SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 05, 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, December 05, 2022 at 7:40 p.m.**

Present: Council Members: James E. Carbone, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, James A. Kaminski, Annmarie P. Roff, Thomas M. Clark and Kelly A. Kosek. Also Present: Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Law Director Neal Jamison, Finance Director Eric Dean, Economic Development Director Brent Painter and Human Resource Director Steve Kilo.

Absent: Mayor Thomas P. Perciak.

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 7:53 p.m.

Finance Committee: Chairwoman Kosek advised Ordinance Nos. 2022-159 through 2022-162 are TIFs (tax increment financing) ordinances for AutoZone, CCL, Litehouse and Schaeffler respectively. Ordinance No. 2022-161 was amended at the last meeting to reflect Exhibit B, where the city included improvements on Prospect Road. The recommendation for all of these was to adopt, with Ordinance No. 2022-161 to be adopt as amended. Ms. Roff wanted to know, as she brought up last meeting, if the Schaeffler legislation was amended to include the private driveway access. Mr. Painter advised that Avery parkway is not a dedicated street. Mr. Jamison advised these pieces of legislation were put together by the city's outside legal counsel and they approved the verbiage. Mr. Painter advised that the city has discretion where the TIF money goes; and there are 33 acres of undeveloped industrial land behind that street. In addition, the city has discussed with the property owner of dedicating that street at various times; so by listing that in the TIF, it could be utilized if the road was dedicated in the future. Mr. Short reiterated that the TIFs provide no generated loss to what the school district collects in tax revenue. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Ordinance No. 2022-178; an ordinance making appropriations for the city's annual expenses for the year 2023. Ms. Kosek advised the committee recently had a meeting where Mr. Dean discussed next year's budget. Ordinance No. 2022-179 is to amend the general salary ordinance to reflect city employees' COLA pay raises for next year. Mr. Dean noted that the COLA is 3%; matching the unions' raises. Ms. Kosek noted that Council will not be taking a pay raise for next year.

Motion by Ms. Kosek, second by Mr. DeMio, to approve the Finance Committee meeting minutes of November 14, 2022. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Recreation and Community Services Committee: Ms. Roff recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2022-180; an ordinance to apply for financial assistance from Cuyahoga County for the 2023 Community Development Supplemental Grant program for use by the recreation and senior center in connection with the Freedom Trail.

<u>Communications and Technology Committee</u>: Chairman Carbone recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2022-181; an ordinance to enter into a contract with Trane U.S. Inc. for the purchase of a new HVAC system to be installed at the city's communications and technology building. The contract is in an amount not to exceed \$502,667.53.

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY DECEMBER 05, 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 8:01 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, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, James A. Kaminski, Annmarie P. Roff, Thomas M. Clark and Kelly A. Kosek. Also Present: Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Law Director Neal Jamison, Finance Director Eric Dean, Economic Development Director Brent Painter and Human Resource Director Steve Kilo.

Absent: Mayor Thomas P. Perciak.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

