

**SUMMARY OF CAUCUS DISCUSSION AND MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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, September 16, 2024, at 6:45 p.m.**

**Present: Council Members:** James E. Carbone, Gordon C. Short, 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.

Absent: Councilwoman Annmarie P. Roff

Council President, James E. Carbone, called the caucus to order at 6:50 p.m.

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

Public Service & Conservation Committee:

Chairwoman Kosek - Yes, we have two for Public Service and Conservation. We have Ordinance No. 2024-121, which was on the agenda at the first meeting in September. This is to authorize the Mayor to hire legal counsel related to the property damage that was incurred at the Westwood Lift Station on Westwood Drive. I think that we need...

Mr. Jamison - We need...to suspend, we need five (councilmembers), and for it to go into effect we need five.

Chairwoman Kosek - Yes.

Mr. Jamison - Jim, based on the last meeting, said he was going to abstain as well as Ann; so I need all of you to suspend and adopt tonight so we could go forward with that.

Mr. Carbone - I will be abstaining due to a family member who is employed there.

Chairwoman Kosek - Okay, we will be fine as long as everybody else is good. Does everybody else have any issues or any questions?

(No questions)

Chairwoman Kosek - Ordinance No. 2024-135; this is to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract for the operations, maintenance, and management services of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. What is the name? It starts with a "V".

Mr. Jamison - Veolia - they have been doing it the last ten years. We put it out to bid and they were the only company to put a bid in. We've been very happy with their service for the ten years; and we feel that this will also provide continuity in the service for our treatment plants as well.

Mayor Perciak - That's the successor to American Water.

Chairwoman Kosek - Oh, okay...Veolia Water and North America-Central. It's a fixed fee not to exceed about \$2.57 million, is that right?

Mr. Jamison - Yes, for the first year.

Chairwoman Kosek - For the first year...and it's a five-year contract?

Mr. Jamison - Yes.

Chairwoman Kosek - Okay, just out of curiosity, what is the...how much did it go up from the last contract?

Mr. Jamison - There's a complicated formula that a consultant has developed over the course of time. A large part of it is based on utility costs.

Chairwoman Kosek - Okay.

Mr. Jamison - That's what drove the increase this time, particularly the electrical rates have gone up. That's really what's driving this.

Mayor Perciak - I think it was ten percent, Neal.

Chairwoman Kosek - Ten percent?

Mr. Jamison - Pardon me?

Chairwoman Kosek - Ten percent?

Mr. Jamison - Ten percent, yes. A large part is due to the electrical rates going up.

Chairwoman Kosek - Well we certainly all understand inflation and how all that works. Does anybody have any problems with that, and we just suspend and adopt?

(No comments)

Chairwoman Kosek - Great.

Planning, Zoning & Engineering Committee:

Chairwoman Kosek - There are three for Planning, Zoning and Engineering. Ordinance No. 2024-136 is to change the ordinances related to the certain establishments as conditional use permits in certain districts. I know that we did receive a memo from the legal department regarding tattoo services. I don't know Neal if...did you guys...have you already...did you talk about it at the last meeting? I'm just not sure that you...

Mr. Jamison - We did not. I just said it was coming just for purposes of tonight. This is in large part driven by the increase in the industry of what are called "permanent make-up procedures" that are more prevalent around. The way our code is written right now, that "permanent make-up" is defined in our code as a tattoo just because of the process that's involved. Under our existing code, tattoo establishments are restricted to restaurant and recreational service (R-RS). That became a challenge for some places wanting to come in to provide this service, particularly salons. Permanent make-up is not just a cosmetic reason; there are also medical reasons for people who are cancer victims or survivors. Also, for people with birth deformities like a cleft lip and also for people who suffer from skin conditions.

Mr. Jamison (cont'd) - My understanding in looking this up, even people who suffer burn injuries are able to now get these procedures done. We thought that the best way was to keep regulating them so that we make sure that they are in compliance with all of the appropriate licenses that they have to get. We felt that we just would allow tattoo establishments in the general business (GB) and local business (LB) districts to give them more opportunities to come into our community.

Chairwoman Kosek - This is the first reading tonight, correct?

Mr. Jamison - Yes, first reading and getting referred to the Planning Commission. Most likely, the public hearing will be the second meeting in November.

Chairwoman Kosek - Okay, thank you for the explanation. Ordinance No. 2024-137, would authorize and consent to Columbia Township preparing and submitting an application for Issue 1 money related to the resurfacing of North Marks Road from Snell Road to Sprague Road. Does anybody have any questions about that? That seems like a no-brainer to me. Tom is agreeing, and in ward 3, we are all agreeing.

Mr. Jamison - This is...we've done this before with Columbia Station. This is to do a joint application with Issue 1 money to get some money to resurface Marks Road.

