

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR STRONGSVILLE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2004 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

During the Council-As-A-Whole Committee meeting in Caucus, motion was made by Mr. Daymut and seconded by Mr. DeMio for Council to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending legal matters, litigation and personnel matters. All members present voted any and the motion carries. The Executive Session was convened at 7:55 p.m. At 8:10 p.m. motion was made by Mr. Daymut and seconded by Mr. DeMio to conclude the Executive Session. All members present voted ay and the motion carried.

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by the President of Council, Raymond Haseley. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING:

The Clerk of Council certified that the meeting had been posted according to the requirements of Ordinance No. 1984-94.

ROLL CALL:

Present were:	Mayor:	Thomas P. Perciak
	Council Members:	Patrick J. Coyne Michael J. Daymut Joseph C. DeMio Michael J. Gallagher Raymond L. Haseley James A. Kaminski Mark A. Roth, III
	Director of Law:	Kenneth Kraus
	Director of Finance:	Donald C. Batke
	Service Director:	Joseph Walker
	Economic Development Director:	Eugene P. Magocky
	City Engineer:	Mark J. Sunyak
	Building Commissioner:	Anthony Biondillo
	Senior Director:	Barbara Nyegran
	Interim Director of Recreation:	Stephen F. Kilo
	Chief of Police:	Charles Goss
	Chief of Fire:	Paul Haney
	Clerk of Council:	Leslie J. Seefried

Mr. Daymut – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes Mr. Daymut.

Mr. Daymut – I move to amend this evening's agenda by adding Resolution No. 2004-91, second by Mr. DeMio. All members voted aye and the motion carried.

COMMENTS ON MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 17, 2004 were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Renewal Application for Placement of Farmland in an Agricultural District: Siedel Farms, 21819 Westwood Drive; PPNs 392-13-001, 392-13-002, 392-13-004, 392-14-001, 392-14-002 and 392-13-003.

Mr. Haseley – Siedel Farms has requested to be withdrawn from the agenda which we will do.

Renewal Application for Placement of Farmland in an Agricultural District: Susan Schnittke, 11291 Handle Road; PPN 398-13-016.

Council President Haseley opened the Public Hearing and invited anyone wishing to speak **IN FAVOR** to step forward, state their name and address.

Susan Schnittke, 11291 Handle Road, Strongsville – I am here to request that my agricultural zoning be renewed.

Mr. Haseley invited anyone wishing to speak **IN OPPOSITION** to step to the podium and address Council at this time.

(None)

Hearing no further comments, council President Haseley declared the Public Hearing on the Schnittke application closed.

Renewal Application for Placement of Farmland in an Agricultural District: Albert and Anne Fess, 22927 Albion Road; PPN 392-01-001.

Council President Haseley opened the Public Hearing and invited anyone wishing to speak **IN FAVOR** to step forward, state their name and address.

Albert Fess, 22927 Albion Road Road, Strongsville – The Love Stables. I request that we be put in that agricultural district. That's all.

Mr. Haseley invited anyone wishing to speak **IN OPPOSITION** to step to the podium and address Council at this time.

(None)

Hearing no further comments, council President Haseley declared the Public Hearing on the Fess application closed.

Renewal Application for Placement of Farmland in an Agricultural District: Meryl (TRS) and Cynthia (TRS) Hossfeld, 11698 Handle Road; PPN 396-02-001.

Council President Haseley opened the Public Hearing and invited anyone wishing to speak **IN FAVOR** to step forward, state their name and address.

Meryl Hossfeld, 11698 Handle Road – My wife and I are here this evening to request that our 21.7 acres be retained in agricultural status where we raise and show Welsh ponies. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley invited anyone wishing to speak **IN OPPOSITION** to step to the podium and address Council at this time.

(None)

Hearing no further comments, council President Haseley declared the Public Hearing on the Hossfeld application closed.

Mr. Haseley – We are going to be voting on those three at the end, or toward the end of the meeting when we are voting.

Public Hearing Continued:

Ordinance No. 2003-32. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE ADOPTED BY SECTION 1250.03 OF TITLE SIX, PART TWELVE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF STRONGSVILLE TO CHANGE THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 20000 AND 20064 WESTWOOD DRIVE IN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE FROM GI (GENERAL INDUSTRIAL) CLASSIFICATION (PPN 392-24-002 AND PART OF PPN 392-24-006) TO RT-C (TOWNHOUSE-CLUSTER) CLASSIFICATION AND FROM PF (PUBLIC FACILITIES) CLASSIFICATION (PART OF PPN 392-24-006) TO RT-C (TOWNHOUSE CLUSTER) CLASSIFICATION. (Donald J. Tecco, Agent.) 1st rdg: 2-3-03. 2nd rdg: 3-3-03. Unfavorable recommendation by Planning Commission 1-8-04. 3rd rdg: 1-20-04.

