

**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021.**

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in Council Chambers at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7:15 p.m.**

Present: Council Members: Matthew A. Schonhut, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, Annmarie P. Roff and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak and Law Director Neal M. Jamison.

Also Present: Assistant Clerk of Council Tiffany Mekeel.

Absent:

Council: James A. Kaminski

Administration: Finance Director Joseph Dubovec, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Building Commissioner Mike Miller, City Engineer Ken Mikula, Human Resource Director Steve Kilo, Service Director Joe Walker, Fire Chief Jack Draves, Police Chief Mark Fender, Communications and Technology Director David Sems and Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogre.

Council President Schonhut called the caucus to order at 7:21 p.m.

Mr. Short made a motion to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to the Council Office. It was seconded by Mr. DeMio to adjourn from open session into executive session [Article XI, Section 9, City Charter]. All members present voted aye and the motion carried. Council adjourned into executive session at 7:22 p.m. Also present from the Administration: Law Director Neal Jamison. The executive session concluded at 7:56 p.m. and reconvened into open session.

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

Public Safety & Health Committee: Chairman Short recommended suspension and adoption for Resolution No. 2021-169; a resolution accepting two donations of \$1,000.00 each from Swagelok Company to be used for education and training for the police and fire departments. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Resolution No. 2021-170; a resolution accepting a monetary donation from the Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc. to be used for education and training for community policing outreach.

Finance Committee: Chairman DeMio recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance Nos. 2021-171 and 2021-172; appropriations ordinances for the annual expenses and other expenditures of the city for 2021 and 2022, respectively. Suspension and adoption was also recommended for Ordinance No. 2021-173; amending the general salary ordinance for 2022.

Committee of the Whole: Mr. Schonhut recommended suspension and adoption for Ordinance Nos. 2021-174 and 2021-175; collective bargaining agreements between the city and the Teamsters Local Union No. 5 (service workers) and Teamsters Local Union No. 52 (building inspectors); through December 31, 2024.

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 20, 2021 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Schonhut called the meeting to order at 8:03 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, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, Annmarie P. Roff and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Mayor Thomas P. Perciak and Law Director Neal M. Jamison.

Also Present: Assistant Clerk of Council, Tiffany Mekeel.

Absent:

Administration: Finance Director Joseph Dubovec, Economic Development Director Brent Painter, Building Commissioner Mike Miller, City Engineer Ken Mikula, Human Resource Director Steve Kilo, Service Director Joe Walker, Fire Chief Jack Draves, Police Chief Mark Fender, Communications and Technology Director David Sems and Recreation and Senior Services Director Bryan Bogue.

Motion made by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio to excuse Councilman James A. Kaminski for just cause. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 6, 2021 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Mayor Perciak – We have three reappointments this evening, Mr. President.

Mayor's re-appointment and confirmation of Ken Evans to a four (4) year term on the City's Board of Zoning Appeals, effective January 17, 2022, and expiring on January 16, 2026.

Motion made by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio to confirm the Mayor's reappointment and confirmation of Ken Evans to a four-year term on the City's Board of Zoning Appeals, effective January 17, 2022 and expiring on January 16, 2026. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

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

Mayor's re-appointment and confirmation of Ken Dooner to a four (4) year term on the City's Civil Service Commission, effective February 1, 2022, and expiring on January 31, 2026.

Motion made by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio to confirm the Mayor's reappointment and confirmation of Ken Dooner to a four-year term on the City's Civil Service Commission, effective February 1, 2022 and expiring on January 31, 2026. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Mayor's re-appointment and confirmation of Jeanne Georgeadis to a four (4) year term on the City's Civil Service Commission, effective February 1, 2022, and expiring on January 31, 2026.

Motion made by Mr. Short, second by Mr. DeMio to confirm the Mayor's reappointment and confirmation of Jeanne Georgeadis to a four-year term on the City's Civil Service Commission, effective February 1, 2022 and expiring on January 31, 2026. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

SCHOOL BOARD – Ms. Kosek: Yes, the School Board met on, I'm going to mess up the date, on a Thursday that was after our last Council meeting. And had some... had some business; but, not a lot because they are coming to the end of the holiday. So, they will meet again at the beginning of January and I think they're dates are going to change to different...the second and fourth as Mr. Micko was telling me. The second and fourth Thursday as opposed to the first and third Thursdays; so, that will be new in the coming year.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you Ms. Kosek.