Chairwoman Kosek - Fantastic; okay so we will suspend and adopt that please. Then, Ordinance No. 2024-138; these are change order nos. 12 - 14 to increase the cost associated with the Prospect Road Storm Sewer Improvement project. I think if I recall, it's about \$96,000.00 in additional money this time around. Obviously, that's a project that is important to get completed for our residents over there on the north end. I'd ask that we suspend and adopt that unless anyone has any questions.

(No questions)

Chairwoman Kosek - That's all I have Mr. Carbone.

Public Safety & Health Committee:

Mr. Carbone - Thank you, due to Ms. Roff's absence I will take over Public Safety and Health and then I will go right into Committee of the Whole. We have Ordinance No. 2024-139; this is to enter into a State of Ohio administrative services contract to purchase one (1) new Sutphen Stock #568 Custom Pumper Chassis with related vehicle modifications to the tune of \$995,300.00. The recommendation this evening is to suspend and adopt.

Finance Committee:

Chairman Short - Thank you Mr. Carbone, we have two ordinances tonight. The first is Ordinance No. 2024-140; this is to update the annual appropriations for expenses for the city to our 2024 budget. There are a total of twelve items; and I'm just going to review the most material ones here. You all should have received the memorandum from our finance director. The biggest of these is an increase of \$1 million dollars for the purchase of the pumper truck as approved by Ordinance No. 2024-139. These funds will be moved into the Fire Truck account to be paid in 2025. There is a \$650, 000.00 increase in the Drainage Levy Fund for the Progress Park Culvert.

Chairman Short (cont'd) - Then, \$400,000.00 is being transferred from the General Fund to the Earned Benefits Fund to ensure that benefits remain sufficient for future retirement costs for city employees that are leaving the service of the city. Are there any questions regarding any of these annual expense increases for the year?

(No questions)

Chairman Short - The total amount of all twelve items is \$2,419, 444.00. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt. We have Resolution No. 2024-141; actually, this is a resolution I apologize not an ordinance. This is to just accept the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission...by the county to certify and levy amounts to the county fiscal officer. We do this every year with the county. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt. Are there any questions on that?

(No questions)

Chairman Short - Hearing none, that concludes my report.

Committee of the Whole:

Mr. Carbone - We have Ordinance No. 2024-142; this is a purchase agreement to buy property located at 21500 Lunn Road. That is West Lunn Road next to Volunteer Park.

Mr. Jamison - Right, so because Ms. Roff is not going to be here tonight, this should go into first reading. Under the Charter, we need all seven (councilmembers) to approve any property purchase. Hopefully, all seven will be here next time so we can get this passed. We had originally had it scheduled to close the middle of October. Now, we will have to do an amendment to get that pushed to a later date.

Mr. Carbone - That will be placed on first reading.

Other Business:

Mr. Carbone - Thank you, and under Communications, Petitions, and Claims we do have an application for a liquor permit.

***\*\*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 September 16, 2024 agenda link. \*\****

**MINUTES OF THE STRONGSVILLE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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, 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.

Absent: Councilwoman Annmarie P. Roff.

*Motion made by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Kosek to excuse Councilwoman Roff for just cause. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.*

**COMMENTS ON MINUTES:**

The minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on September 3, 2024 were approved as submitted.

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

*Katie Drake, Strongsville High School PTA Coordinator, along with students from Strongsville High School, were present to discuss Strongsville Homecoming and the high school's Leadership Group.*

Mayor Perciak - Mr. President, I think there are some young people here that would like to be heard at this time.

Mr. Carbone - Sounds good. They are being represented by Ms. Katie Drake who is a rock star... so involved in our schools, does a lot of great things, and gives a lot of great opportunities. Take it from here.

Ms. Drake - That is very sweet of you. My name is Katie Drake and I am the coordinator I would say for Mr. Wingler's leadership group. It is an honor to be able to be in front of you guys. Thank you for making time, I appreciate it. I have some amazing kids behind me; and I just wanted them to be able to come and share their vision for you about this parade and about all the things we are doing to bring the spirit back into the community. Every year, we do a...we bring leadership and we invite kids to be part of Mr. Wingler's leadership group. Then, we invite them to tell us what they want to change about the community. What do they see as an issue? What are they passionate about? This year, they said they wanted to come against apathy. That's what they saw; just not caring anymore. We are doing certain programs to be able to do that. One of them is this homecoming parade, which we just had our route approved by the chief of police today who has been wonderful to work with. We really appreciate him. We are staying mostly on campus going down Rademaker-Miller Lane, going around in front of the main doors, and then coming down Lunn Road and just closing that for just a very short period of time; and then coming back into the school. It's really just less than a mile. I feel like it's a good start because it's our first year doing this and we want to be as safe as possible for everyone. I would love to introduce the kids behind me and let them kind of speak to their vision as to why and what we have done so far.

