

**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021.**

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in Council Chambers at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Present: Council Members:** Matthew A. Schonhut, James A. Kaminski, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, Annmarie P. Roff, Kelly A. Kosek and James E. Carbone. Also Present: Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal M. Jamison, Public Safety Director Charles Goss, Police Chief Mark Fender, Fire Chief Jack Draves and Communications & Technology Director David Sems.

**Absent:**

Administration: Finance Director Joseph Dubovec, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Building Commissioner Mike Miller, City Engineer Ken Mikula, Service Director Joe Walker, Human Resource Director Steve Kilo and Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre.

Council President Schonhut called the caucus to order at 7:35 p.m.

The following Council Committees met to review legislation on the agenda:

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee: Chairman Schonhut advised Ordinance No. 2020-174 is to rezone property located at 19156 Pearl Road (PPN: 394-31-007) from R-RS (Restaurant-Recreational Services) and GB (General Business) classification to PF (Public Facility) classification; and vacant property located on Pearl Road near Rockglen Drive (PPN: 394-32-001) from GB (General Business) classification to PF (Public Facility) classification. This was referred to the planning commission and received a favorable recommendation. There was a public hearing on March 1<sup>st</sup>. After the public hearing, the petitioner emailed the Clerk requesting Council to delay voting until further notice due to some potential wetland issues that have now been satisfied. The petitioner recently reached back out asking Council to place it on tonight's agenda. The recommendation was to adopt the legislation this evening. Ordinance No. 2021-111 is to accept for recording purposes the subdivision plat of Industrial Land Partners Holdings, LLC, for PPN 394-05-006, located at or near Lunn Road and Prospect Road. The recommendation was to suspend and adopt this legislation. Ordinance No. 2021-112 is to apply for a grant for funding for improvements to the municipal sanitary sewer system in connection with the Albion Road and Webster Road sanitary sewer project. Suspension and adoption was recommended for this legislation. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Ordinance No. 2021-113; an ordinance to issue and approve change order no. 5 (final) for an increase in the contract price in the contract with Perram Electric, Inc. in connection with the Strongsville traffic signal upgrade project. The change order is an increase in the amount of \$229,643.04, for a new total project cost of \$5,957,898.72. Mr. Carbone advised he has heard from residents and their positive feedback regarding the efficiency of getting through the intersections.

Finance Committee: Chairman DeMio recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2021-114; an appropriations ordinance. Mayor Perciak advised pertaining to this ordinance and moving forward, there is going to be a more aggressive stand in advertising and recruitment for civil service positions such as dispatchers. The other significant difference for the appropriations is the increase of approximately \$13,000.00 for the HVAC repairs at fire station no. 4. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Resolution No. 2021-115; a resolution to certify to the Fiscal Officer of Cuyahoga County unpaid property maintenance nuisance abatements for levy and collection. Resolution No. 2021-116 is requesting the Fiscal Officer of Cuyahoga County to advance certain funds, both general operating and special assessments, to the city. The recommendation for this legislation was to suspend and adopt. Resolution No. 2021-117 is to accept the amounts and

rates as determined by the budget commission; and to authorize the necessary tax levies and certify them to the County Fiscal Officer. The recommendation for this legislation was to suspend and adopt. Mr. DeMio asked the Mayor when a future committee meeting may be possible. Mayor Perciak advised that due to too many unknown variables at this time for 2022's budget, he has asked each department head to reduce their budget by 5%. The purpose for that is the collection of income tax and how that is going to be handled going forward starting next year.

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Short recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance No. 2021-118; an ordinance for the purchase of 11 sets of structural firefighting turnout gear for use by the fire department. This is for the firemen that were hired this year. The contract is with Municipal Emergency Services, Inc., an authorized dealer for Morning Pride Manufacturing DBA Honeywell First Responder Products, in the total amount of \$33,495.00.

Recreation & Community Services Committee: Chairwoman Kosek recommended suspension and adoption Ordinance No. 2021-119; an agreement with Tivity Health Services, LLC for the implementation of a SilverSneakers program at the recreation and senior center. In speaking with Mr. Bogre; he advised he is hoping this program would be open to use in October. Anyone who has access to Silversneakers through their insurance company or Medicare can enter a special code given to them and they can use the facility free of charge. Mr. Short thanked the administration for getting this done for the residents of the city. Ms. Roff echoed Mr. Short's thoughts. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Resolution No. 2021-120; a resolution accepting a donation from The Kiwanis Club to be used towards the maintenance and improvements to Castletown playground. Mayor Perciak advised Chick-fil-A is coming in to do the work voluntarily and Sherwin Williams provided a generous price for the staining of the playground.

Public Service and Conservation Committee: Chairman Kaminski advised Ordinance No. 2021-121 is an ordinance approving and authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amendment to the agreement with Great Lakes Recycling, Inc. dba Simple Recycling for curbside collection of soft recyclables. Mr. Jamison advised this is at no cost to the city. They pick of items like clothing and the city will receive a small financial amount back from all the recyclables.

Building & Utilities Committee: Chairman DeMio recommended suspension for Ordinance No. 2021-122; an ordinance amending sections 1420.02, 1420.04 and 1420.05 of chapter 1420 of the Codified Ordinances to clarify and update building valuation data and modify fee tables. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Resolution No. 2021-123; a resolution to advertise for bids for the Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization project for city-owned buildings. This will cover the police building, dispatch building and the recreation and senior center.

Mr. Jamison advised the city has been contacted by The Metroparks in relation to property over at Webster Road and Royalton Road being potentially available. They are interested in discussions for the city to potentially purchase that property.

Mr. Kaminski advised the city of North Royalton did banners for local heroes and displayed them on Royalton Road. Mr. Kaminski is looking into expanding that program into Strongsville.

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Council President Schonhut called the meeting to order at 8:00 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. 2004-273.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present: Council Members:** Matthew A. Schonhut, James A. Kaminski, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, Annmarie P. Roff, Kelly A. Kosek and James E. Carbone. Also Present: Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak, Law Director Neal M. Jamison, Public Safety Director Charles Goss, Police Chief Mark Fender, Fire Chief Jack Draves and Communications & Technology Director David Sems.

**Absent:**

Administration: Finance Director Joseph Dubovec, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Building Commissioner Mike Miller, City Engineer Ken Mikula, Service Director Joe Walker, Human Resource Director Steve Kilo and Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre.

**COMMENTS ON MINUTES:**

- The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 19, 2021 were approved as submitted.
- The minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 9, 2021 were approved as submitted.

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

***Proclamation presented by Mayor Perciak to Tim Zvoncheck, on behalf of the Strongsville VFW Post 3345, for being recognized as an "All-American Post Commander and All-American Post."***

Mayor Perciak – Thank you Mr. President, Mr. Zvoncheck, Commander Zvoncheck, please come on up. We're here for a very special, special award for Commander Zvoncheck for our Post here, our VFW Post here in Strongsville. I would like to take the time to read it rather than me duplicate everything I'm saying.