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. Schonhut, we did have Board meeting a couple Wednesday ago; but, I'm going to differ that report until our next Council meeting and we do not have any current COVID number updates; so hopefully, by our next Council meeting, I will have that report and that concludes my report; but, I'll happily take any questions.

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

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Mr. DeMio: There nothing, ordinance or...wise on the agenda; but, I would like to see if the Law Director has an update for us on the demolition of the property on 82.

Mr. Jamison – So, we've sent the appropriate notice to the property owner and it's our anticipation that you'll have an ordinance for your consideration at the next meeting to authorize us to then file the appropriate litigation to then take the process to...to get the permission to raise the building; so, there's certain procedurally requirements we have to go through and make certain amounts of time which have...just like, I think today was the 30th day when we got service on them. So, we'll have something for Council to consider at the next meeting.

Mr. DeMio – Okay, I just encourage my colleagues to drive past the location on 82; close to Muraski's entrance of the school; but, on the opposite side of the street. To see the latest damage on that building and how it actually looks. We hope we can speed it up and demolish that and get that property updated the way it should. Secondly, Neal, I've had a couple complaints, I did leave a message, Mayor, just so you know with Mike Miller. We have a pole that's leaning in front of Boston Market. It's leaning towards the building and the parking lot. So, it's probably at a 45° angle. It looks like it got moved during the storm. So, if...

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

BUILDING AND UTILITIES (cont'd) – Mr. DeMio:

Mayor Perciak – He's on vacation, I'll tell...

(Multiple conversations)

Mr. DeMio – Okay, I left a message on his voicemail; so, if we can get that taken care of; but, outside of that, there's nothing before this body.

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Ms. Roff: I do not have anything tonight; but, I will happily take any questions.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Schonhut – There will be no report tonight.

FINANCE – Mr. DeMio: We have three ordinances before this body. The two are the normal ordinances we do, monthly or periodically. The last is the three percent, for the employees that will catch us up to what the Mayor and the Law Director and the Finance Department need us to do to get their raises in effect. Mayor, do you want to add to that?

Mayor Perciak – That is for the Teamsters Union for our Service Workers and for our Inspectors and for all the non-bargaining unit employees. As the Law Director has asked, we need a special Council meeting with the hope that we will have the Safety Forces and the Corrections Officers at the special Council meeting, have all the details worked out there. And, I think the Firefighters are meeting tomorrow evening and I've been told that the Police are meeting any day now, too and the Corrections Officers will also have everything to us by time the special Council meeting comes. And, as far as the appropriations ordinances, all's we're doing is shifting things from one calendar year into another and providing for the increase in salaries as per the collective bargaining agreements and for the non-bargaining employees. That ends my report, Mr. Finance Chairman.

Mr. DeMio – Mayor, you don't want to shut down the City then like they do in Washington?

Mayor Perciak – No, we don't do that here.

Mr. DeMio – We don't do that, okay I just want to make sure that's clear. And again, I just want to tell everybody that...

Mayor Perciak – Because we have people who cooperate here and a Council who cooperates. Unlike in Washington.

(Laughter)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

FINANCE – Mr. DeMio (cont'd): Mr. DeMio – Very true, very true. I just want to share with everybody that...just be extra careful right now. We...I'm just going to share with you my little life here...I know...I have so many people in my office that are sick. So, please, just be careful. It's, they close the building down at 2:30 today; our...the Juvenile Court got shut down. I know Kathy used to work with us there. It's a tough place to work on a good day; so, just be careful everybody. You've got a lot of beautiful kids there, and I know our Firefighters are doing their best to be safe too; so, just be extra careful right now. That's all I ask. If everyone could and that's it now. Now, Ann's getting a little laugh from the kids; maybe you guys should bring the children every time.

(Laughter)

Mr. DeMio – It would be a great event if we could have kids here every day. That closes my report.

