

SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024.

The Council of the City of Strongsville met in the Caucus Room at the Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chamber, 18688 Royalton Road, on **Monday, June 3, 2024, at 6:45 p.m.**

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

Council President, James Carbone, called the caucus to order at 6:49 p.m.

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

Building & Utilities Committee:

Mr. Carbone – Resolution No. 2024-085; this is just to advertise for a request for qualifications for design services in connection with the Strongsville Municipal Energy Conservation Building Improvement project.

Mr. Jamison – So what this is, is that we are going to undertake a project for all municipal buildings to increase the efficiency for heating, air conditioning, windows, and lighting to try and save money in that sense. This is under the state statutes. This will allow us to bring companies in. We vet them and then they'll do an energy audit in every building and come back to us with the recommendation of how we can improve, like I said, with the heating, air conditioning, lighting, doors and windows, to make the buildings more efficient and save us money in the long run. This is a project that we are undertaking, and this is the first step in doing that.

Mr. Carbone – We've done...I mean over the years, the recreation center for instance with LED lighting, we've done pieces of this in a lot of our public buildings. We just keep on adding to become more green, more efficient, and save taxpayer money.

Mayor Perciak – Not only that, it allows us to look at...really the savings from this should offset what we are going to have to spend...should, what we are going to have to spend for the debt service. Did I say that right?

Mr. Jamison – Yes Mayor, so essentially the savings you get from getting the lower cost, we use to pay down the debt that's incurred to pay for this. That's the attractive feature of this, that we are not necessarily going more into debt to do this; but the money we save will help pay for that.

Mr. Carbone – Was that the same...as far as the LED lighting, was that a break-even that we know of?

Mayor Perciak – Most of that, at that time, were some NOPEC grants. That was just 100% right out the door. This is not. This is tying in, again, with The Town Center project so that we can get all this wrapped up and be done.

Mr. Jamison – This is something new, though. This is something a couple of other communities have done. North Royalton did it not too long ago, and some other communities in the area. It's really a chance for us to try to improve each building, make it more energy efficient, and save money in the long run.

Mr. Carbone – Sounds good, the recommendation is that we suspend and adopt this.

Public Safety & Health Committee:

Chairwoman Roff – I have three ordinances. I have Ordinance No. 2024-086; this is to go out and enter into a contract for repair and refurbishing of one of the city's fire trucks without public bidding. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt. I have Ordinance No. 2024-087; this is to file for financial assistance for our ambulance transportation...for a vehicle, correct?

Mr. Jamison – It's a grant to try to get an ambulance. We have applied for it, and those aren't cheap; so if we are successful, that will help defray the cost of getting a new ambulance.

Ms. Roff – For a portion of it? Okay.

Mr. Jamison – Actually, for the whole thing.

Mayor Perciak – The grant is for \$1,541,000.00

Ms. Roff – Nice...okay, then I have Ordinance No. 2024-088; that is to purchase and repair services for the HVAC program at the police station. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt for that.

Mr. Carbone – Any questions for Ms. Roff?

(No questions)

Recreation & Community Services Committee:

Chairman Spring – Thank you, the first one we have is Ordinance No. 2024-089, which is a grant that we received from the Ohio Department of Aging, which gave it out to the City of Strongsville, for \$40,000.00. Great job Mayor, for that senior center. That will be going towards helping with the Healthy Aging and Grant program. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt.

Mr. Carbone – Mayor, we are very appreciative of the \$40,000.00. Isn't it normally \$100,000.00 that we get?

Mr. Jamison – This is in addition to that.

Mr. Carbone – Okay.

Mr. Jamison - This is additional monies that floated to the county and were being awarded to us in addition to our normal \$100,000.00.

Mayor Perciak – We never say no when former Councilman Gallagher or County Councilman Gallagher sends dollars our way.

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee:

Chairwoman Kosek – Yes, I have one in each committee. For Planning, Zoning, and Engineering I have Ordinance No. 2024-090. This is a petition to rezone the permanent parcel that is on the corner of Royalton Rd. and Prospect Rd., which is about...like 0.9...a little bit less than an acre.