***At this time, Mayor Perciak read and presented the Proclamation to Mr. Zvoncheck.***

(Applause)

Mr. Zvoncheck – Thank you, I'm not very good at receiving awards; I'm much better at giving them out. On behalf of myself, I humbly accept this Proclamation; but on behalf of my family, my wife Linda, who is the one who takes the brunt of my volunteer service with my time being gone.

Mayor Perciak – Linda, stand up.

**APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS (cont'd):**

(Applause)

Mr. Zvoncheck – Also, on behalf of all members of VFW Post 3345, I greatly accept this Proclamation and will proudly display it. Just one little note as the Mayor said, Dennis was the only other Commander at Post 3345 to ever achieve the level of All-American Commander. Dennis suddenly passed away about 4 weeks prior to when I found out that I was going to be named and our Post was going to be named once again. I spent his last coherent evening with him and I promised him that we would achieve this goal again. I really had no idea 4 weeks later it was going to be announced that we achieved the All-American status again. Dennis, this is for you as well, thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Schonhut – Tim, on behalf of all of us here on Council, we thank you for your dedication. For those of you who have been lucky enough to be buzzed in that front door and maybe shared a drink at the bar in there; it's a special place with a special group of people inside of there. We thank you for your continued leadership of having such a special place right here in Strongsville and one that stands out; so thank you very much.

Mr. Zvoncheck – Also, there's a lot of people I see here tonight with the flags, the Thin Blue Line. This Saturday marks a very special occasion in our country and that's the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001. We're doing a special event this year; instead of the fire and police departments doing their event at the fire stations; we're going to be doing it on the property at the VFW at 11:00 a.m. Immediately following is going to be a dedication of the new memorial that we built on our property dedicated to the first responders, not only of Strongsville, but of the entire country and those who served, who serve now and those who will serve in the future. This event is open to everyone. It starts at 11:00 a.m. The ceremony itself will probably go till about 11:45 a.m. Immediately following will be live music at (unintelligible). So please, if you can, come out and recognize or remember the tragedies of 9/11/2001 and to recognize all of our first responders, thank you.

(Applause)

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**SCHOOL BOARD – Ms. Kosek:** Yes, while we were in recess, the school board was hopping; getting everything ready for school to start. First, the kids have been back in the classroom since the week of August 17<sup>st</sup>, kind of with a staggered start amongst the different schools. Second, right before school started, school board member Seth Roberts resigned from the school board. The school board accepted his resignation and thanked him for his service and then put out a request for applications. It was a quick turnaround process; but at their meeting this past Thursday, the appointed John Krupinski, who was formally the Strongsville superintendent. He will fill in for Mr. Roberts until the end of Mr. Robert's term which is the end of this year. Third, the other thing that was really memorable from August was Strongsville had the pleasure of employing or celebrating, I'm not sure-maybe both, the "School Bus Driver of the Year" for the State of Ohio, Jill Bush. Anyone who was at the meeting or watched it on tv, it was a raucous celebration of Mrs. Bush. She is an absolute wonder of a school bus driver and is so loved by her fellow drivers. Just congratulations to Jill Bush for being named "School Bus Driver of the Year." I think those were the big points in August; and I'm sure that Michelle Bissell is here and...she was here...oh, right there in the front. Did I miss anything? Okay, so those were the big points from August. That will end the report.

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

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:** Thank you Mr. Schonhut, as you can imagine with the increase in the COVID-19 and the Delta variant and other variants, that the testing at Southwest has increased substantially at the hospital there on Middleburgh Heights. The positivity rate has risen now to about 10% in the past week, which is consistent with rates reported by other healthcare providers in Northeast Ohio. Due to this increase in testing, the drive-thru COVID-19 testing center will be reopened the first week of September, so it should be opened this week in the Building E garage. Having said that though, Southwest has ample medical supplies from PPE and COVID-19 tests on hand for at or above a 90-day supply. They are also in the planning stages for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine booster for both employees and the general community. They are just waiting for more direction from the State of Ohio, Department of Health in regards to the booster distribution. We will keep you posted as soon as we know of those facts. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that I always say as the Council liaison of Southwest what a great asset it is to have in Northeast Ohio, especially right here in Strongsville and Middleburgh Heights, serving the communities around here. I have personal experience. My mother was very ill for the last five months and for her last few months, Southwest was a complete Godsend in taking care of her. The quality of care, the level of care, the sympathy there and just the overall quality they provided her in her final days was amazing. My hats off to Bill Young, his staff there; and again, I say we are blessed to have great healthcare in Northeast Ohio in general. We're really blessed to have Southwest General here in our backyard to assist us in our community. I was going to say this for public safety, but I'll also say it to Chief Draves, the guys in the fire department, the ems, they made many calls to my house and to hers. They did a phenomenal job with her. Again, we have great fire and ems here who truly go above and beyond the call of duty; so give them my thanks as well.

(Applause)

Mr. Short – That concludes my report, but I'll happily take any questions.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mr. Short, any questions?

(No comments)

**BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. DeMio:** Quickly, we talked about these in caucus and I don't want to redo everything, but Ordinance No. 2021-122 and 2021-123 are quite simple. They're updating and modifying the fee structure in computerizing. The one we're also getting bids for, for lack of a better term, clean-air quality. It should be in the \$150,000.00 we think. Mayor, is that our guess?

Mayor Perciak – That is correct Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DeMio – So, we'd like to pass both of those tonight. I will close the committee. I know we had a discussion about it already.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mr. DeMio, any questions?

(No comments)

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

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Ms. Roff:** I don't have anything at this time; but I'll happily take any questions if anybody has any.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Ms. Roff, any questions for Ms. Roff?

(No comments)

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Carbone:** Yes, we had a busy, active Economic Development meeting a couple of weeks ago. We had a special guest, Mike Catan, talking about the project on Royalton Road and Prospect Road. He talked on it. He gave some insight on the project and was able to collaborate with our Economic Development group and answer some questions. While Mike was there, we also discussed old business which we have been discussing over the last several years, our downtown center plan. Mike now has grandchildren and wants to really be a part of this downtown center plan and is actually committed to where the 3 ball diamonds are, coming up with a plan of his own diamond and presenting it to the city. I believe that amenities in this town are crucial as other communities are, unfortunately, are passing us up. Our community has been talking through social media or events, and I think I can speak for a lot of Council people about the need of an upgraded playground or a splash pad. I know Ken Mihalko with the Strongsville Community Band has talked about an amphitheater...all these things that we're seeing in other communities. About a week ago, the Mayor came out with the Strongsville Town Center enhancement walkability initiative; so really, thank you Tom for taking the first step with this in something that the economic development committee thought was a crucial piece to push economic development in our community; but also something that was very well needed also in our community. I was talking with the Mayor, talked about Phase 1 being a playground, some walkability and some well-needed signage throughout our downtown. I just really wanted to make sure that we are all on the same page. I think the offer from Mr. Catan is a generous one. I think what that will give us is a 100% plan on those 3 ball diamonds; that we can start with Phase 1 and then we can continue to work on that; whether it's the city, grant money or the community donations that throughout the years have been very generous to our community for offering amenities. I really hope that we pursue that. I hope Council...I think what we don't want is a piecemeal. We want to make sure that we have a complete plan and that we work on that. I think that's important. I think it's important...we've already started Phase 1 in getting more community input, input from our Council, and then input from our Economic Development committee that we have been working on this for many years. Also, we talked about the upzoning of the mall, another thing we have been talking about for years. We're in a very good position because we have a very strong community in many aspects. That is going to help the redevelopment of our mall. Another positive for our mall, years ago they were all indoors. Then you say about 15 years ago when all outdoors with the Crocker Parks of the world. Well, the new wave of malls are the indoor/outdoor concepts and we have to be prepared for that. We're very thankful that Kai Capital purchased our mall. We have the Spinoso Group that is going to be running our mall which is a good thing. We hope as soon as maybe this fall of getting a plan; and hopefully, it is that mixed use which I'm very confident that is what it is going to be. Also, we discussed the business network breakfast meeting. That is going to be Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. We have Lt. Governor, John Husted; so that is great. We have Westfield Bank which is going to sponsor it; and economic development, no doubt in those business parks are the driving force of our community; so we have to make sure that we take care of residents, number 1, but we're also pushing economic development. Lastly through the meeting, the Mayor mentioned earlier about Brian Zimmerman. He's head of The Metroparks. He's also a resident of our community. What a great asset to have. Many of us have had conversations with Brian, me being one of them; and we do want to collaborate with Brian more. We want to address some of our connectability concerns. I'd like to have him come into Council and speak with us and really develop a partnership so we can move forward with connectability. We have some great Metroparks in our community; we just want to make sure people can get there number 1; and then once they get there, they're getting there safely.