Mr. Haseley invited anyone wishing to speak **IN FAVOR** of the Ordinance to step to the podium and address Council at this time.

Mr. Haseley – Alan, we have a big agenda tonight. I'm going to ask you to keep your remarks brief if you will.

Alan Ritchie, Brunswick – I'll just say that the rest of my family, my mother and my sister and her children live in Westwood Farms. I represent the applicant under this zoning request. I appreciate you giving me the chance to speak tonight. I can see that, obviously, it's a packed evening so I'll be very brief out of deference to these folks that here on some very important issues. The reason that I had mentioned my sister and mother living in Westwood Farms is not irrelevant. I think when I wrote this presentation today and walked through the entire presentation and came to the conclusion, I decided to start the presentation tonight, you know, with that conclusion. The conclusion started by saying that this application for rezoning is really, has to be looked at in terms of a balancing of interests. There's three ways that you can really get a rezoning in a municipality. You can apply for rezoning and walk through the process, the Planning Commission, etc. You can sue immediately, or you can go to referendum immediately. We obviously went through the approach of applying, going through the process and having the City through its legislative body administer the process. And I think that's the best approach. And I say that's the best approach because as I mentioned, looking at an application for rezoning, it is a balancing of interests. If you're suing, you've got two parties; you've got the land owner and you've got the City, and those are the only two parties to a lawsuit. When you're looking at an application for rezoning, we all know that as a practical matter there's many more parties to be considered, when you're looking at all of the issues that need to be addressed. So instead of a two person balancing act, it's really a scale that has multiple platforms that you've got to look at everyone's interest. You know those interests include the land owner, the business owners, the residents that adjoin the land.

Mr. Ritchie (Cont'd.) - This decision is going to affect the people that live on Drake, it's going to affect the people somewhere down on 42, it's going to affect everyone in the City. So it's not just looking at any particular interest including the interest of the City alone. So I think our job is to really look at all these interests and then within the bounds of the law, balance them. Come up with an approach to balance all these interests when it comes to what use we should put this land to. We think that the best structure, the best structure for looking at how to balance all these different interests, the City's, the schools, everybody who relies on real estate taxes, the residents, the people that drive along Westwood, all of those interests. The best way to do it is to look at this land in terms of a residential development, a cluster home development. And I'm going to walk through exactly why we think that that's the best use for this property. And again, starting with my conclusion, a residential development here will generate the most money for the City, the City alone, the most money for the schools, the schools alone, long term and short term. Residential development in this area we've shown through all the third party reports that we've procured; the traffic study, the site plan, everything, it has the least amount of impact on Westwood Drive. It keeps the traffic to a minimum. It keeps the uses... it creates excess capacity in the storm sewer system. The sanitary system along Westwood Drive will not support any additional (unintelligible). So the traffic reduction, utilities, the buffering. The buffering that we've presented and really we've presented it to the surrounding adjoining residents, the land owners, that buffering plan really represents, you know, an economic incentive to the residential developer. The residential developer has an economic incentive, not just to be a nice guy, but an economic incentive to make the buffering as beautiful as possible. Why is that? Well, because he's selling the land to people who are going to live there. So the economic incentive for the buffering plan is consistent and it only works the best for residential. Any other development, they're looking to develop the property with the least amount of cost possible. They don't care what it looks like as long as what they're doing is the most profitable. So even in terms of buffering, in terms of buffering, the economic incentives are properly placed to balance everyone's interest because we're balancing the interests of the adjoining land owners, the residents of Olympia, The Dells, the other residential uses that surround this property. They're all balanced best by having this a residential development. Just quickly run through kind of what we're talking about; we're talking about 25 acres of land on Westwood Drive, seventeen of which are zoned General Industrial, and they're owned by Mueller Art Cover and Binding Company. The other eight are owned by the Sport Campus Company, Tecco Athletics. Those are zoned for the... it's zoned for the most part Public Facility, there's a couple of slivers that are in there that are General Industrial that need to be cleaned up someday anyway. And the property is bounded on the north by Modine, by the south it's Westwood, east we have the communities of Olympia and The Dells, and to the west we have National Engineering. All of this property that we're talking about from Alameda to this property, at one time in the past was owned by the Mueller family.