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

Zoey Tran (Strongsville High School student) - Hello, I'm Zoey Tran and like she was saying, this year we are having our first homecoming parade. Our goal is to improve the community spirit and bring together the younger ones of the community to the older ones who are high schoolers. We have the SFL (Strongsville Football League) program is going to be in the parade; they are walking in it. We have numerous clubs at our high school. Almost every sport is getting involved, whether they are making a float or walking. We just want everyone to come and show their spirit. We invited the board members yesterday. We would also love for all of you to come and at least watch the parade. You're also welcome to walk in it if you would like to do so. After the parade, we are also having a community event where we are going to have bracelet making, inflatables-by consent of course, food trucks, and lots of activities for the community in order to improve spirit. That's all about the parade, now Peyton is going to talk about our pep rallies that we started as well.

Peyton Kaufhold, Strongsville High School student - Hi my name is Peyton Kaufhold. More recently, we have been getting involved with the elementary schools. Like Zoey said, we have been going down to the high school...a couple of members from cheer, band and football; we are doing it by season. We started off with fall athletics; and we will hopefully get into winter as time goes on in the school year. We have been going down to each elementary school and we have a couple left to go. It's just been a blast and we all are able to kind of get involved with the kids. We all get there a little bit early and get to interact with those who are in gym class. We've been able to hang out with them before the pep rallies and then just get them really excited. We correlate the day we go down, to the elementary schools, with their night at the football games. Most recently, we went to Kinsner Elementary, Chapman Elementary, Whitney Elementary, and Muraski Elementary. We've all had great experiences there. We just really like to get the kids excited about the games and encourage them to come out for "Friday Night Football." We just love working with the little kids. I know it makes me smile and I know it makes them smile. We always get to throw out some cups or little souvenirs. We've done towels, I believe t-shirts, and some souvenir bags. It's just really great seeing them all excited. We take big pictures at the end and it's just a really good way to get the community involved in everything. Now, Christian will be talking about our other thing we have been doing with the elementary schools most recently, which is the, "Lunch with the Athletes".

Christian Zaripheh, Strongsville High School student - Hello, my name is Christian Zaripheh. Along with the pep rallies, we have been doing "The Lunch with an Athlete" which is not just band, cheer leading and football. This extends to all fall sports right now. That includes soccer, cross-country, volleyball, and girls' tennis. This allows the elementary school kids to see the other sports and the other athletes beyond just the Friday night environment. It gets us involved with them. A lot of times, we send down alumni from the elementary school. For example, I went to Whitney Elementary so I was down there for the "Whitney Lunch with an Athlete." Same goes along with other schools there; it's a really good experience. We eat lunch with them, and we talk about what it's like as a high schooler because all of them want to be older at that age. It's nice to get to go out to recess, play sports with them and talk with them. The girls do cartwheels with the other girls; and we play football and basketball. It's just a good time. Now, Nate is going to talk about the mentorship program that we've done with leadership.

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

Nate Gradisher, Strongsville High School student - My name is Nate Gradisher and I am going to talk about the mentorship program we've been doing. This is connecting seniors with 8th graders at the middle school. It's just all about getting all the 8th graders that are kind of nervous, like, life's not great in middle school and they are sort of stressing out about school, ready and excited for high school. It's seniors going down and teaching them all about high school, what to be excited for, what to expect, and just getting them ready for that. That's sort of what this group started off with was originally for mentorship, but it's really expanded into all these things like we said today, thank you.

Ms. Drake - Mr. Wingler was able to join us today and this is literally his brain-child...his leadership group. I would love for him to say some words if that's ok.

Bill Wingler, Strongsville High School Principal - Good evening, Bill Wingler; so we have a leadership group at the high school and we have one for every grade. Seniors are special certainly; it's their fourth year. If you saw the state report card that came out for schools over the weekend, the entire district is a five-star district. Strongsville High School, my home, which is a...we have five stars in every single academic area, and we are the top 5% in the state. Our goal, after that happened for the third time in a row, is to become a top 5% not just for academics, but for the community. We have...every grade has a leadership group. What I say to the leadership group is that I challenge you to make the school a better place - leave a mark here when you leave so that something that you did will impact kids 10 years from now...20 years from now. Every year, the seniors have done that. We have a senior picnic now, and we have a bunch of fun things around graduation. Last year, we did a tournament for spike ball which was just fun stuff; but this year seniors wanted to go big. They want to do a parade, and they want it to become an annual event. Those of you who came to our...I'm tired, it's been a long day...our event the other night where we poured 50 buckets of water per minute; we still had over 1,000 people show up for that event. It was a wonderful event. What we want to do is we want to alter the student experience. The 8th grade, these guys along with Ms. Drake, want to instill hope to 8th graders. Eight graders are...I love being a high school principle, but middle schoolers are not my thing. They are very emotional, and they are just young. These guys have provided guidance and last year, met with the 8th graders. There is just stuff going on where they want to bring in the community, they want to affect others, and they want to make the school a better place. That night...I don't know how it's going to go. We are doing it all on campus and it's going to be about a mile long. If it's like the last event though, there will be a lot of people, there will probably be a lot food, and it will be a lot of fun. At the end of the day, it's Strongsville. I live in Strongsville as a community member; and it's about making the community and the schools more integrated and together. This is what happens. We have 253 kids in a leadership group total in the building out of almost 2,000 kids in the building. It's a lot of kids who signed up to be leaders. I'm proud of what they have done and hope to see you guys there. Do you guys have any questions about the event or anything?

