

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL STRONGSVILLE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, 18688 ROYALTON ROAD.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Carbone 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: James A. Kaminski, Annmarie P. Roff, Gordon C. Short, Joseph C. DeMio, James E. Carbone and Kelly A. Kosek. **Also Present:** Clerk of Council Aimee Pientka. **Administration:** Law Director Neal M. Jamison.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Carbone – Okay, there's no need for executive session. So, we're going to go to the portion of the meeting to appoint the new member. I will open the nominations to fill the vacancy for Ward 3 Council seat. Are there any nominations?

MOTION TO APPOINT NEW MEMBER:

Ms. Kosek – Yes. I want to thank the residents of Ward 3 for electing me to represent them and also supporting me in the past election for Council-At-Large. There are good and kind people in the City and it's always a pleasure to work with them and to insure our City's prosperity. So, I'm excited that I'm going to get the opportunity to represent the entire City. Representing Ward 3 has been a joy and I hope that we can find someone who is as passionate about representing them as I was. I also want to take a brief moment to thank each member of Council for voting unanimously to elect me to this Council, President Pro Tem position. From Mayor Perciak, who's not here; but, for him welcoming me into that role. It's an honor and a recognition that I greatly appreciate and I look forward to working to accomplish a lot for our residents this year. And with that I'd like to nominate Thomas Clark.

Mr. Carbone – Okay, Thomas Clark has been nominated. Anymore nominations?

Mr. DeMio – Yes, I would like to nominate Tobey Cook.

Mr. Carbone – Tobey Cook has been nominated.

Mr. Short – Umm, Mr. Carbone, I'd like to nominate James Nixon.

Mr. Carbone – James Nixon has been nominated. Are there any other nominations?

Ms. Roff – I would like to nominate Mr. Shrunck.

Mr. Carbone – Dr. Christine Shrunck has been nominated. Are there any other nominations?

MOTION TO APPOINT NEW MEMBER (cont'd):

(No comments)

Mr. Carbone – Hearing no more nominations, I will close the nominations. We have, Thomas Clark, Tobey Cook, James Nixon, Dr. Christine Shrunk. In light of all the nominations, I think it would be appropriate to have a second interview with those nominated; so that we can make an informed decision. Is there any discussion from Council?

Mr. DeMio – Just the...only discussion is what I asked our Law Director to talk about in...

Mr. Jamison – That will be under miscellaneous...

Mr. DeMio – Okay...

(Multiple conversations)

Mr. Jamison – This is for you to make comment about what Mr. Carbone just said...

Mr. DeMio – I understand...but I was...

Ms. Roff – I would just like to thank everybody that came out to do this. I know all too well how hard it is and to come in front of everybody and not know what the outcome is going to be. It's nerve-racking and can be somewhat heartbreaking and also, a relief, if...in some ways too. Thank everybody for coming out. Everybody did a fantastic job. I thank you guys.

Mr. Kaminski – I'd like to echo Ann's comments as well. Thank you for participating in the process. Really, thank you.

Mr. DeMio – I do want to share, you know, I've been through this system, I don't know how many times between Ken Dooner, Jimmy left one time, we had to appoint Duke Southworth, Scott Maloney, Kelly Kosek, Ann Roff, and they're even the Tom Rakowsky, I can go back to those days. Wally Ehrnfelt came in and tried to help us one time navigate...and I want to tell you something, this was the best, single group I have ever seen and I mean it sincerely. Each one of you had a special and unique point to what you said up there and what was on your resume. Never forget why you wanted to do this, please. Never forget that. For each one of you; because, I was the underdog in the old days. So, just never forget. I'm very proud of each one of you. Not many people come up here to volunteer their time and their family gets involved with this too. Whether you like it or not. And bless y'all, and I mean it. Sincerely. Thank you.

Ms. Kosek – So, I'm just going to make sure that everyone on Council is comfortable with just moving forward with a second interviews for the individuals who were nominated; as opposed to all the candidates; because they all were incredibly strong and I know that I really struggled with the nomination process this evening. It seems like we all did, because of the number of nominations that we had. So, I just want to make sure that there is any discussion that we want to have about that? Or do we just want to move forward with just four or do we want to consider inviting everyone back for second interview.

Mr. Carbone – Even though it's hard for me to say this; because, you know, Strongsville is a big town; but we're all neighbors and we're all close, I know everybody and I met somebody new through this process; but, other than the one person, I have a relationship with you guys. I mean, I've known you throughout the community.

MOTION TO APPPOINT NEW MEMBER (cont'd):

Mr. Carbone (cont'd) – I've seen you and I was on that side many years ago and I know how it feels; but, with that being said, I think, these four stood out and I think it would be my opinion to move forward with the four...

Mr. DeMio – I stand corrected Jim, I remember you didn't get the...
Mr. Carbone – Yes...

Mr. DeMio – That's right. God bless; that was a long time ago. Gotcha.

(Multiple conversations)

Mr. Short – I concur Mr. Carbone. I think it was an outstanding group; but the process is the process and I think we need to move forward with the four. To continue to find who will be appointed.

Mr. Kaminski – And I am in that same camp as well. Yes, to do the four.

Mr. Carbone – I will entertain a motion for a second round of interviews; date to be determined at a later time.

Ms. Kosek motioned that Council conduce a second interview with candidates who were nominated this evening at our special Council meeting to be held at a date to be determined, seconded by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Mr. Carbone – We will have a special Council meeting next week; a date will be determined as soon as possible.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mr. Carbone – Under miscellaneous, our Law Director, Mr. Jamison.

Mr. Jamison – Yep, thanks Mr. Chairman. I've instructed the members of Council to not talk to anyone, who's a candidate or anyone trying to contact them in support. I think we want to maintain the integrity of the process; so, if you attempted to call them, text them, email them; I've instructed them not to talk or respond and I would ask that the candidates respect that advice. We want to maintain the integrity of this being an open process and done according to the law, thank you.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you, Mr. Jamison. Before we...we have no other business; but, before we adjourn, we will be here after the meeting if any of the candidates who didn't make the cut, would like to talk with us, have any questions; we'll be available for you. With that being said, meeting adjourned.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



Tiffany Mekeel, MMC
Assistant Clerk of Council

January 18, 2022
Date of Approval