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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Carbone (cont'd):** It was a very active, busy meeting; but that's a true testament to our community and we're going to keep on pushing this and driving this. I can answer any questions if anybody has any.

Ms. Roff – Just thank you for working on this for so long with the Economic Development committee; I appreciate it. I know Kelly has been involved and you have been involved from the beginning in seeing a lot of this through and it is something you guys have talked a lot about many times. I appreciate that; it's good to see it moving towards that way finally.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you.

Mayor Perciak – In all fairness to everybody up on Council, we...so much of this has been discussed for approximately 3 years. Funding is always an issue and we're doing everything we can through NOACA, through the State of Ohio, to obtain the necessary grants. Where we can't get the grants, we're going to take the route of the schools and try for naming rights so that the actual cost to the general fund will be a minimal cost where we can get the maximum return. Like Councilman Carbone said, this is the beginning and we hope to...we have our engineering department and they have a walkability plan already; so that's been viewed. We've had some costs for the playground to have a brand-new playground which, of course, Kelly and so many of our mothers who have young children have championed because of a bunch of different reasons. At the end of the day, we've had that plan ready to go in March of 2020, when everybody looks at the plans you will see, but we couldn't do anything because of COVID. Not knowing where our dollars were going to come from, we just had to put all of that on hold. This is an effort between the administration, the Council, everybody who is going to be involved in this and as Jim said, Mike Catan and the business community that wants to step up and participate. You can see what we're doing with the old Castletown just to bring that up to speed till we get this new situation up and running. It will be good and Kelly, we're even trying to work in a splashpad there.

Ms. Kosek – I did talk to Bryan a little bit about that so I am very hopeful.

Mayor Perciak – And again, this is only...the reality of this is because of the additional grant dollars that are coming for this type of activity out of Columbus. If we didn't have those grant dollars, this could not come to fruition the way it is. Also Mr. President, if you see Grace Galucci at NOACA, she is also participating with us on this. We're working every possible avenue we can. I haven't gotten to County Executive yet, Armond Budish; but I intend to. That's all I just wanted to add to Jim's report.

Ms. Roff – I was going to finish it up with thank you Mayor and thank Bryan too for all the time he puts into chasing those grant dollars.

Mr. Carbone – I don't want to go too long, but what our community, residents and business community alone...when I was privileged to be a part of the turf committee for the schools where we turfed the high school and the middle school field, \$1.6 million dollars was raised in 4 months. Those were residents that were generous and those were business people in our communities; and the list goes on with the fireworks and the Homedays and the Christmas celebration there-the lighting ceremony. Through a collaborative effort we are going to get this done. I just want to make sure that we have a plan for that entire area, nothing is piecemealed, and we work together and we push this and we get it done for residents of all ages. That ends my report finally.

Mayor Perciak – Sounds good.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you everybody for your comments and continued work on it.

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

**FINANCE – Mr. DeMio:** Very quickly, again, Ordinance Nos. 2021-114 through 2021-117 is all suspension and adoption. These are all boiler plate items. These are items that we normally do. It's our funds getting them certified, ready to pay our bills, tax levies, annual expenses, nuisance abatements that we have to cut peoples' lawns, that don't take care of their lawns, so on and so forth. We'd like to suspend and adopt that. I don't want to bore anyone here with the dollars and cents; but that's what really makes everything roll; and as the Mayor says, our checkbook is only so big so we can only do so much. When we get grant dollars and when we get the State and the Feds, it's just so much more of a gift to the city. I compliment it; Jim has said it, Gordon, Matt and Kelly, Jim Carbone...it's two Jim's- Kaminski and Carbone but...we thank you Mayor and that's why you are so...I almost said a bad word, so really good with the dollars. You see things in advance that most Mayors don't see. He's a gift, please remember that. Yes, he is a gift, and I know Debbie would say that too.

Mr. Schonhut – Some days.

(Laughter)

Mr. DeMio – But I'm going to do something I normally don't do. We stood up for so many people today, I'm going to stand up for that man who makes sure that our dollars and cents work.

(Applause)

Mr. DeMio – Mayor, can I have that cup of coffee now?

Mayor Perciak – yes.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you, God Bless, I am done with the committee.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mr. DeMio, any questions for Mr. DeMio?

(No comments)

**PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Schonhut:** We have four things on the agenda this evening. First, Ordinance No. 2021-174; it is a rezoning application on the corner of Rockglen and Pearl Road, by the Fieldstone Preserve neighborhood. We first got this late last year. It went through all of Planning Commission, had a public hearing on it; and we tabled it until the applicant could work through some stuff with the Army Corps of Engineers. It's back on our agenda tonight; so the recommendation on that is to adopt. Next, we have Ordinance No. 2021-111, for recording purposes only, the subdivision plat of Industrial Land Partners Holdings, LLC, PPN 394-05-006. This is new the Infinium project, on the back side of that by Commerce Parkway, for dedicating that road. The recommendation on that is to suspend and adopt. Ordinance No. 2021-112-authorizing the Mayor and the city engineer to apply for Issue 1 funding for our upcoming Webster Road and Albion Road sanitary sewer project. More dollars coming is always good; so the recommendation on that is to suspend and adopt. Lastly, Ordinance No. 2021-113 is a final change order with Perram Electric in relation to our traffic signal upgrade project. The recommendation on that is to suspend and adopt. Any comments or questions on any of those 4 items this evening?

(No comments)



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

**PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Short:** Thank you Mr. Schonhut, we have one ordinance tonight, Ordinance No. 2021-118 which is to approve the purchase of 11 sets of structural firefighting equipment turnout gear for use by our newly hired firefighters in Strongsville. That for \$33,495.00 and has been budgeted already for this year's budget. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt. I'd like to now turn it over to Councilman Carbone for an announcement for a project that we've been working on for a while.