Mr. Spring - I do. You said it was Thursday, September 26, 2024, correct?

Mr. Wingler - Correct, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Spring - I just want everyone to know it's Thursday, September 26th.

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

Mr. Wingler - My suggestion if you've been at the high school for a big event, based on parking, don't get there at 6:25 p.m. The parking can be a challenge so we're going to close off the Rademaker - Miller Lane parking fairly early. The senior lot is going to be available as is the main lot. The food trucks and that are going to be over by the tennis court. We prefer people to get there and park in the senior lot as early as possible.

Mr. Spring - For anybody who wants to watch the parade, should they be on Lunn Road there between the two...

Mr. Wingler - They can line Rademaker - Miller Lane, Lunn Road, or anywhere the parade route...I'm going to publish the parade. We've had to rework the parade route a few times just working with SPD (Strongsville Police Department) who have been very patient and kind with us, which we very much appreciate. There will be an outline of the route. I think the best thing would be Lunn Road because you can just turn around and walk right back to the events.

Mr. Carbone - Great.

Mr. Wingler - Alright.

Mr. Kaminski - Looking forward to it.

Mr. Wingler - Thanks guys.

Mr. Carbone - You're welcome, just a couple of things that were said.

Ms. Drake - Thank you Mr. Carbone for your donation, we really appreciate it.

Mr. Carbone - You're welcome. Just a couple of things that were said. Mr. Wingler you had mentioned about leaving the school a better place and about you "want to leave your mark." We are all here...you know we have school board members here, we have people of our community, we have Council people, the Mayor, the administration and we all want to make this a better place, right. The influence and the impact that we try have to have on kids - that's why we are doing the downtown enhancement plan. It's kind of what you guys had said - bringing people together of all ages, having something for our young families, and for our young kids. Truly, we work hard, but the impact that you have by going to the lower levels, we can never have that type of impact. Your leadership skills, you being a mentor and a leader, is really what's going to guide so many people. One of the greatest things about it is you won't even know the impact...the positive impact that you're going to have on them, but you are, so thank you. This is what makes it exciting having kids in the district. Big shoes to fill; but hopefully one day they can do it, thank you.

Mr. Kaminski - Donations...who do we give those to?

Ms. Drake - You can give it to Mr. Wingler.

Mr. Kaminski - Alright, perfect.

Mr. Wingler - Thanks guys.



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

Ms. Drake - Thank you guys so much, we appreciate it.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you, we will go to Reports of Council Committees. Sorry Mayor, are you done?

Mayor Perciak - Yes.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

**REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – Mr. Clark:** Thank you President Carbone, there has not been a meeting since our last report, but I will make an announcement. Our next meeting for the Economic Development Committee is on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. It is in a classroom at the Strongsville Senior Center. I will say again, the location for that meeting on Monday, September 23, 2024, is at the Strongsville Senior Center. I will announce that again at the end of my report because I have gotten into a habit of speaking about companies; specifically, manufacturing companies. I had a plan to talk about a manufacturing company, but I pivoted. We've got a lot of great companies; but today, I want to talk about a company that came here in 1956 - the Kalinich Fence Company. It began in 1905; and in 1954, Mike Kalinich returned from the war in Korea after he served in the Army. A few years later in 1956, he moved that business to Strongsville. He moved it to Strongsville because it was the "Crossroads of the Nation." There's so many great things that could be said about that business. It's a manufacturing business that's been around for over 100 years. It's a family owned business; and it's the largest in their niche industry of the snow fence. Tonight, when I thought about a manufacturing company that I wanted to talk about, I had a plan and I pivoted to that one. There's no words that I can say tonight to talk about how great that individual was and what he's done for that business, his family, and this community. It was about family, it was about business, and it was about community. When we welcome a business in, we never know when we are going to get the community leader that maybe someday can live up and talk about inspiration. I just wanted to talk about a manufacturing company; and tonight, that was clearly the one I chose. With that, again just as a reminder, the next Economic Development Committee meeting is on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Strongsville Senior Center. That concludes my report.