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

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Schonhut: There's nothing this evening.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH – Mr. Short: Thank you Mr. Schonhut. We have two resolutions tonight. Both dealing with donations to our Police and Fire Departments. The first is 2021-169; for a donation, two donations of \$1,000.00 each; one to the Fire Department and one to the Police Department to be used for education and training from our friends at the Swagelok Corporation; so, they do that every year for our Police and Fire. So, the recommendation there is to suspend and adopt that. And then also, Resolution No. 2021-170; this is to accept a monetary donation from the Law Enforcement Foundation Inc., for our Police Department to be used for further education and training for community police outreach. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt. If we can accept both of those donations; so, that concludes my report; but, I'll happily take any questions.

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

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Mr. Kaminski:

Mr. Schonhut – Mr. Kaminski is not with us tonight; so we'll skip that.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Ms. Kosek: We have nothing on the agenda for recreation tonight; so that will end my report unless anybody has questions.

Mr. Schonhut – Any questions for Ms. Kosek?

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Schonhut: Two things on the agenda this evening. Ordinance No. 2021-174; this is authorizing the Mayor to enter into the collective bargaining agreement with our Service Workers. We also have Ordinance No. 2021-175; also authorizing the Mayor to enter into the collective bargaining agreement with our Building Inspectors. Recommendation on both of those is to suspend and adopt unless there's any questions.

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Thank you Mr. President. First of all, a thank you to the City Council; all the City employees, my Administration for getting us through a very difficult year and it appears an equally difficult year in 2022 if we don't start getting better health wise. Secondly, I want to thank everybody for the confidence that they have shown in our financial skills and our financial abilities in keeping our financial, or I should say our balance sheet with the highest amount of integrity. As the State of Ohio has certified and as all of you know, to maintain a Aaa bond rating is a full-time job. So, to each and every one of you who had something to do with it; to my Administration especially my Directors; thank you. Without your help we could not have achieved that. And lastly, a very Merry Christmas to everyone. To the Council members; to our staffs; to our residents; to our businessmen; and everybody who calls Strongsville home. Wishing you all the best for a blessed Christmas and a very, happy, healthy New Year. And that ends my report Mr. President at this time.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We appreciate it.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Mr. Dubovec:

Mr. Jamison – Sure. "Based upon careful review of the December 20, 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:

(None)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 2021-169 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TWO DONATIONS OF \$1,000.00 EACH FROM SWAGELOK COMPANY TO THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE TO BE USED FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE STRONGSVILLE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

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. 2021-169 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Resolution No. 2021-170 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A MONETARY DONATION FROM THE LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION, INC. TO THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BE USED FOR FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING OUTREACH.

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. 2021-170 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2021-171 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. 2021-148.

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. 2021-171 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2021-172 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR 2022.

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. 2021-172 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2021-173 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING GENERAL SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 2021-162 IN ORDER TO AMEND SECTION 6-003 OF ARTICLE 6 TO FIX THE COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN SALARIED AND HOURLY EMPLOYEES; AMEND SECTIONS 9-008, 9-010 AND 9-011 OF ARTICLE 9; REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; 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. 2021-173 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2021-174 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 52 (SERVICE WORKERS), AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS AND THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024, 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. 2021-174 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2021-175 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 52 (BUILDING INSPECTORS), AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS AND THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024, 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. 2021-175 ADOPTED.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

*Application for Permit: **TRFO D1-D2-D3-D3A-D6: To: Strongsville Wing Co. LLC, dba: Buffalo Wild Wings, 8465 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 12/30/21).***

There was no objection to this permit.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mr. Short – Mr. President, if we may, under Miscellaneous Business; now, go to the portion of the meeting for the recognition of our Council President and Councilman-At-Large Matthew A. Schonhut for dedication to the City...service to the City of Strongsville for the last nine-years as a Councilman. I'd like to turn it over to Mr. Mayor for a proclamation, I believe each of us at Council will have a few words for you, Mr. President. So, with that, Mr. Mayor, I'll turn it over to you first.

Mayor Perciak – I think I'm going to come up here, Matt so that...we can really...and, yeah, let that; who's up there, your little guy? Yes.

Mr. DeMio – Things to come Matt.

Mayor Perciak – Now he's happy. Are you with Uncle Matt now? Say yes. Okay.