Mr. Carbone – Yes, very exciting news for the seniors in our community. Councilwoman Kosek earlier mentioned about the SilverSneakers; but then also the RUOK program. We've been discussing this for quite some time. It took some time to get to this point, but it's going to be a really good thing for our elderly in our community and their families. What that is really quick- these seniors who register for this program will get a call daily just to check in and make sure they are okay. Then, there is a process after that if they do not pick up the line. We just want to reassure they are okay; and if they're not, we handle it sooner than later. It really does give a lot of comfort also to the families. I'm blessed to have my whole family around me; a lot of people don't have that. We're going to be able to keep an eye on them. We do this program in North Olmsted where I'm a policeman; and I'm proud to be a part of that there and I'm really proud to bring it here. It's pretty exciting and we hopefully will be able to begin taking registrations in October. Most of the software is written; a big shout-out to David Sems whom is in the back. He's our communications director; a wonderful job doing this all in-house and we didn't have to pay a company from the outside because of his commitment. So, David in the back, thank you very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Schonhut – That man there, ladies and gentlemen, has saved you all millions of dollars with his brain. I am not exaggerating. He is very smart in a lot of stuff that we would have to contract out for. He is able to write the code himself; and with his team, build out all these different technologies. He is truly incredible and he works all behind the scenes where he doesn't get recognized enough; but he is a major asset to our city here; so thank you David.

Ms. Kosek – Gordon, can I add something? Am I cutting you off...

Mr. Short – You may, go ahead.

Ms. Kosek – I just wanted to take a second to thank Chief Fender and Lt. Campbell. The folks in ward 3 have had a lot of traffic that we're not quite so used to from all of the development that's happening in Columbia Station. They have been so responsive trying to solve some problems for us from stop signs and some other issues. He is always so responsive and helpful. I have a feeling that ward 3 will continue to have questions like that and I appreciate your patience and your quick response and Lt. Campbell's quick response to their needs, so thank you so much.

Mr. Short – And that will conclude my report Mr. Schonhut.

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

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. Kaminski:** All right, we have one ordinance this evening, Ordinance No. 2021-121 which is authoring the Mayor to enter into an amendment for the agreement for the recycling company for curbside collection of soft recyclables. That's through Simple Recyclables. The recommendation is suspension and adoption. On some other notes, I wanted to just give an update—we're starting to raise money for The Freedom Trail phase 2 enhancements, enhancing the signs, helping to fix the water feature that is there. I see Colton Rompala out there. He is the president of Strongsville Rotary. They're graciously going to be donating the first donation which will be great. Also, a matching grant from Rotary International which will also be helpful. We're going to be doing a fundraiser in November at the commander's VFW done the road. That will be mid-November to help us raise some additional funds. Super excited to know that The Freedom Trail was also mentioned in the walkability initiative which will be great. I think there's all kinds of ways to expand The Freedom Trail and include many different connections to The Metroparks and other great areas in the center of town. I'm definitely looking forward to working with the Mayor and the administration on the walkability initiative and enhancement of the town center; so that will be great. That concludes my report. I'll take any questions.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Mr. Kaminski, any questions?

(No comments)

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Kosek:** Thank you Mr. Schonhut, I don't always have a report but I think when I do I have pretty great ones; so this is two exciting things that I think folks have been asking for and I'm excited to share details. We've got Ordinance No. 2021-119 which is SilverSneakers. SilverSneakers is a program that Council has been talking about for quite some time; and I know a lot of residents are very interested in having access to the rec center through Silver Sneakers. The ordinance is to accept or give the Mayor permission to sign a contract with Tivity Health Services, which will allow us to start accepting SilverSneakers members to come to our rec center. They will put in their code that they get from their insurance company or from Medicare. They will get to come and use the rec center at no additional cost to them; that the city will receive funding from the insurer or from Medicare. We will receive \$2.50 each time a Silversneakers member comes to the rec center. We are hoping that will get the rec center to at least a revenue neutral position, if not to in the black which would be a dream, I think, of the Mayors. I want to thank the Mayor and Bryan and also Ann Roff who was a big proponent to bring this to light; and so many other folks including Gordon who have been really supportive. I think we've all heard from residents that they want this program; so I would just ask that we would suspend and adopt this tonight. The second resolution is Resolution No. 2021-120 which is about Castletown park. We've heard extensively about the town center program but I want to give a little bit of detail about what is going on at Castletown. This will be a resolution to accept about \$4,500.00 from the Kiwanis Club for rehabilitation of Castletown park. I know that most of you are probably aware that Castletown has been in existence since the early '90s and that it was created by residents here in Strongsville and it needs a little TLC. Starting this week, the service department has been out taking care of the fences. They are going to go throughout the week and replace boards that need to be replaced on the structure. Starting next week, they are going to power wash the whole structure. Power washing is something the Kiwanis Club has graciously funded for us. Then, Chick-fil-A will be coming in later next week to actually do the staining. It's really a wonderful program where they are doing community service for us as part of their business. I want to make sure that we, in addition to accepting the generous donation from the Kiwanis Club, that we thank Chick-fil-A for providing that labor to get Castletown looking spiffy again and also to Sherwin Williams who has provided a discount for us to get the staining that we need to get Castletown up to speed.

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

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Kosek (cont'd):** So that is about that; and we've heard twice about the town center project; but in recreation, I think I have to talk about it too so I'll be as quick as I possibly can. I did get some additional details from Bryan...oh sorry, going back to Castletown park before I move on, mulch may be coming this season to Castletown. We're not sure if there's going to be budget for mulch this fiscal year. If not, we will get some next year; but there is going to be mulch at Surrarrer Park at both playgrounds; and that will be going in on Thursday and Friday I believe. As we were talking about the town center project, as everyone mentioned, there was a press release that came out last Friday where, finally, we are getting to the point where we have these plans to enhance the town center. We've all been advocating for these plans and I think it's great we're getting to the point where (unintelligible). We're getting to a fully ADA compliant playground with a poured rubber base. We have been talking about it for quite some time. Bryan has some great plans for including children who might be in a wheelchair that will be able to use the facilities. It's really going to be a premier place. I agree with Jim; this is phase 1. We need to talk about what phase 2 are going to look like. We need to talk about the signage. We need to talk about connecting everything from the center of town back to this new premier playground. I'm hopeful that it will be able to get a water feature in this phase. If not, we will continue to talk about that; but there are a lot of things that we can do with this space and that's where planning what the whole project is going to look like. We need input from the community; and so when Matt is talking about all the things that David Sems does for our community as far as keeping our costs down, he created a survey and you can go online to [www.Strongsville.org/towncenter](http://www.Strongsville.org/towncenter) and you can see what the whole plan is at this point; and then you can take the survey to tell us what you'd like to see additionally. I would encourage you to do that because one of other David's talents is he's making sure it's a statistically significant survey; so we need to have everybody's input so that we are making sure that we are addressing things that young families, families of middle schoolers, high schoolers, grandparents and everyone in between that they have what they want in this project. So, I would just encourage everyone to go online and fill that out. It will be so helpful. Again, I want to thank the Mayor and everybody for supporting this because these are family amenities that really are going to elevate the center of town and elevate our community and I'm really excited about it, so thank you.