Mr. Jamison – Yes.

Ms. Kosek – It is zoned R1-75 (One Family 75) and they would like to rezone that to local business (LB). If we could suspend and adopt that, so that we can send that to the Planning Commission...just send it to Planning Commission. We don't suspend and adopt that.

Mr. Jamison – Right.

Ms. Kosek – We'll just send that to Planning Commission today.

Mr. Jamison – First reading.

Ms. Kosek – Yes, first reading.

Mayor Perciak – The rest of that corner is commercial.

Mr. Jamison – Correct.

Ms. Kosek – Right, it is just to enlarge the parcel...

Mayor Perciak – Exactly.

Ms. Kosek - ...that is already zoned local business.

Mayor Perciak – Thank you.

Public Service & Conservation Committee:

Chairwoman Kosek – We've got Resolution No. 2024-091; this is to allow the Mayor to advertise for consulting services related to the wastewater facilities. Mayor, I don't know if there's...is this a...sorry, Neal?

Mr. Jamison – What's going on is that the last contract was entered into ten years ago. They had a five-year contract with an option for five more years; and that's expiring this fall. This is to get proposals from different companies who might want to run our wastewater treatment facilities. We will see who applies, then go through that process and come back to Council, hopefully in the meeting of September, to award the contract to whoever.

Ms. Kosek – Perfect, and that was just my question. That was it just the end of the contract life, or if there was an issue?

Mr. Jamison – Yes, that's correct.

Ms. Kosek – Okay, so that would be a suspend and adopt. That's all I have.

Mr. Carbone – Anything else for Ms. Kosek?

(No questions)

Mr. Carbone - Anything for the administration while we have a couple of minutes?

Other Business:

Mr. Jamison – If I could just let Council know, that for the home on Blazey Trail, we filed the appropriate litigation last week to bring that house into compliance with the zoning. We will keep you posted on that.

Mr. Carbone – Thank you.

Ms. Roff – Any updates on our other...(Property on Howe Road).

Mr. Jamison – So, we are getting the contractor to come back and keep going.

Ms. Roff – It kind of seems like we've taken a little bit of a backstep over there. Not us, but the property owner.

Mr. Jamison – We're getting... 880 Construction Company, Inc. was the outfit that did the initial work back in March / April. We are just getting a sense of their schedule to get them back, and then follow up with what we did in the spring.

Ms. Roff – Thank you, Neal.

Mr. Jamison – You're welcome.

*****Please note – The legislation discussed above on tonight's agenda can be viewed in entirety at: <https://www.strongsville.org/government/city-council/minutes-agendas> by clicking on the June 3, 2024 agenda link. *****

MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024 IN THE MIKE KALINICH SR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President James E. Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. 2023-182.

ROLL CALL:

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

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on May 20, 2024 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS, CONFIRMATIONS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

(None)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Clark: Thank you President Carbone, no official report, but two upcoming dates. On June 18, 2024, there will be the business lunch; and on June 24, 2024, will be our next Economic Development Committee meeting. Mayor, anything to share? Any highlights from last week's meeting with the realtors?

Mayor Perciak – It really was quite informative; it was a dialogue. We were happy to learn as to the number of homes that were sold in Strongsville...and cash deals. What the buyer is looking for in today's market, the financing, and other things. We had a great dialogue. It went on for about an hour and a half, at least. We learned a lot, they learned a lot; it was good. It was a great dialogue between us and them.

Mr. Clark – So, confirmation that despite high interest rates, Strongsville is still a great place to live; and people still want to move in here quickly.

Mayor Perciak – That is correct.

Mr. Clark – Thank you Mayor, nothing additional unless there are any questions.

(No questions)

Mr. Carbone – Thank you, Mr. Clark.

BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Ms. Roff: I have one for Building and Utilities. That is Ordinance No. 2024-085; this is for the Mayor to advertise for bids to design and connect with the rest of our buildings for the Center of Town project for energy conserving and lighting, correct? Did I put that right Neal? I know I stepped out when you...