(None)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD - Mr. Clark: Thank you Council President Carbone, there was a Strongsville City School board meeting on Tuesday, November 22, 2022. The meeting began, as many do, with recognition. I do want to highlight that Mr. Bill Wingler, Principal of Strongsville High School, recognized senior Bradley Whitecar on earning his Eagle Scout Award as part of Boy Scouts of America Troop 701, here in Strongsville. For his Eagle Scout project, Bradley and the project team he led planted 30 trees at Strongsville Park #3 near Prospect Road and Drake Road. The project took 59 hours to complete; and the benefit to our community is reduced erosion at the creek, which I understand flooded in the past. More business aspect, the 5-year financial forecast that was presented at the prior meeting was voted and approved. The board approved a lease agreement with ProSoccer Club (PSC) for the property, formerly known as, Albion Middle School (11109 Webster Road). That lease includes the green space and fields and parking lots. The lawns will be cut over there and a good soccer activity will continue to happen throughout Strongsville. The board approved a replacement of the phone system which will enhance the schools ability to identify specific location to 911 service. It brings them into enhanced compliance without waivers or grandfather clauses; and adds additional features and benefits, replacing the phone that the Superintendent said was roughly 15 years old,...or utilized for roughly 15 years. Now, I have a laundry list of dates to know. Business Advisory Council met last Friday on 12/2/22. Councilman Kaminski was there and myself and we continue to have a great partnership between the business community and our schools. Winter sports are under way; so good luck to all of our student athletes. Now, the list of dates, Strongsville Middle School Band Holiday Concert is tomorrow, Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Clark (cont'd): Strongsville Middle School Choir Holiday Concert is this Thursday the 8th at 7:00 p.m. Strongsville High School Band Holiday Concert is Thursday the 8th at 6:30 p.m. There's a wrestling fundraiser on 12/10/22 at 400 p.m. at Mulligans. The Strongsville Middle School 5th and 6th grade orchestra is Monday, 12/12/2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Strongsville High School; and the Strongsville Middle School 7th and 8th grade orchestra is Tuesday, 12/13/2022 at 7:00 p.m. All of the concerts, upcoming holiday concerts that I shared, are all available on www.strongnet.org or SCS-TV. There are elementary programs; but I would encourage you to check with the local elementary schools during the day because space is limited. The facilities committee is doubling up on some of their elementary school visits to expedite the process of getting through that. Muraski and Surrarrer Elementary are both scheduled for December 15th @ 6:30 p.m. This is a future one, save the date, Strongsville Education Foundation will host their annual Jockeys & Juleps on May 6, 2023. This concludes my School Board liaison report, but I will gladly take any questions.

BUILDING AND UTILITIES - Mr. Clark:

(No report)

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM - Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. Carbone, we did have a board meeting last Thursday, December 1st; and it was a joint meeting of both the health center board and the health system board. We had a lot of information, especially moving into 2023. In the words of Bill Young, President and CEO of Southwest, 2022 was a very challenging year; not only for Southwest, but the entire healthcare industry in general. Hospitals continue to experience deep financial hardships brought on by COVID-19, healthcare labor shortages, as well as rising expenses and decreasing inpatient volumes. Fortunately for us at Southwest, the organization was financially healthy, going into the pandemic, that helped navigate these challenging times. At the meeting, the budgets were presented for both for capital and operating. That includes performance and improvements plans through enhanced revenue, growth services and managed expenses. The system expects by the middle of 2023 to be back operating in a positive operating margin; but from a budget standpoint and to continue luckily with a healthy cashflow position, they were able to navigate these challenging times. A couple of items that are interesting to note that was discussed both by Mr. Young and the medical staff, COVID-19 is not going away for the foreseeable future; however, it is being moved from a pandemic to an endemic stage in 2023; which means the virus has become more familiar and seasonal like colds and flu. It is here for a while; although again, expect it to be more like what we see right now like with the flu; however though, they are seeing patients in dealing with more the long COVID symptoms that can last for months or even years; and there is still research going on about that. The system is well-positioned to handle COVID-19 outbreaks and to ensure that they have the necessary medical supplies and health staff availability to deal with any outbreaks of COVID-19. Again with the healthcare workforce shortage, the hospital system is working to address these issues through employee engagement and retention programs, along with efforts to improve the well-being of employees. On some positive news, in terms of consumer expansion at the system; again, I always say we are lucky and fortunate to have such an asset and a gem in our backyard as a community healthcare system that Southwest is for Strongsville and the surrounding area. With the closing of St. Vincent's Charity Medical Center in Downtown Cleveland, which is very known for it's bariatric program, that program has successfully now migrated to the Southwest General campus; and the first successful surgeries were done back in the middle of November. That program is now at Southwest, along with a lot of those positions and medical staff. Finally, as of this week, expanded cardiac services will be beginning at Southwest General through UH as well; so again, providing the necessary medical services and expanding those services needed to better serve this community to keep that healthcare here and to be able to treat our citizens right here in our backyard as opposed to going to Downtown Cleveland when necessary. That concludes my report on Southwest.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Short: We were scheduled to have a meeting the last Monday of November; but there was some illness going around so we had to cancel that week. We planned to reschedule for next Monday; but again due to the holiday, I think a lot of people were focused on the holiday, holiday shopping and traveling. We are going to postpone that meeting and look to reschedule the first of the year, the last Monday in January, which is January 30, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. here in council chambers. We'll have the Economic Development Committee meeting at that time. That concludes my report but I'll happily take any questions.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. DeMio: There's no ordinances or resolutions before this committee. I just want to know if there's an official answer about leaf pickup, snowplow...what the decision was today.