Recognition of Councilman-At-Large Matthew A. Schonhut for his dedicated service to the City of Strongsville.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (cont'd):

(At this time, Mayor Perciak read the Recognition to Mr. Schonhut)

Mr. Schonhut – You can go ahead.

Mr. Short – Well, I'd say, I'd like to invite now, other members of Council would like to say something to Mr. Schonhut before we hear his farewell speech. Kelly? If you'd like to start.

Ms. Kosek – Sure. Matt, have had nothing but respect for you and you have been nothing but kind and generous with your time both teaching us how to be Councilmembers and also, when we had questions and certain folks were running against you; you were really kind then too. I, will say good luck; but you won't need it as you move forward with your business and your personal life; that I hope you will, and I know you will continue to be well seen in the community and at Council meetings to let us know when we're not meeting your standards; which are very high. And I hope that you continue to, I keep saying that there should be a place on Planning for you; so, I hope that someone hears me when I say that. So, thank you so much for all that you've done for this City and for us on Council.

Ms. Roff – Matt, the youngest of our whole group; but yet, somehow, the dad of the whole group. Keeping us in-line. Teaching us. Showing us how to do things with integrity and stand proud even if there's disagreements. You'll be missed and hope to see you back here someday. Sorry. But I do hope he does come back someday. I know that's probably not what you want to see; because I know how much time he puts into this. Thank you, Matt. Thank you for representing our City. Our Ward. And I don't know I should thank you for getting me into this mix; but, I know that you will be successful in anything you do.

Mr. DeMio – For you, I'm taking the mask off. Hope I don't get anybody sick. My whole building is sick. But, wasn't it Kathy, just the other day, Kathy Constantino, you said to me, "You've got to know the Schonhut's? Go see Butch Schonhut; give him a couple bucks and put the Christmas tree out." That's how I met the Schonhut's. That was how we used to do the square. Matt was helping that day when I handed you the check. And wasn't it the other day, you were on the swim team; and my kids were just starting. With your sister? And wasn't it just the other day, you were the Council rep and then I thought you were crazy; because you were taking on a long-standing member on Council; but, you hit the keys to what the residents needed. And you were successful. And the one thing you and I share, for sure; besides the love of the Condeni family; that you know I love dearly...is your heart. Your heart for this City. And I was so proud of you the first time, you were emotional. I remember it was a vote on Mr. Bedford and I thought that was your finest hour because it showed your heart and your brain. And I'm very proud to work with you. I'm very proud to say you're my friend. And I'm very proud of your parents; who raised a fabulous child; among many children, by the way. Including the grandkids; but we love you very much. We'll miss you dearly. There're no shoes that fill, you know, what you walk in for this City. And I do enjoy the battle you had with the Mayor the first couple years. It was actually quite enjoyable. It took off the pressure from others. But seriously, thank you so much. You're a good man. Stay that way.

Mr. Short – And then, one of our colleagues who's temporarily not on the Council; but served with you the longest, was elected the same time that you were, Mr. Jim Carbone; so, Jimmy, the mic is yours.

Ms. Roff – Take your shoes off, you're going to be here awhile. Relax.

(Laughter)

Mr. Carbone – Mayor, when you had mentioned in your proclamation to Matt about a devoted family behind him; I hope that you also thought you had me in mind.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (cont'd):

(Laughter)

Mr. Carbone – Because really, we came in together. We ran together at the same time. Matt for Ward 2; me for Ward 3 and it really blossomed into something great. I think in your eyes, it maybe blossomed first into two young cowboys coming in here.

Mayor Perciak – I think that's what I said.

Mr. Carbone – But really, it turned into a brotherhood between Matt and I. I'm so proud of you Matt. We had a lot of great years together on Council. We went through a lot over the 10-years; but one thing that we always stay consistent with was a song that sometimes you'd forward me and I'd forward you. We always stayed humble and we always stayed kind. My words to you my man, as a big brother, whatever your endeavors is in life; always stay humble and always stay kind. And remember, you always got a big brother here in Strongsville. Love 'ya man.

(Applause)

Ms. Pientka – Mr. Vice President? Oh, go ahead.