Mr. Jamison – It's more for all the municipal buildings in the city for an energy conservation project. It's really to get proposals of qualifications from different vendors; and then we will vet them, and come back to Council later after they do an energy audit. This is the first step in trying to make our buildings more energy efficient and save the city money in the long run.

Ms. Roff – Thank you.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH – Ms. Roff: I have three for Public Safety and Health. I have Ordinance No. 2024-086; and that is for us to enter into a contract to purchase, without public bidding, to repair and refurbish a Strongsville fire truck. We will need all seven for that then, correct?

Mr. Jamison – Yes.

Ms. Roff – Ordinance No. 2024-087 is to have the Mayor enter into or file a grant for an ambulance for a vehicle here in Strongsville. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt. Then, Ordinance No. 2024-088 is to enter into a contract for the purchase of HVAC maintenance and repair services for the police station. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Mr. Spring: Thank you Mr. Carbone, we have Ordinance No. 2024-089; that is an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and the director of the Recreation and Senior Services to accept a grant of an additional \$40,000.00 through the Ohio Department of Aging, which is a great thing for our senior citizens. The recommendation is to suspend and adopt.

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Spring: For the school board, they had a meeting on May 23, 2024. I do have a couple of names that I want to read off for honorees. It was the end of the school year; so they had a lot of people they wanted to recognize. Through the “Reflections” art contest, the contest Chair, Katie Drake, had honored a couple of students. The ‘2024 National Award of Excellence in Visual Arts’ went to Ewan Kerns, as well as another award in Visual Arts in the intermediate division. He was also a “State Award of Excellence” winner, and was a “2023 Honorable Mention” as well. Another award winner was Claire Palmer for the “State Honorable Mention for Visual Arts.” Also, Ashoka Kerns for the “2023 State Award of Excellence in Film.” Congratulations to those students. Then also, they awarded DECA national qualifiers. These are students who went to the Nationals to compete in business and marketing. I will just read their names off really quick: Josh Byers, Ryan Byers, Logan Ensign, Ryan Giera, Jackson Griffin, William Grozen, Liam Hoftyzer, Peyton Kaufold, McCalister Klinzing, Emily Majernik, Parham Oswald, Luke Peterson, Alex Polenske, Michael Rose, Haylee Smith, Anthony Spronz, Luka Stepanovich, and Matthew Wilkinson. I just wanted to read their names off because it was a pretty big deal that they got these awards. Thank you for allowing me to read all of their names. Also, they discussed at the meeting...there was an ongoing discussion on the new drug testing policy for students at the high school and middle school. So, if you have thoughts on that, please let your school board members know. That will complete my report.

Mr. Carbone – Okay, thank you very much.

FINANCE – Mr. Short:

(No report)

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short: We have not had a board meeting since our last Council meeting; however quickly, just some updates for the monthly report. Back in May, the foundation...the system did have its annual Tiara event to raise funds through the foundation which launched its new logo and name, which is now the Southwest Health Foundation. This will be used to strengthen community presence and reinforce the brand "Southwest General" across the communities. It has been part of Southwest General Hospital for 38 years and is now under a new name, "The Southwest Health Foundation". Also, at that event, they did announce a generous donation of more than a million dollars from Dr. Kalish Kedia. Am I saying that right, Mayor? That will be used to update the lobby in the atrium there which will be known as the "Kedia Family Atrium." As well as, they will rename the main campus emergency department after him as the "Kedia Center for Emergency Medicine." They expect to have that completed by the fourth quarter of this year. Just on the business front, several performance improvement initiatives are being implemented across the organization to improve operating efficiency, enhance revenue, and grow services. As always, in this post-Covid era, we are worried about employee retention and hiring. The organization has had overall...employee retention has been good. The first year employee turnover and our end recruitment has remained consistent for the year, but higher than the goal. The system is finding and attracting good quality talent; but more importantly, keeping it there at Southwest General. That concludes my report, but I will happily take any questions.