Mayor Perciak – And thank you Kelly and thank you everyone; but one last thing we forgot to mention about our David Sems and this survey. David is a forensic CPA; so you can bet your bottom buck that the results of this are going to be analyzed and reanalyzed before they're released. So, we really have a gem in him and we value everything he does for us, just like all of you said; and from me over here David, thank you, thank you.

Ms. Kosek – And that's all.

Mr. Schonhut – Perfect, anybody have any questions for Ms. Kosek?

(No comments)

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Schonhut:**

(No report)

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

**MAYOR PERCIAK:**

(No report)

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dubovec:**

Mr. Jamison – Thanks Mr. Chairman, “Based upon careful review of the September 7, 2021 Council meeting agenda, I hereby certify that funds will be made available for all ordinances and resolutions on such agenda requiring certification of funding.” So signed by Mr. Dubovec.

***A copy of that memo is attached to the back of these minutes.***

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

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Mr. Schonhut – Hopefully, we haven’t bored you enough. We have reached the portion of our meeting for audience participation. We do have a sign in sheet. We will go off of that first; however, if you did not sign in, you are still welcome to address Council this evening. We asked that you kindly keep your comments to within five minutes. If you do choose to address us, please state and spell both your name and address. If you’re not from Strongsville, please also give the city. If you have anything that has already been said, and you want just want to say, “I echo their comments,” you are welcome to do that but, we will certainly give everybody their five minutes should they so please. So again, working off the sign in list first, after this we’ll invite anybody else that wishes to address Council to come forward. We will start with the true Patriot himself, Mr. Norm Beznoska.

Norm Beznoska, 18235 Fern Canyon Drive, Strongsville, OH: Thank you Mr. Schonhut, not on our watch. As a proud 43-year resident of the City of Strongsville, a proud veteran of the United States Navy, and an even prouder supporter of Ohio’s finest our Strongsville Police Department, I am appalled and disgusted by self-appointed social justice activists who try to impugn the honesty and the integrity of our police officers; not on our watch. I researched these “Indivisible Activists,” and found that they are a part of a group, called “Swing Left.” A left-wing Democrat front group, who’s organized to promote, in their words, “The election of Democrat candidates, up and down the ballot.” Swing Left encourages its members to support “BLM” and to donate to State and Local Bail Funds and the National Police Accountability Project; which was designed to dismantle and defund police forces across our country. That project, the National Police Accountability Project, is the brain child of the National Lawyers Guild, founded in 1936 as a legal action front by the Communist Party USA. There are many Swing Left Indivisible groups with the same agenda-to flip our elections, obliterate our history and defund our police. They provide questionable statistics that our police officers purposely target minorities in traffic and criminal cases. My wife and I are proud graduates of the first Strongsville Citizens Police Academy. We had the opportunity to use laser and radar devices to measure the speed of cars driving on Royalton Road next to the police station. Car after car, we were unable to tell the race, the gender or the city of origin of the vehicle driver. There are no buttons on the laser and the radar devices that denote race, gender or city of origin and since most traffic arrests by our police officers come from the rear of a vehicle, the officer cannot tell the race, the gender or the city of origin either. Let’s talk about statistics because these people were so wonderfully impressed by statistics. In 2020, of the 2,070 traffic citations issued by our Strongsville Police Department to all people of color, 79% were issued to people that were white. Only 18% of those citations went to people who were black. Where is the disparity? There isn’t any.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Mr. Beznoska (cont'd) - Did these activists' statistics include how many citizens and children's lives were saved by our Strongsville police who took 96 alcohol and drug impaired drivers off our streets in 2020? Of course not. Or those drivers who overdosed and whose lives were saved by our Strongsville police, at great risk to themselves. Who got help instead of slab in the County morgue. Of course not. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report in 2020, there were 295 police officers killed, of which 24 were female. Did that disturb these activists? Of course not. That thin blue line flag that they rail against is only the beginning. Next up, it's old glory. These activists are not offended by the trampling and burning of our American flag. That glorious flag that we veterans and our police officers served and will be buried under. Take a knee, no. Only before my God. The thin blue line flag first appeared in the United States in 1911; when US troops went into battle wearing blue uniforms. It shows solidarity and respect for our police officers and honors the fallen, all 22,000 of them since 1786. No, let's make that 22,001. Say her name, Ella French, a Chicago Policewoman who on August 7<sup>th</sup>, who just returned to duty, after having a baby, was murdered by two inner-city thugs, with long police records. There weren't any demonstrations for Ella. There was no justice, no peace chanted. There wasn't a single word of condolence coming from the President to her husband and children; nor from Kamala or Pelosi. Who can only see fit to criticize our police daily. There were no words of outrage from LeBron or the National Organization of Women or the Major League, the NBA, the NFL or the fake news media over Ella's murder. Just another police officer who died, protecting an ungrateful public. We display the thin blue line flag to show our gratitude and our encouragement to all the men and women in blue who put their lives on the line for us and our families-24/7, 365-days a year. Like the American flag, this thin blue flag is a shroud for the coffins of the fallen and a tissue for the tears for those that are left behind. God forbid, if that flag is removed, this 80-year old veteran will stand in front of the Strongsville Police Station and wave it every day.

(Applause)

Mr. Beznoska – This is Strongsville, not Solon. We will not be bullied or intimidated by anybody when it comes to our police department. When the first thin blue line flag raised, a poem was written by Nels Anderson to salute our police officers; "The thin, blue line that fights for rights, that never bends its knee to might, has ever since known God's light fought dark oppression in his lair, and routed wrong from valleys fair, sweet peace and plenty leaving there." In closing, I just want to salute our Strongsville Police Department with the words from Psalms 21, Verses 11 and 12; "Though they plot evil against you and devise wicked schemes, they cannot succeed because you will put them to flight;" and we, we veterans and we citizens of Strongsville will always have your backs. God bless you.

(Applause)

Mr. Schonhut – Norm? I didn't want to cut you off at the beginning; but, I didn't want to cut you off at the beginning; but, we do need your name and address for the record. I'm sorry, I apologize.

(Laughter)

Mr. Beznoska – My name is Norm Beznoska, I live at 18235 Fern Canyon Drive, Strongsville, and as I said, I'm a proud 43-year resident of our city. Thank you.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you, sir.

(Applause)

Mr. Schonhut – Next, we have Bob Janiak. Kindly, if you would, your name and address for the record please.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Bob Janiak, 20333 Village Green Drive, Strongsville, OH: Thank you very much. My name is Bob Janiak. I live at 20333 Village Green Drive, Strongsville. I've been a resident with my wife for 55-years and I would just like to say a few words and I knew this was going to happen to me that I was going to have to follow my good friend, Navy Norm...