Mr. Jamison – So, Mr. Walker, at the staff meeting, indicated that leaf pickup is nearing completion. It was a challenge this year because the leaves fell sooner and harder than in a couple years past. They've essentially gotten all of them up, which is a good thing. They have shifted to the appropriate shifts to prepare for the oncoming winter season; and they're prepared for it.

Mr. DeMio - So, no more pickup at all?

Mr. Jamison – I think they're still out there doing a little bit. I've seen trucks out there still; but they're almost done and I think they're finishing up in certain areas.

Mr. DeMio – Jim Kaminski just mentioned, it's time for us to bag them...is what we have to do if they're not picked up.

Mr. Jamison – Yes, and what we can do is let Aimee know when they're going to finish that so people know.

Mr. DeMio – I want the website to reflect whatever the decision is...if we can do that.

Mr. Jamison - I will let them know that.

Mr. DeMio - That would be great.

Mr. Jamison – That way, people aren't in the dark about what to do. That's a great idea.

Mr. DeMio - Thank you.

Mr. Jamison – You're welcome.

FINANCE - Ms. Kosek: Thanks President Carbone, we have six ordinances tonight; 4 of them are the TIF ordinances that we have now read for the 2 prior meetings. Those relate to AutoZone, which is Ordinance No. 2022-159. Ordinance No. 2022-160 is CCL. Ordinance No. 2022-161 is Litehouse - that one is the one that we amended to include Prospect Road. Then, Ordinance No. 2022-162 is for Schaeffler. These are all, for those keeping along with us at home, these are all projects that are going to be improvements and we're going to capture some additional tax dollars here in Strongsville rather than sending the money down to Cuyahoga County. That is a benefit for us. It also makes sure that we in Strongsville, always make sure that we keep our school district whole as well as Polaris as our law director pointed out during caucus. We have read these 3 times by tonight and we'd like to adopt them. I don't think there are any questions on that because we've all had an opportunity to speak to our finance director if there were questions.

FINANCE - Ms. Kosek (cont'd): We also have Ordinance No. 2022-178 which is our budget. We had a meeting, a long meeting actually, on November 14th where the Finance Director, Mr. Dean, presented the budget to us and gave us an opportunity to ask questions. He was so kind to meet with anyone who had additional questions after that. My understanding from caucus is that everyone is satisfied with the budget, with the understanding that if things change, we always have the opportunity to amend if necessary; so I ask that we suspend and adopt the budget tonight unless anybody had a change of heart since the caucus. Mr. Dean, is there anything that you want to say about the budget?

Mr. Dean – Not really, it's a straightforward budget. We are in a healthy position going into next year; and I hope to keep it that way. Hopefully, the economy is strong next year; but either way, I think we planned for some headwinds if they do happen; but I think we're in a great position.

Ms. Kosek – And I think we all appreciate being cautious, not knowing what next year will bring; but being cautious just so that we are ready in case it does not turn into a great year, which we're all hoping for, a great financial year. If we could suspend and adopt that. Then, the last ordinance that we have in Finance Committee tonight is Ordinance No. 2022-179; and that's our general salary ordinance. We are updating that to reflect the cost of living increase for our employees; and then just doing a little bit of cleanup as far as some remnants from COVID when we had done an update at that point. Otherwise, I don't know that I'm forgetting anything about the salary ordinance. I'm looking to the finance director to make sure there is nothing else we need to say.

Mr. Carbone - The minimum wage.

Ms. Kosek – Oh yes, you did mention...thank you President Carbone, we also updated the minimum wage to be reflected of our hourly employees so that we are compliant. I would ask that we suspend and adopt that. That's all that's on the agenda for the Finance Committee tonight unless anybody has any questions for either myself or for Mr. Dean.

(No questions)

Mr. Carbone – Mr. Dean, thank you very much for sitting with me and going over the budget; it's appreciated.