Mayor Perciak - If I may add...

Mr. Clark - Absolutely Mayor.

Mayor Perciak - On October 17, 2024, again, is the Business Expo; it's almost sold out. I think we have already over 80 participants. We have to stop at 100 or so I was told. Then of course, on October 15, 2024 we are going to have a mini State of the City with an update on all the new businesses that have come into town in our four business parks and what that means to us. That will be at 11:30 a.m., and this will be a Chamber luncheon. Brent Painter and myself will be highlighting certain companies that have come here, what they have done and what they achieved. Those are two major things that we have going and it's intentional on the same week. We are going to do the Chamber lunch on a Tuesday; and then on a Thursday, have the networking. We are going to probably have a lot of this running in the background. This also creates the networking we need amongst our own business community, so they can buy and sell products amongst themselves.

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

Mr. Clark - Exciting stuff Mr. Mayor, thank you.

Mayor Perciak - Yes sir, thank you.

Mr. Carbone - Anything else for Mr. Clark?

(No comments)

**BUILDING AND UTILITIES – Ms. Roff:**

Mr. Carbone - I will take that report. We have Ordinance No. 2024-139; this is to enter into a State of Ohio administrative service contract to purchase one new Sutphen Stock #568 Custom Pumper for our fire department and related vehicle modifications. That's going to be a \$995,300.00 purchase.

**PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH – Ms. Roff:**

(No report)

**RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES – Mr. Spring:**

(No report)

**SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Spring:** There was a school board meeting on September 12, 2024. I had the pleasure to listen to the people who already came and spoke; they had talked about the parade. I will just say again for everybody, it will be on September 26, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. What a great group of kids and good leaders. Also, at the meeting, they continued the conversation on the drug testing...on the implementation of the drug testing program at the school and what it is going to look like. Conversations about that continued. They did continue conversations about the levy as well. Make sure you are paying attention; and if you have any questions, go online or to the school board to get all your answers for the upcoming school levy. That will be the end of my report.

Mr. Carbone - Any questions for Mr. Spring?

(No questions)

**FINANCE – Mr. Short:** Thank you Mr. Carbone, for the Finance Committee we have one ordinance and one resolution on the agenda tonight. Ordinance No. 2024-140 is to update the annual appropriations for expenses for the city by an increase of \$2, 419,444.00. Again, we went in detail on those increases in caucus. Are there any questions?

(No questions)

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

**FINANCE – Mr. Short (cont'd):** The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt that tonight. Resolution No. 2024-141 is just to accept the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission; authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them from the county fiscal officer. The recommendation there is to suspend and adopt that as well. I failed to mention this in caucus though, we do need to have a budget meeting in October for the 2025 budget for the City of Strongsville. I know the finance director is working on those numbers now and the Mayor. What I will do is I will coordinate with the administration and Aimee to look at dates in October for us to have a Finance Committee meeting to review the 2025 budget, if that's okay Mr. Director. Okay, thank you and that concludes my report. Any questions for Finance?

(No questions)

**SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH SYSTEM – Mr. Short:** We did not have a meeting; but I do just want to pass along and I know the Mayor will address this in his report. From the hospital Trustees and the CEO Bill Young, they pass along their sympathies on the passing of a long time Trustee, friend, and public servant; Michael D. Kalinich Sr. on September 14, 2024. He served almost 40 years as a dedicated and devoted advocate for the Southwest General Health system. The hospital system's prayers are with him and his family. That will conclude my report.

Mr. Carbone - Any questions for Mr. Short?

(No questions)

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY – Mr. Kaminski:** I have no report this evening for Communications and Technology; however, I will like to remind everyone about Strongfest. Again, that's September 28, 2024. If you visit [www.Strongfest.com](http://www.Strongfest.com), you can learn all about the event and get your tickets. The proceeds benefit the Town Center project as well. I hope to see you there, and that concludes my report.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you Mr. Kaminski.

**PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Ms. Kosek:** We have Ordinance No. 2024-136; this is to change our zoning code as it relates to the establishment of certain tattoo establishments related specifically to permanent makeup. We had a good discussion with the law director explaining the importance of that. This would be first reading and referring over to the Planning Commission body. There will be nothing else to do with that. Then, we will have time if folks have questions in the next couple of weeks to ask those questions and get answers. We also have Ordinance No. 2024-137; this would authorize...we would authorize and consent to Columbia Township submitting an application for State of Ohio Issue 1 money to help with the cost of resurfacing North Marks Road from Snell Road to Sprague Road. That seems like a good use of our efforts to get some money from the state to help get that repaved. Suspend and adopt on that please. Ordinance No. 2024-138; this would be change orders related to the Prospect Road Storm Sewer Improvement project. It's about \$96,000.00 of changes relative to that project. Does anybody have any questions? Are we good?