(Laughter)

Mr. Janiak – And, what can I say? Outstanding job. I just want to give the point of view from a 37-year firefighter. I was a captain and a shift commander and very, very proud of my fire department and equally as proud of my police department. Over all of those years, I could tell you stories for the next two weeks about how the police and fire worked together for successful outcomes, to serve our citizens in this city. I'm so proud of both departments and I want to personally thank the men and women of our Strongsville Police Department, Chief Fender, Mayor Perciak for his support; endless support in all my years; I've been retired now 13-years and I'm just so proud of our police and fire and this Indivisible Strongsville, much like Norm, it outraged me. I can't tell you the...I'm just...I don't have any words to go any further and I don't want to go any further; but it's just, our country is in trouble and we need citizens, good folks like all of you to stand up for our police departments all over the country. This senseless torturing and intimidation of our police department and defunding of our police department is ludicrous. I'm beside myself with all of this and so, I, again, I'd like to thank Chief Jack Draves also. This is a fine department and Chief Fender, I salute you and the men and women of your department. Keep doing what you do for our city.

(Applause)

Mr. Janiak – Thank you all.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you, is there a Lou San Marco?

(Laughter)

Louis San Marco, 21520 Briar Bush Lane, Strongsville, OH: Good evening. My name is Louis San Marco. I reside at 21520 Briar Bush Lane here in Strongsville and I've been a resident for 22-years. Like the other two gentlemen, I would like to address the Blue Lives flag matter. I first learned about this when I read the front-page article in *The Sun News* and I was very pleased to see, although not surprised that Chief Fender's comment would be, "It's staying up." And that's exactly what needs to remain.

(Applause)

Mr. San Marco – Now according to that article, there was an allegation made by this so-called progressive group, "Indivisible Strongsville," that said the Blue Lives Matter flag could possibly be interpreted as racism. Now, in my opinion, this is not the case and I will tell you why. A few years ago, I guess it was more than a few years ago, I was in Washington DC and I went to visit the Law Enforcement Memorial in DC. It's a pretty humbling site. Thousands of names are on that wall of all the Law Enforcement Officers since the late 1700's that have died in the line of duty. And, it's very interesting when you hear the allegation of racism because I only knew one officer personally; a former student of mine, who was killed in a robbery in southern Ohio; but just by the last names and ethnicities and by common knowledge, those officers, the thousands on that wall, represent every race and every ethnicity in this country. They're black officers on that wall, there's white officers, Asian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Native Americans; you couldn't have a more inclusive group. Now the left loves the word, inclusivity.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Mr. San Marco (cont'd) - This is the true meaning of inclusivity. So, it seems to me that it's pretty obvious that when we talk about law enforcement officers, we're talking about all genders, we're talking about all ethnicities, we're talking about all races. Now, I want to talk about the uniqueness of the law enforcement profession. I wonder how many of us go to work every day, thinking today might be the day somebody's going to kill me. Outside of the military, I know we have some veterans and I want to thank them for their service; outside of the veterans in time of war, there is no other profession where you can lose your life and be killed by somebody that you don't know and have never met in your life. And these officers put their lives on the line every single day for us. And they don't deserve disrespect. They deserve our respect.

(Applause)

Mr. San Marco – Now, going back to those fallen officers; they weren't killed because they were Black. They weren't killed because they were White or Hispanic or Asian. They were killed because they were wearing blue. Now, let's look at the criticism that groups like Indivisible make of the flag. They're using a tool of the left that's called microaggression. I don't know if your all familiar with that term. Microaggression is when somebody says something or they display something, such as our flag, and they twist it around to make it seem as though it's racism; when in fact, there's absolutely no intention, whatsoever, of that flag being racist. Now, when you talk about how we assess whether something is truly objectionable, truly offensive, there is a standard we have in this country. That standard is called reasonableness. Okay? Would a reasonable person object to that flag as being racist? I don't think so. Now, the group Indivisible and groups like them want to change that standard. They want to eliminate the standard of reasonableness and in its place, they want to impose a new standard. That new standard is anytime, anyplace, anyhow, anyone finds something objectionable, then it is by definition. That is not how a democracy works.

Mr. Schonhut – And Lou, you're at about seven minutes, so if you could kindly begin to wrap up.

Mr. San Marco – Pardon?

(Multiple conversations)

Mr. San Marco – Law enforcement profession, my next point is that it is not perfect. We've got some bad officers as a former Director of Public Safety myself; I can tell you there are a few bad apples; and every profession has them. I don't care what profession you represent in this room; what profession I represent, there's always a few bad apples. Right? Law enforcement is no different. We saw that most recently with Derek Chauvin. He's a bad cop. Law enforcement is better without him; but that doesn't have to represent the vast majority of officers who do the job properly with honor and with dedication. All right? Now, let me turn specifically to the Strongsville Police Department. I think we're very fortunate to have the kind of police department we have this community.

(Applause)

Mr. San Marco – And I'm proud to say that some of those officers, including former Chief Charlie Goss are former students of mine and I'm very, very proud of them. Now, as concerns our department here in Strongsville, these are people that are highly trained. They're well educated. They have great leadership in Chief Fender and in Safety Director Goss and I can tell you, because I've spent sometime around this department that they're a sense of professionalism that prevails the Strongsville Police Department. The sense of professionalism. So, in conclusion, I want to say thank you to all the officers of the Strongsville Police Department and all their staff for all they do for us every day; 365 days a year; as one gentleman said, 24/7.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Mr. San Marco (cont'd) - They don't do it some of the time, they do it all of the time. And they ought to have, as I said before, they ought to have our respect. So, the ultimate question here is whether blue lives matter. And I think the vast majority of people in this city and the vast majority of people in this nation say that they most definitely matter, thank you very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you. Next, we have Jeff Johansen. Jeff, I know we talked before the meeting; but if you'd still like to, you're welcome to.

Jeff Johansen Sr., 15706 Sassafrass Drive, Strongsville, OH: Thanks Matt. My concerns are the Whitney Road safety concerns that we talked about, with the new paving on Whitney Road. It looks great and a welcomed sight. I know that the bridge is next to be in line, for some connective repairs that's much needed because of the deterioration. We all see. I live over on that side of town. I've been living over for over 30+ years. I'm a small business owner in the community traveling up and down these roads all the time and the safety issue is very important here. With the planning ahead, I need to bring up the safety aspect related. Most of the foot traffic that we're seeing now with the new retail and infrastructure that's happening in the City. It's growing leaps and bounds and we all support that as small businesses; however, foot traffic has doubled and almost tripled walking down Whitney Road, going east to west, and also between south and north; between the access road; between Lowe's and Home Depot. I can tell you for a fact that there is no egress walking there. There's no bike path, there's no sidewalks and we're also seeing, actually two wheelchairs; motorized wheelchairs, I'm sure, most of the people in this room have seen them driving down Whitney Road at 4 o'clock in the afternoon accessing Walmart or whatever. You know, this is something we need to address, and I know, it's a planning thing, it's a budgeting thing with the city. I know that Whitney Road is a county road; so it's a shared process budgeting wise; however, with the paving going on, on Whitney Road, you know, those storm culverts are an issue and, you know that's going to have to be addressed as well. And you know, if you're going to plan on this, it's something you can plan in hand along with the walking or the walk paths or the sidewalks. I know some entails planning and budgeting and improving the storm drains, and adding a bike path or sidewalks. Leaving this as a safety issue on the table is not. We need to address this and one opinion would be, (unintelligible) sidewalks and I'd like the next one to be to plan the work and work the plan...sit down and I'm willing to sit down with the city, Planning Commission, Safety Council; I have 38-years of construction management business that I can, I'd certainly be willing to offer my assistants of anyway I can to make this go forward with the city; and that's all I have, thank you very much.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Jeff. I'm sure we'll look...thank you very much.