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING - Mr. Kaminski:

(No report)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Kaminski:

(No report)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Roff: I have just one ordinance and that's Ordinance No. 2022-180. That is for the Mayor to go out with our administration to put in an application for a grant for finances from Cuyahoga County to be applied to the recreation department and our center of town enhancement. We did apply for that and received it, but since the project has postponed or has taken longer, we had to use it within that year; so suspend and adopt.

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

Mr. Carbone – Thank you Ms. Roff and thank you for having the committee meeting and having Mr. Bogre, our recreation director, come in and go through thoroughly some of the challenges we have and some of the solutions as far as forecasted 5-year and 10-year plans for the future. I also gave Mr. Bogre many questions that we just didn't have time, but we can circle back around; and I think Mr. Kaminski also had a question for him to, that we can...it's already been communicated that he will give us those answers over the next week here.

Ms. Roff – I have some stuff too that we're going to go over; but I know Bryan will come back after the holidays I hope...well, not I hope, I know he will come back; hopefully, maybe, the end of January you guys. Does that sound good? I'm sorry? We would do it here before our meeting.

Mr. Carbone – Let's get through the holidays and then the first of the year, we can circle back around for some dates and we can see about having another Recreation Committee meeting.

Ms. Roff – All right, thank you, and then if you guys have more questions from everything we saw here.

Mr. Carbone – Any other questions for Ms. Roff?

(No comments)

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY - Mr. Carbone: We have Ordinance No. 2022-181. This is authorizing participation in the United States General Service Administrative contracts. This is to purchase a completely new HVAC system at our dispatch communication facility. This would be installed at the cost of \$502,677.53 from Trane USA. The recommendation here is to suspend and adopt,

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Mr. Carbone:

(No report)

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

MAYOR PERCIAK:

(No report)

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dean: Thank you Mr. President, upon the review of the proposed December 5, 2022 Council meeting agenda, I hereby certify that the 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.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

(None)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2022-159 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCEL, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCEL TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING AN AUTOZONE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40, 5709.42 AND 5709.43, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. First reading 11-07-22.

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2022-159 ADOPTED

Ordinance No. 2022-160 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCEL, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCEL TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING A CCL MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40, 5709.42 AND 5709.43, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. First reading 11-07-22.

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2022-160 ADOPTED

Ordinance No. 2022-161 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCEL, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCEL TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING A LITEHOUSE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40, 5709.42 AND 5709.43, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2022-161 ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Ordinance No. 2022-162 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IMPROVEMENTS TO A CERTAIN PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE A PUBLIC PURPOSE, DESCRIBING THE PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT SUCH PARCEL, REQUIRING THE OWNERS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON SUCH PARCEL TO MAKE SERVICE PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES, ESTABLISHING A SCHAEFFLER MUNICIPAL PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT TAX INCREMENT EQUIVALENT FUND FOR THE DEPOSIT OF SUCH SERVICE PAYMENTS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTIONS 5709.40, 5709.42 AND 5709.43, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2022-162 ADOPTED

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

<u>Ordinance No. 2022-178</u> by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR 2023.

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 age and the motion carried.

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2022-178 ADOPTED

Ordinance No. 2022-179 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE GENERAL SALARY ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO AMEND SECTION 6-003 OF ARTICLE 6 TO FIX THE COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN SALARIED AND HOURLY EMPLOYEES; AMEND SECTIONS 9-002, 9-003, 9-006, 9-007, 9-008, 9-009, 9-010 AND 9-011 OF ARTICLE 9; REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; 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 age and the motion carried.

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2022-179 ADOPTED

Ordinance No. 2022-180 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM CUYAHOGA COUNTY FOR THE 2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT PROGRAM FOR USE BY THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & SENIOR SERVICES; AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2022-180 ADOPTED

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2022-181 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN UNITED STATES GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW, COMPLETE HVAC SYSTEM WITH ALL RELATED EQUIPMENT AND APPURTENANCES, TO BE INSTALLED AT THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY CENTER BUILDING; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; 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 age and the motion carried.

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

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries.

Ordinance No. 2022-181 ADOPTED

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

(None)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

(None)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council President James Carbone adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Aimee Pientka, MMC

Clerk of Council

Date