Mr. (Taylor) Hopkins – Say hi Uncle Matt.

Mr. (Michael) Hopkins – Uncle Matt.

Mr. (Taylor) Hopkins – We just want to say thank you for raising a great, great role model for our kids. And I greatly appreciate it. You're a role model for our City; even though we don't even live here; but, we look up to you. Our kids look up to you. Say, I love you Uncle Matt.

Mr. (Michael) Hopkins – Love... Matt.

(Applause)

Mr. Short – Go ahead.

Mr. (Butch) Schonhut – I think the Mayor and everybody else did a pretty good job summing up the history. The history lesson behind Matt. Going all the way back to 2010. One story that I like to tell is Matt being an 8th grader at St. Josephs and Johns school. He gets his acceptance letter to St. Ignatius High School and he tells me, "I don't want to go to St. Ignatius dad. I want to stay in Strongsville." He could've followed his brother to Ignatius. To a different community. Other friends outside the City. He chose to stay in Strongsville. He said, "I want to spend time here in the community. Serve the City." And here we, are 15, 16-years later. I think he's done a great job. I think as a family, I speak for everybody, we're proud of his accomplishments and as a City, I'd like to think we're very proud of him too as well. Thanks.
(Applause)

Mr. Short – Uh...

Ms. Pientka – Tiff would like to...

Mr. Short – Yes... Tiff, would you like to say a few words.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (cont'd):

Mrs. Mekeel – Okay. Changes are often bittersweet, and your departure is just that; so, instead today, I'm going to try to focus on the positive. Matt has been many things to me; a guide, a leader, a manager, a confidante, a role model, mentor, and friend. Working with you has been truly delightful and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity. Your leadership has been inspirational, and your time here has been a true gift and I'm grateful to have shared a part of my career with you. You have made a lasting impression on me and whether it was luck, fate, or something else that landed me under your leadership, I'll never know. What I do know is that I feel tremendously lucky to have worked with you. Matt, I hope that what comes next for you is as great as you are and if it will very allow our paths to cross again one day, I hope we do.

(Applause)

Ms. Pientka – Matt, when you came on. I'll never forget it. I think the first thought that went through my head was, "Oh my God, this is a first. I'm going to have a boss that can almost be my kid."

(Laughter)

Ms. Pientka – Almost. Almost. The best way I can describe you, I think, was this breath of life and energy and excitement that you brought to the Council. I love how you were able to take all the razing and joking from all of us here in stride; us older ones up here. It didn't take long though for you to earn our respect and show us the type of man that you are. All of us here tonight that serve, we take our Oath of Office very seriously. And Matt, from the bottom of my heart, you have served and fulfilled your Oath with a level of passion, commitment and sincerity that is beyond measure my friend. I know you leaving this position is not going to change who you are. At your core, you are one of the funniest, kindest, most caring and loving human being I know and I feel privileged and honored to have been able to serve under you. Thank you, Matt.

(Applause)

Mr. Short – Is there anybody else in the audience that would like to say a few words to departing President Schonhut.

Mr. Douglas – This is John Douglas, Strongsville Fire. I've never known to be like, very short with speeches. I can speak for probably four to eight hours at a time but I will keep it short; because I'm sure we all want to get on with our holidays and Matt, especially with you and your family. I do want to say, from behalf all the Firefighters, Matt, thank you for everything you've done for the City. And I say that to the Mayor, to all the Councilmembers, we all want to say thank you for everything you do; but, Matt, especially you...being...leaving us. We're going to miss you; but, thank you and good luck. That's it.

Mr. Schonhut – Thanks John.

(Applause)

Mr. Short – Is there anybody else before...

Mr. Jamison – Gordon, if I can say something.

Mr. Short – Oh Neal, go ahead. Yes.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (cont'd):

Mr. Jamison – I was just waiting for everybody. Matt, I want to thank you; since I first knew you six-years ago; my first experience with you is questioning the mileage on motorcycles and you've grown into a true leader of this body and this community and it's been an honor serving with you and thank you for your service. Thank you.