(Applause)

Mr. Kaminski – And Matt, just a quick comment too. We did a great job on Surrarrer Park; which was awesome. It increased the walkability, or it didn't increased walkability, it increased the demand for people to walk down Whitney and other streets there. So, to Jeff's point, you know, we have increased the foot traffic without having sidewalks to get there. So, I echo exactly what he was saying about the safety concerns. Yes.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you. Next signed up we have Glenn Moenich.



**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Glenn Moenich, 10318 Stamford Court, Strongsville, OH: Moenich, actually...

Mr. Schonhut – Oh, I'm sorry.

Mr. Moenich – It's close enough. Yes, Glenn Moenich, I live at 10318 Stamford Court here in Strongsville. I want to talk about the Thin Blue flag issue; but, I do want to echo what Jim said about the sidewalks. I drive up and down Whitney Road about three or four times a week and it definitely is a safety issue; especially with the increase in the merchants there. It's more and more people who want to walk or whatever; but, I agree with that. Now, as far as the Thin Blue flag issue is concerned, I just want to offer a real quick personal point of view about the flag. Real quick, as of next month, I will be a 60-year resident of this great city and I've seen a lot of things happen, a lot of changes and everything. Seen a lot of different Mayors and Mayor Perciak, yes, you're doing a great job. Thank you. Did I do that right?

(Laughter)

Mr. Moenich – Okay, but...

Mayor Perciak – Maybe I was your banker...

(Laughter)

Mr. Moenich – I think so.

(Laughter)

Mr. Moenich – Matter of fact, you were for our association. I'm still doing the business there with them. But, and that kind of brings up something, I, when it came time for my wife and I to build a new home. I wanted to build it here in Strongsville. I looked at other communities; but, Strongsville is my home. So, we built a house in Huntington Park Estates. And that's been going very well. I like to get involved, so I joined the Board of Trustees. And I just couldn't get away from it. I was on the board for 18-years and worked with the... headed up actually, the Block Watch committee. Worked with Detective William Feurestein, who went and retired on me. But, we got a lot of things done and I got a lot of good feedback from the residents and from Detective Feurestein as far as how low the crime rate was in our area due to, he said, a lot of things that we had done. So, with that I had worked quite a bit with the Strongsville police and they're always there with us. I got to know, the legendary, Mike Daymut. I helped him out when he was working with UPS, before he came in with the city. I fixed a prayer for his family and he was internally grateful. When time came, when I was on the board, he was right there for us all the time. And, I didn't quite step back fast enough and I became the President of the Homeowners' Association too. So, I had quite a bit of things to do with the city and with the police. And they were always there for us. Every single time. And, they always did a very good job; always very professional and as far as the term racist, I just can't believe that would be part of the Strongsville police. It just doesn't seem right at all. So, my request is that the flag remain; it's not taken down. I think that would do the city proud. It will keep our great and proud city looking very good. I just think it would be a very good thing to leave up. I don't think you should take it down, okay, thank you very much.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you.

(Applause)

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Mr. Schonhut – We have reached the end of our sign-in sheet; however, if there is anybody else who wishes to address council, you may do so at this time. We do still need your name and address for the record.

Steve Sidik, 20430 Sterling Way, Strongsville, OH: My name is Steve Sidik, S-I-D-I-K. I live at 20430 Sterling Way. My wife and I have lived there since '91; so, we've been around for a while. I have an opportunity to deal with the police on several occasions. I had a teenage son, for example.

(Laughter)

Mr. Sidik – Anyways, the first three speakers covered most everything I was going to talk about and did it much better. So, I will be happy to yield that time; but, I do have a couple of things that are different that I would like to make a comment about. One is, I have been a professional statistician and I am a statistician for 50-years, 50+ years. I know how to design experiments, I know how to study data and I can go into great length about how stupid the people were that came in and complained about the police; but I do have one point that, you don't need a PhD Statistician for, okay? They wanted to compare the racial breakdown of traffic stops to the racial of breakdown of Strongsville residents. Well, what one of the most fundamental things, that you don't need a PhD Statistician for is, taking my sample and compare it to a population. They got a match. Strongsville is a regional draw. We've got a big mall, we got great retail, we got people from all over. Well, I just happened to check this morning and I looked at it and I noticed that Cuyahoga County, that we're a part of, is 29.6% black; so I guess one could walk away from this thing saying that they complained that were 9.9% of the traffic stops were the blacks and the residents is 2.5% and I look at 29.6%, I say, "Why are we letting the blacks off so easy?" I mean, you could take that point. So, their whole approach on using statistics; which is just plain stupid and you don't need a PhD in statistics to know that. The other thing that I want to comment on; additionally, is related to the flag and I think we had so many people out there just recently that showed that the blue line, the Thin Blue line flag is a...something we used to honor fallen officers and their dedication to duty and so forth. Frankly, I believe that somebody trying to make that look like racism is racism itself.

Member of the audience – Thank you.

Mr. Sidik – I mean, they're looking at us and say, "Oh, well your all white people..."

(Applause)

Mr. Sidik – So, they're the racist, frankly. Okay? And what should you do about it? Number one is, they asked you to spend money and time to study the statistics of the Police Department. It's a waste of time. Tell them, "Go pound salt," okay? And, laugh at them; because they're being just plain foolish. Instead of getting all upset. Let them know that they're nothing more than a bunch of buffoons and I think that's a much more reasonable and useful reaction then even trying to defend yourselves. Because after all, we do have a victim, that we're innocent until proven guilty. Now, if somebody comes in with some real, solid incidents of outright racism, well we ought to deal with that and you folks have. All right? This namby-pamby, you hurt my feels stuff, well, go pound salt. And laugh at them on the way, okay? Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Schonhut – Is there anybody else that wishes to address Council this evening?

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (cont'd):**

Shannon Richey, 1986 Stokes Boulevard, Cleveland, OH: Good evening. I'm going to keep this brief. My name is Shannon Richey; I live at 1986 Stokes Boulevard in Cleveland. I may be the only Cleveland resident here, I apologize for keeping you a few more minutes. We like to get home before dark; but, anyway, I have a little bit a different take on things. You know, I told a few folks here that I used to be very non-political. I'm not right, I'm not left, keep on moving, I don't want to hear it. Doesn't make any difference. Why bother. But, you know, when the riots happened in Cleveland, when I say people start apologizing for loving their country and God and feeling like they were in the wrong and that they had to apologize and pacify these idiots on the left, I said, "I don't want to live in a world like that." And I said, the only way that's going to change is if people get off their beehinds, quit posting on Facebook where nobody is going to see it. Quit posting on Twitter, where it's gone in two seconds or you're going to get put in Facebook jail, or Twitter banned or whatever they do and come to City Council meetings because I may not live in Strongsville; but, I am here quite often. I love your community. The Metroparks, you've all been talking about. The retail. It's a great city and if anything, you know, these folks that are in, what is it, Indivisible Strongsville and the Swing Left that the one gentleman talked about, ANTIFA, BLM...I'm grateful for them. Because without them, and they're ridiculousness, people like me would still have our heads in the sand. And you know what, I'm glad they're here. Because you know what, they give me an opportunity to stand up and tell them, we're watching and we are not going anywhere, thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Schonhut – Is there anybody else that wishes to address Council this evening?