Mr. Carbone - I don't have any questions but I do want to make a comment on Ordinance No. 2024-121. I will be abstaining tonight due to a family member who is employed by the company.

Ms. Kosek - That's all I have Mr. Carbone.

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

Mr. Carbone - Okay, very good.

**PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSERVATION – Ms. Kosek:** Ordinance No. 2024-121, which was on the agenda at our first meeting in September. This is to authorize the Mayor to retain legal counsel related to some property damage that we incurred at our lift station on Westwood Drive. I'd ask that we suspend and adopt that. We have Ordinance No. 2024-135, which is to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract for operations, maintenance, and management of the Wastewater Treatment facility. That is...the award winning or the winner of the bid was Veolia Water and North America-Central. It's actually the entity that was previously doing this work for us. It will be a five-year contract with a fixed fee not to exceed about \$2.57 million dollars. I believe that the law director said that we did go out for bid but we only received the one bid for the ....

Mr. Jamison - Correct.

Ms. Kosek - ...project or for the work. There is an increase; but it is as we have been told, the increase is mostly related to increases in utilities so we can't really get away from that. I'd ask that we suspend and adopt that as well.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Mr. Carbone:** We have Ordinance No. 2024-142; this is to buy property located at 21500 Lunn Road and we will be placing that on first reading.

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

**MAYOR PERCIAK:** Thank you Mr. President, just a couple of quick announcements. First of all, I want to thank the City Club and all the volunteers who made yesterday's "Breakfast-on-the-Bridge" a huge success. We stopped counting when we served over 1,300 breakfasts. I'm waiting for the final number to come in. I'm always looking for someone to help assist me at the scramble eggs because that's a lot of scramble eggs for a lot of people. I discussed that with President Carbone yesterday; and he told me that his wife does not allow him in the kitchen, I said, "We'll allow you at the grill anytime." Really, thank you to all of you that came, to all the people who participated and for everyone who made that day what it was. Now, the next thing is everybody commented about the new covered bridge. As you can see, when you were there, the asphalt was just finished on Friday evening. The contractor has assured us that the bridge will be completed this coming Friday. Listen for the grand ribbon cutting and the opening of the bridge, which will be coming very soon. We want to thank everybody who has anything to do with it; but more importantly, The City Club for stepping up and giving us a hand. Then, in the afternoon, it was followed up by "A Day at The Chalet" with our arts group. All of our young people had a chance to be at The Chalet to enjoy themselves, and have a good time from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Really, it was a true community day yesterday in the City of Strongsville. However, I have to move on to a more somber note; and that's the passing of Papa Mike Kalinich who I first met as a very young man. As a matter of fact, he is one of the reasons I'm here in the City of Strongsville. I was 31 years old and he was on the board of directors of Strongsville Savings Bank. He and another guy by the name of Elton Bedford said, "Hey, young guy, we would like you to come here and run our bank." With their help and their effort, especially Chairman Kalinich, we grew our bank...our little Strongsville Savings Bank to 17 branches, which today, are now Fifth Third. Mike was a true community leader.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR, DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS  
AND OTHER OFFICERS (cont'd):**

**MAYOR PERCIAK (cont'd):** Not only was he a banker, he led our bank. He also, once the bank was sold to Fifth Third, served as a director of Fifth Third Bank here in Cleveland. Most people don't know Mike's financial expertise, but his community involvement was contagious. He made each and every one of us at the bank understand what community was. Some of my people here would be very surprised to learn if you were in management at Strongsville Savings, you ran a booth at the Homecoming. That's just how it was. It was not implied, it was expected. This is the type of excellence Mike demanded from everybody who worked for him; whether it be here at the Kalinich Fence Company or at the bank. Tom Clark kind of eluded to the name "Crossroads of the Nation." That was Mike...that was Mike. When he came here, he had the spirit and he had the ability. That's how we became the "Crossroads of the Nation." He also put the word "Strong" in Strongsville. He knew what the word strong in Strongsville meant. He was an example of strong in Strongsville. I could go on forever about all his accomplishments; and as Gordon Short mentioned, the many years of service on our Southwest General Board Health System. I woke up one day Gordon, and he came up to me and said, "Guess what, you are the new chairman of the Foundation Board." That went on for 18 years. Mike continued to serve on the board there and not only was he a board member, he was on the Finance Committee, and he was on the Investment Committee. Again, making very...just many strategic decisions to aid the hospital. By the way, never ever was that a paid position; he never took a dime. His generosity and his...I can just...like I said, I was with him Saturday and I have to tell you it was a sad day. He is at rest. His wake will be Thursday, at Jardine's Funeral Home, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Then, his funeral service will be at Jardine's at 10:00 a.m. on Friday morning; and he will be buried here in our Strongsville Cemetery. Please keep the family in your prayers. Mike being Mike said, "Please don't send any flowers, I don't need them." You can contribute to the Southwest Community Foundation in his name. If you want to remember Mike and all the good he did for our community, that's the place to remember...he wants to be remembered at the hospital; please remember him. Take time to say a prayer for this man because he did so much for our town, so much for our community, and never ever asked for anything in return. You guys that have lived here all your life...Jimmy and the other Jimmy, I think you both know the contribution he has made to this community. Do you want to add anything, Jimmy or Jimmy?