Mr. Schonhut – Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Short – Alright, is there anybody else? I'd like to take this opportunity as well, Matt; you know, when you came on the scene in 2011; I was kind of in politics and doing stuff in Strongsville. Didn't know who you were and then you got elected, I didn't really work with you a lot, until I got to Council and you know honestly, you even mentored me and helped me in the transition to Council. You were the willy veteran when I came on board. But really, you know, Neal kind of touched on it, what's impressed me the most is watching you grow from, you know, you know, you know...from a young kid to a young man who really has shoulder a lot of responsibility; both here at Council and through your business. And taking on growing, you know, your business and hiring people; but, truly, as everybody's touched on, you're love for the City. Your dedication here and your heart for it; which is why I don't think this is really a good bye. I think you're just taking some time off because I think your heart is here. I didn't even know the story, you dad...that you got into St. Ignatius and chose to stay here in Strongsville; which I think just shows your love for the City and where your true roots are. But, you know really for me, though overall, (inaudible) a friend. You know, so, I'm still going to bug you for stuff and to go hang out when you're in town and everything. But you really, truly, I wish you well. I know you'll be successful and you'll be back around; but truly you're our friend and we love you and we're going to miss you here; but your presences will still be felt. So, I would like to say though, on behalf of this Council, we do have a little gift, a departing gift for you. One that...maybe we should wait to see what we've got here for you but, we'll just keep that in the bag for public viewing later, but on behalf of this Council, we want to thank you and honor you for your service here in the City of Strongsville. We think you're going to enjoy that. We're going to miss you buddy.

(Multiple conversations)

Mr. Schonhut – I appreciate you. Thank you everybody. It will be tough for me to get through this; but, only because there's so many people here that have made me being here possible. The amount of hours that everybody put in to all the different campaigns. From Kathy Constantino leading me from the first one, when I had no idea what I was doing; my family had no idea what we were doing. Getting into politics, I think my mom and sister just saw it as an excuse to have a couple more parties that we called fundraisers. My family put in so many hours, from my dad putting up big signs and building parade floats and my whole family, my brother and my sister running through mailboxes, putting up literature and little flags all over the place and my mom doing the same and proof reading fundraiser invitations down to the "t" and getting in fights over what the correct pronunciation when, you know, we really didn't think it was going to matter that first go around. I really didn't think I had a chance and like I said, Kathy, you were a big part of that the first go around and I can't thank you enough for that and my family and through that, my family grew. As Jimmy alluded to. I actually called Jimmy my first election to tell him that he had grammar wrong in one of pieces of literature and that's how we got to know each other. And through that, it grew. His family, who's...a couple of his sisters and his daughter are here tonight, his family and my family are now all family. We go to different events together and hang out together and it's really great and Jimmy the reason why I met Nick over here, too; who's one of my business partners now. The world, it's funny how it all goes around and you know, you met more people. Hillary back there and with all the help you did and I said, "Hey, we got 5,000 pieces of literature to get folded, what can we do."

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (cont'd):