Mr. Kaminski – Matt, just a quick comment. I just want to thank everyone for coming out and supporting Strongsville Police. Shout out to my son, Jamie, James Jr., who's a police officer in North Olmsted keeping residents in that city safe. You know, it was a rough couple years; when you are parent of a police officer, you can see the stress that they go through and it's been a real rough couple years; but, I told him, the tides going to change and the communities are going to start coming out and supporting their police officers. I wish he was here tonight; but he's working. But, you know, thank you...

(Applause)

Mr. Schonhut – Well, you all are welcome to stay. You are also welcome to leave at this point. We're going to move into the portion of our meeting to read our ordinances and vote on them. It's not the most exciting part of the night by any means; but, you're certainly welcome to stay should you so choose; but, if you'd like to leave, now is your opportunity to do so.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Ordinance No. 2020-174** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE ADOPTED BY SECTION 1250.03 OF TITLE SIX, PART TWELVE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STRONGSVILLE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 19156 PEARL ROAD (all of PPN 394-31-007) IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FROM RESTAURANT-RECREATIONAL SERVICES (R-RS) AND GB (GENERAL BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATIONS, ALL TO PF (PUBLIC FACILITIES) CLASSIFICATION, AND IN ADDITION, VACANT LAND LOCATED ON PEARL ROAD NEAR ROCKGLEN DRIVE (all of PPN 394-32-001) FROM GB (GENERAL BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION TO PF (PUBLIC FACILITIES) CLASSIFICATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading and referred to the Planning Commission 12/21/20. Favorable recommendation by the Planning Commission 01/14/21. Second reading 01/19/21. Public hearing set 03/01/21. On hold per applicant's request (email dated 2/25/21).*

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2020-174 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2021-111** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING FOR RECORDING PURPOSES THE SUBDIVISION PLAT OF INDUSTRIAL LAND PARTNERS HOLDINGS, LLC, FOR PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 394-05-006, LOCATED AT OR NEAR LUNN AND PROSPECT ROADS, IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2021-111 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2021-112** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY ENGINEER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR STATE OF OHIO ISSUE 1 FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALBION ROAD AND WEBSTER ROAD SANITARY SEWER PROJECT IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2021-112 ADOPTED.**

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

**Ordinance No. 2021-113** by Mayor Perciak and all Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 5 (FINAL) FOR AN INCREASE IN THE CONTRACT PRICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND PERRAM ELECTRIC, INC., IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRONGSVILLE TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2021-113 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2021-114** by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR 2021 AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-102.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2021-114 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2021-115** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OF THE CITY TO CERTIFY TO THE FISCAL OFFICER OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY UNPAID PROPERTY MAINTENANCE NUISANCE ABATEMENTS FOR LEVY AND COLLECTION ACCORDING TO LAW, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2021-115 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2021-116** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE FISCAL OFFICER OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY TO ADVANCE CERTAIN FUNDS, BOTH GENERAL OPERATING AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, TO THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2021-116 ADOPTED.**

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

**Resolution No. 2021-117** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2021-117 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2021-118** by Mayor Perciak and all Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELEVEN (11) SETS OF STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING TURNOUT GEAR FOR USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY; 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 Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2021-118 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2021-119** by Mayor Perciak and all Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TIVITY HEALTH SERVICES, LLC FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SILVERSNEAKERS PROGRAM AT THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE WALTER F. EHRNFELT RECREATION & SENIOR CENTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2021-119 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2021-120** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A MONETARY DONATION FROM THE KIWANIS CLUB OF STRONGSVILLE TO BE USED TOWARDS MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE CASTLETOWN PLAYGROUND.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2021-120 ADOPTED.**

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

**Ordinance No. 2021-121** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH A RECYCLING COMPANY FOR CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF SOFT RECYCLABLES IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2021-121 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2021-122** by Mayor Perciak and all members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1420.02, 1420.04 and 1420.05 OF CHAPTER 1420 OF TITLE FOUR OF PART FOURTEEN, BUILDING AND HOUSING CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE TO CLARIFY AND UPDATE BUILDING VALUATION DATA AND MODIFY FEE TABLES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2021-122 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2021-123** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE NEEDLEPOINT BIPOLAR IONIZATION PROJECT FOR CITY-OWNED BUILDINGS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mr. Short 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 Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2021-123 ADOPTED.**

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:**

Application for Permit: TREX D1: To: City Barbeque, LLC. dba: City Barbeque, 17818 Royalton Road & Patio, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 09/07/21). Extension of time granted from ODLQ to 10/8/21.

Mr. Schonhut – Neal, quick question on the TREX; they're transferring that from another location that they own, correct?

Mr. Jamison – Correct. So, it's an existing business and they basically maintain that they need it to stay in business. So, the Mayor thought it was a good idea to help an existing franchise stay in business in the City. But it is, from one of their others in Columbus coming here.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you.

***Motion by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio to file a conditional objection to the application for permit based upon the applicant's lack of compliance with the City's Building, Health and/or Safety Codes; provided that when and if compliance is confirmed by the Building Department, the Clerk will withdraw the objection in Columbus. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.***

Application for Permit: TRFO C1-C2-D6: To: Midwest Convenience Inc. dba: Rebel 906, 21043 Royalton Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 09/13/21).

***Motion by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio to file a conditional objection to the application for permit based upon the applicant's lack of compliance with the City's Building, Health and/or Safety Codes; provided that when and if compliance is confirmed by the Building Department, the Clerk will withdraw the objection in Columbus. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.***

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

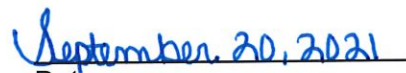
(None)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Schonhut adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.



Aimee Pientka, MMC  
Clerk of Council



Date



CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM


**Date:** September 3, 2021  
**To:** President and Members of Council  
**From:** Joseph K. Dubovec CPA, Director of Finance  
**CC:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak  
Neal M. Jamison, Law Director  
**Subject:** Certification of Funding for September 7, 2021 Council Meeting

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Since I will not be present at the September 7, 2021 Council meeting, I respectfully request that the "Certification of Funding" listed below be read at the meeting in my absence in order to confirm and document the funding in accordance with law.

**CERTIFICATION OF FUNDING**

Based upon careful review of the September 7, 2021 Council Meeting Agenda, I hereby certify that Funds will be made available for all Ordinances and Resolutions on such Agenda requiring certification of funding.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph K. Dubovec CPA  
Director of Finance

Date: September 7, 2021