Mr. Kaminski - I would say he was a perfect example of the community and a community man. He was phenomenal and he was one of my mentors as well. He will be missed, yes.

Mr. Carbone - Mike...we've known him a lifetime and he just had a spirit about him. If anybody bleeds green and white, it was Mike. His family will live that on...a great family and he set the foundation for that. We talked earlier about being a role model and setting an example...he did it.

Mayor Perciak - Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Mr. Carbone - Thank you.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Richard Micko, 20520 Wildwood Lane, Strongsville, Oh. 44136: My name is Richard Micko, 20520 Wildwood Lane. President Carbone, members of Council and Mayor Perciak, I came to give you an update on the school district - where we are at and where we want to be going. Our purpose is inspiring and empowering our learners today to build tomorrow's leaders. It's always easy for me to do my job, when you have students coming up ahead me doing such a fine job showing exactly how we are accomplishing our purpose - inspiring and empowering our learners today to build tomorrow's leaders. I would argue we have leaders today; we are not waiting for tomorrow. I'm proud to report that the State of Ohio recently released the 2024 report card. Strongsville City Schools is a five-star rated school district. Our overall rating of five-stars is broken down into achievement, progress and gap closing, which we received a rating of five-stars on. We still have work to do. For graduation and early literacy, we received four-stars. That is something that we are looking forward to digging into the numbers, figuring out how we can get better, and figuring out how we can address that for our students so that we can all do better. On behalf of the 5,504 students in the City of Strongsville, we are very proud of our rating...we are very proud of that five-star rating. It would be remiss if I didn't highlight that our Treasurer, George Anagnostou, took that data and does what a treasurer does, and applied a fiscal mindset to it. He ran some numbers comparing Strongsville with the other school districts that also received a five-star rating in Cuyahoga County. There were 11 school districts in Cuyahoga County that all received that five-star rating. There are 31 school districts in total in Cuyahoga County. We are all excellent with that five-star rating; but if you compare it to our tax rate, our tax rate is 26 out of 31. That means we are not just a good value, we are a tremendous value. We are the 26th lowest tax rate out of 31 school districts; yet, we are one of the 11 school districts that received a five-star rating. A five-star rating means we meet or exceed, significantly, the standards set by the State of Ohio. That leads me into our upcoming election in November. The school district is on the ballot again with Issue 53. It is a 4.9 mill levy; and it will generate approximately \$9.2 million dollars. The facts are, that it is at a lower millage than our previous levy attempts which means it is at a lower tax rate. The overall tax rate for the citizens of Strongsville is slightly lower. The school district is in one of the best financial positions it's been in, in the last 20 years if not more. If the community supports the district and this levy is passed, we will be in a position to eliminate pay to participate fees; we will be in a position to eliminate a large number of school fees; and we will be in a position to eliminate the fees attached to half-day kindergarten. Now, some may say this is just something that we're doing to buy the support of the community. What I would remind the community is that these are fees that historically the school district did not charge. Pay to participate was something that was instituted by the school district during another period of financial distress. It was, what can we do to make it work? So, pay to participate fees were instituted. School fees, back when we had severe financial distress, anything we could charge a fee for we would. Historically, the school district has paid for those fees. It's not...I don't want anyone to think we are just trying to earn the support or buy the support. We are in a strong financial position and we want to continue that strong financial position. It's reasonable and pragmatic that if we do secure that support, we would eliminate those fees. Full-day kindergarten, the fees associated with that are a burden on our youngest families. We would be able to eliminate that burden and have the benefit of full-day kindergarten for those families that choose that. Another thing you will hear in the community is that we are switching it from a five-year renewal levy to a continuing levy. I want to share with Council and the listening public three reasons: 1). It's pragmatic - We have two renewable levies on our ballot. We are the only school district that has two five-year renewable levies. It is pragmatic to eliminate one and convert it to a continuing levy. It is not free to put an Issue on the ballot. The Mayor knows it costs money and you know it costs money. It seems reasonable that we convert one of those to a continuing levy and avoid paying those ballot fees and reinvest that tax money into our students.