(No questions)

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Kaminski:

(No report)

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Ms. Kosek: Yes, for Planning, Zoning, and Engineering we have Ordinance No. 2024-090. This is an application to rezone a piece of a parcel that's actually less than one acre that is adjacent to local business. It will be rezoned from R1-75 to Local Business; and this is at the corner of Royaltown Road and Prospect Road. We will refer that to the Planning Commission. A note for everyone, Planning Commission is normally on Thursday, but it is going to be on Tuesday this week because there was some conflicts with folks. I don't think that changes for anybody, but just so that everyone is aware.

Mr. Jamison – I think it's next week, Kelly.

Ms. Kosek – Next week? I thought it was this week.

Ms. Pientka – June 11th.

Ms. Kosek – June 11th, I'm sorry. Yes, Tuesday; anyhow, it's normally on Thursday, and it's going to be on Tuesday. That's all I have for Planning, Zoning, and Engineering.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Ms. Kosek: For Public Service and Conservation, we have Ordinance No. 2024-091. As we discussed in caucus, the administrative services for the wastewater treatment plant is up after ten years. We are asking to go out to basically bid to get...to see if we can get some good folks that would like to help us with our wastewater treatment plant. If we can suspend and adopt that, that would be great.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd):

Mr. Carbone – Sounds good, thank you very much.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Mr. Carbone

(No report)

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

MAYOR PERCIAK: Yes, one quick item is our Town Center project. As you can see, in the roundabout, it was paved. We have every intention of having that ready and opening that for the Rib Burn-Off. We are on our way, we are moving with that and the weather is cooperating; so, we hope to have all that open and ready for the Rib Burn-Off. There will be no parking further down. We're going to have to be careful as what we're doing around there, and how we have things blocked off, because of all the construction. The idea is to be able to maintain traffic on the new circle and get cars in and out; so that's a plus. That's all I have tonight.

Mr. Carbone – It's very exciting. I had the opportunity...my son had his Safety Town instructor class on Saturday. He's had an opportunity to spend a lot of time there, and it's looking great.

Mayor Perciak – It's all going on now; it's good, and thank him.

Mr. Carbone – Absolutely.

Mayor Perciak – We really need these kids to help us, thank you.

Ms. Kosek – Mayor, thank you because Sawyer is there right now and he's enjoying himself.

Mayor Perciak – That's a good thing, thank you.

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

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

(None)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 2024-085 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGN SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE MUNICIPAL ENERGY CONSERVATION AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2024-085 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-086 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT OF A CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT AERIAL TRUCK, WITHOUT PUBLIC BIDDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-086 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-087 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE OHIO OFFICE OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, IN CONNECTION WITH FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OHIO AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION IMPACTED INDUSTRY PROGRAM, TO BE UTILIZED BY THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT; RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE MAYOR'S ENTERING INTO AN OHIO AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION IMPACTED INDUSTRY PROGRAM SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT; FURTHER AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-087 ADOPTED.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Ordinance No. 2024-088 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN OHIO DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF HVAC MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES FOR USE BY THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS FACILITIES; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-088 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-089 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND DIRECTOR OF RECREATION & SENIOR SERVICES TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF SENIOR AND ADULT SERVICES, THROUGH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGING; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF ANY REQUIRED DOCUMENTS RELATED THERETO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-089 ADOPTED.

Ordinance No. 2024-090 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 VACANT LAND AND REAL ESTATE LOCATED NEAR ROYALTON ROAD AND PROSPECT ROAD IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FROM R1-75 (ONE FAMILY 75) CLASSIFICATION TO LB (LOCAL BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION (PART OF PPN 393-15-028), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Placed on first reading and referred to the Planning Commission for their recommendation.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (cont'd):

Resolution No. 2024-091 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR QUALIFIED CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY'S WASTEWATER FACILITIES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Motion to adopt by Ms. Kosek, second by Ms. Roff.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2024-091 ADOPTED.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

(None)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

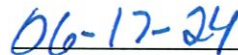
(None)

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Carbone adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.



Marialena Beach
Council Secretary



Date