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWELVE-PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN CONNECTION WITH PROHIBITED USE OF SHIPPING AND/OR STORAGE CONTAINERS IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS. *First reading and referred to the Planning Commission 05-02-22. Favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission 05-12-22. Second reading 05-16-22. Public hearing 06-20-22. Third reading 10-03-22.*

Placed on third reading and referred back to the committee.

Ordinance No. 2022-146 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 266.03(a) OF CHAPTER 266 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWO-ADMINISTRATION CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CONCERNING VACATION LEAVE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading 09-19-22.*

Motion by Ms. Kosek to amend the legislation to reflect the addition of Line 8 in Section 266.03(a) of title six of part two Administration Code of the Codified Ordinances concerning vacation leave, second by Mr. DeMio. 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. 2022-146 ADOPTED **AS AMENDED**

Resolution No. 2022-147 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WESTWOOD LIFT STATION LOCATED ON WESTWOOD DRIVE IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, IN CONNECTION WITH THE WESTWOOD LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2022-147 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Resolution No. 2022-148 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO REPURCHASE CERTAIN CERTIFICATES FOR BURIAL RIGHTS IN THE STRONGSVILLE MUNICIPAL CEMETERY. [Rezabek]

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 other 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. 2022-148 ADOPTED.

Resolution No. 2022-149 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE TOWN CENTER ENHANCEMENT & WALKABILITY INITIATIVE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Resolution No. 2022-149 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 9:06 p.m.



Marialena Beach
Council office Secretary



Date