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

Mr. Micko (cont'd) - Number 2, it's a commitment to our property values. The houses that we live in are most likely the single most important investment we make. Making sure we have good schools, combined with that five-star rating, means when you go to sell your house, you are going to get the maximum value, which is something everybody wants. It's a commitment to property values. Ultimately, it's an enduring commitment to our students; to show the kids of our community that we want to make sure they have the best education we can afford; with all the opportunities associated with it. Lastly, I just want to share with you a few comments. There's been quite a bit of discussion and quite a bit of negative opposition trying to tie the reappraisals, that are occurring in Cuyahoga County, with our school levy. House Bill 920 was passed in 1976 to address periods of increased value and the affect on the tax payer. It was a solution in Columbus. It is disingenuous to think that the school district is where a solution to property taxes should come from. I am a school board member, Mrs. Housman is a school board member, and the other three that we serve with, our responsibility is for those levies. Our responsibility is not for the reappraisal process. Anyone can go to the news and see Cuyahoga County wants to work with Columbus to address this. It is pennywise and pound foolish to expect the school district to solve the reappraisal problem on the backs of our students. Yes, the reappraisal is an issue. Yes, it's going to be an issue that will affect many of our homeowners; and we are willing to advocate for that in Columbus. To think that we, the school districts and our students should fix that problem is not just foolish, it's disingenuous. Principle Wingler talked about leaving an impact. I want to leave that same message with City Council, with the Mayor, and with the residents of Strongsville. Issue 53 is lower millage than the 2019 levy; and it is a lower overall tax rate. It is our way of leaving an impact for our students. State of Ohio has a lot of rules and regulations. I'm not allowed to advocate for passage of this levy during a school board meeting; but I am allowed to advocate for passage of that levy during a City Council meeting. President Carbone, I thank you for your time and I urge you to support Issue 53, before, or at the ballot box on November 5th. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Carbone - Thank you very much; and thank you for all you guys do at the school board.

Mr. Micko - Back at you, thank you.

Mr. Carbone - Anybody else in the audience like to come up?

(No comments)

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**Ordinance No. 2024-121** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EMPLOY SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL AND ENTER INTO A RETAINER AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN CONNECTION WITH MATTERS RELATING TO PROPERTY DAMAGE INCURRED AT THE WESTWOOD LIFT STATION ON WESTWOOD DRIVE IN STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. *First reading 09-03-24.*

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

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Kosek.**

**Roll Call: Ayes: Short, Kaminski, Kosek, Clark, Spring.  
Abstained: Carbone. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-121 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2024-135** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES OF THE CITY'S WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES AND APPURTENANCES, 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 Ms. Kosek. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Kosek.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-135 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2024-136** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1242.07(b)(10) AND 1258.06(a)(6), OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWELVE-PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE IN ORDER TO UPDATE THE REGULATION OF CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS AS CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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



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

**Ordinance No. 2024-137** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CONSENTING TO COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP PREPARING AND SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION FOR STATE OF OHIO ISSUE 1 FUNDING FOR THE ASPHALT RESURFACING OF NORTH MARKS ROAD FROM SNELL (ALBION) ROAD TO SPRAGUE ROAD, IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COOPERATION AGREEMENT REGARDING THE 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 Ms. Kosek. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Kosek.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-137 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2024-138** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ISSUE AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NOS. 12 THROUGH 14 FOR AN INCREASE IN THE CONTRACT PRICE CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE AND DIGIOIA-SUBURBAN EXCAVATING, LLC, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROSPECT ROAD STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS 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 Ms. Kosek. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Kosek.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-138 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2024-139** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A STATE OF OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW SUTPHEN STOCK #568 CUSTOM PUMPER ON SUTPHEN MONARCH CHASSIS WITH RELATED VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS AND APPURTENANCES, FOR USE BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, 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 Ms. Kosek. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Kosek.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-139 ADOPTED.**

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

**Ordinance No. 2024-140** by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO, FOR THE YEAR 2024 AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-093.

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

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Kosek.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2024-140 ADOPTED.**

**Resolution No. 2024-141** 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 Ms. Kosek. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

**Motion to adopt by Mr. Short, second by Ms. Kosek.**

**Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2024-141 ADOPTED.**

**Ordinance No. 2024-142** by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 21500 LUNN ROAD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

*Placed on first reading and referred back to the committee.*

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:**

*Application for Permit: NEW - D1 - D2 - D3: To: Board of Park Commissioners Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, DBA: The Chalet, 16200 Valley Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 (Responses must be postmarked no later than 09/25/2024).*

*There were no objections to this permit.*

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

(None)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before this Council, President Carbone adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

*Marialena Beach*

Marialena Beach  
Council Secretary

*10-07-24*

Date