Mr. Schonhut (cont'd) - And you said, "I got it, don't worry," you know, and you always made it happen and it was great because this job became so much more than what you saw go on here tonight. This is the professional side of it; but, it's so much more than that to me. It was always about helping other people and I'll never forget 2014; 16569 Timberline. Houses flooded all over the City. I was standing in the basement of a guy by the name of Chuck Hoban; who has since passed away. He's 65-years old and I'm 23-years old and he's crying on my shoulder saying, "Matt, what are we going to do?" And, that's when I realized how important what we all do is and the impact that you can have on someone's life. And a relationship that you build there. Chuck passed away in, I believe in 2017 and his wife still called me three, four times a year. The house recently just transferred. She sold the house and she called me and said, "Hey, Matt. I want you to come over one more time and just stand in the driveway with me." And we did that for 20 minutes to a half hour and just talked. One last time and it's amazing the relationships you build and I'll never forget that one specifically had such a big impact on me knowing the impact that you can have on other people in this job. Beyond, I was lucky enough to work with three wonderful ladies over my time here. Leslie, who retired, six-years ago; who, back then I was, as the Mayor and Carbone alluded to the cowboy; so every time she knew that I called, she knew I was up to no good and she snarked and said, "Ohh what kind of fun are we getting into today?" And she taught me a lot. Leslie was here for a long time and I love here forever for that and Aimee stepped in and took over for her and she has been my rock through it all for sure and as always, picked up the phone whenever I call, and it's typically after hours and it doesn't matter what it is, and she's always been there for me, and I love you forever for that. And we're lucky enough after Leslie retired to be able to hire Tiffany over here who has my favorite office very to walk into, by the way. I tell her every time I walk in, "I just want to take a nap in here, it feels like home." But I love it, and Tiffany you've been excellent as well and I can't thank both of you ladies and Leslie enough for all the help over the years, no matter how ridiculous the question or the request was at the time. You guys are the ones that make us look good. So, we appreciate everything that you do. And that goes to you too Mayor and your whole team. Over the years, it's no secret that me and you had our fair share of not agreeing I would say. My first few years on Council and then, I think we finally figured it out and got on the same page and I've learned just a tremendous amount from you. Truly have. You've...even when we didn't necessarily see eye to eye, you were still always willing to sit down and talk and let's try to explain the situation or come up with a common solution and endless amounts of knowledge that I've gotten from you and understanding how to treat people too; because how you manage, not only the residents that approach you; but, everybody in your Administration; because you have great people along your side and that only happens because your great to them; so, I appreciate everything that you do. Worked with a lot of other great people on Council that are either no longer with us or just no longer sitting up here that have all been great. Joey, our family history, as you spelled out is as long as can be and obviously, you've been up here the longest out of anybody and we've learned...we've all learned a ton from you and we thank you for that. Gordo, could always count on you to meet me at Triv's after a meeting buddy, and I love 'ya forever for that. I'll love you forever for that.

Mr. Short – My wife's not...

(Laughter)

Mr. Schonhut – Now Annmarie holds a special place in my heart because she took over the Ward 2; which was my previous position and we don't call her Ann Roff in our family. Ann's name in our family is "Ann Slip Ramp," because that's how we got to know Ann. And when she calls, I hear my sister pick up the phone call and it's, "Hey Ann Slip Ramp, what's up?" That's quite literally what's she's referred to so, Ann, I'll always love you and obviously, so happy that we gotcha you to be on here after your passion for that issue and it continues to show and Kelly, obviously, we ran against each other on Council-At-Large racing the choices.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS (cont'd):

Mr. Schonhut (cont'd) - Very clear too...put you in her after Jimmy took over and Ward 3 was open and that choice has been nothing short of spectacular because you've been great. You're hearts in it and I appreciate it.

Mr. (Michael) Hopkins – Hello?

Mr. Schonhut – Wooo, that's pretty cool, huh? I want to thank my girlfriend for putting up with all this crap for the last five-years. Never loves to hear that hey, I've got another meeting or I've gotta go do this or I've gotta go do that...

Mr. (Michael) Hopkins – Hello?

Mr. Schonhut – So, thank you and I love you. Jimmy, you know, buddy we've been through so much and the phone call to you, when I called you, told you I wasn't running was definitely the hardest; because I knew it was going to break your heart and it was going to break mine too; but, and it is. It's a difficult thing to walk away from; but, it's been a great 10-years here. We've been together the whole ride, bud. I love you forever. But, I just want to thank everybody. Anybody that's every helped me. Anybody that has ever made me look good, at times when I needed you too. It's been great and I'm definitely miss it; but, I'll also enjoy certain parts of not having to deal with certain things; but...

Mr. (Michael) Hopkins – Hello?

Mr. Schonhut – So with that...

Mr. (Michael) Hopkins – Hello?

Mr. Schonhut – With that we'll let this one talk into the microphone once we adjourn this thing, I just...thank you everybody. I love you all and I really appreciate it. So, we are adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Schonhut adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.


Aimee Pientka, MMC
Clerk of Council


Date

CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO

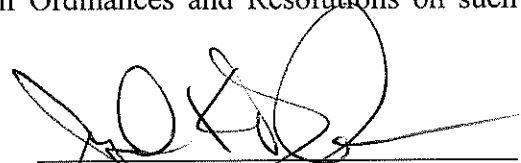
FINANCE DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

Date: December 20, 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 December 20, 2021 Council Meeting

Since I will not be present at the December 20, 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 December 20, 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: December 20, 2021