Mr. Ritchie (Cont'd.) - And over the years we started at the corner of Westwood and Alameda and we started rezoning GI to residential, right down the line, boom, boom, boom. And what's that's done, it's created a pocket, it's created an area that will not support General Industrial land. And I'm going to show you in a couple of seconds. As I said, we think that the residential development is the best structure to take care of and balance all of the interests that are really going to be impacted by a decision to rezone or not rezone. The reason that is, is it'll address all the limitations of this site and it also will address the economic concerns of the City, the legal concerns of the City, the economic concerns of the schools, and the economic concerns of all these people that are here tonight in terms of money for the City. The limitations of this property, number one, access. There are signs at the corner of Alameda and Westwood Drive that say 'No Trucks'. You can't take trucks. Does Mueller take trucks? I'm sure he does. He's been operating his business somehow. But there's a sign there that says 'No Trucks'. Why was that sign put there? It's because it's a residential area. There are people walking on the sidewalks, there's kids crossing the street on their bikes. At some point, somebody decided to put up a 'No Truck' sign there for a good reason. Certainly it wasn't to stop Ed Mueller from doing business. It was probably to say that this street doesn't accommodate truck traffic, and to do so it will have to be improved. The traffic study that we had done, there's been a lot of discussion about the traffic study. Our traffic engineer concluded that we would probably notice a slight reduction in peak hour traffic. Now everyone got all upset because they said, how can there be a reduction with a 130 new cars being in there, or 260 new cars being in there, 130 clusters, two cars per house. The number of cars has nothing to do with traffic. Traffic deals with the generation of cars. When cars are there, when they're leaving, that's what traffic is, when you look at all of the uses that surround the property. Traffic on 42 is different than traffic on Westwood Drive because of the uses of the property. It's got nothing to do with the number of cars that are parked there at any one time. For example, if there was a business that was only open from 10:00 to 2:00 and that's all that they were open for business and it had a thousand cars, would that impact 4:00 traffic? Would that impact 5:00 traffic? Would that impact 6:00 a.m. traffic? Our traffic engineer, the expert, said putting this use next to all the uses on Westwood Drive will probably notice a slight reduction. The second thing he said, the second thing he said was if we were to fully develop these sites, if we were to fully develop these sites, the traffic generated from this site would be five times greater, five times greater. He said it would be catastrophic if these sites were fully developed. If this zoning doesn't happen, if this rezoning doesn't happen, the owners of this property will have no use or no other place to go other than to fully develop their land, the best way they can, the best way they can. And I'm going to talk about that in a second. The buffering plan we've talked about, storm water we've talked about, impact on utilities.

Mr. DeMio – Ray.

Mr. Haseley – Yeah.

Mr. DeMio – I don't want to cut this gentleman short, but I want to share that this is exactly what we heard at the previous meetings.

Mr. Haseley – I know.

Mr. DeMio – So, maybe we can...

Mr. Haseley – Maybe you can sum it up.

Mr. Ritchie – I'm sorry. I don't think I've talked to Council before. I've been to Planning.

Mr. Kaminski – The residential meetings.

Mr. Ritchie – I will, I will definitely proceed.

Mr. Haseley – I want to give you your due process in time, but I would appreciate it if you would cut it a little short.

Mr. Ritchie – Now I understand.

Mr. Haseley – We all have heard this before.

Mr. Ritchie – Okay. I'm sorry. Let's just talk about the biggest concerns of the city that I've heard, loss of income. The preservation of general industrial land, everyone has concerns or has stated a concern; we must preserve general industrial land. That's the interest that needs to be preserved. Now really what we're saying is, we're not saying preserving general industrial land, what we're saying is, preserving the income that's produced by general industrial land. Now let's look at that for a second. And I know you guys have this; I've provided it to you. This development, the 130 cluster homes, this property will be worth \$32 million dollars, \$32 million dollars. We stated, and I know you have the report, that's a loss of \$54,000.00 per year in the City's share of taxes from that amount of real estate, City's share. The schools share is \$300,000.00 per year. If, and really the whole point of all of this is, if we're saying that we want to preserve general industrial land, and we're saying that if we're going to lose \$54,000.00 a year if we leave it the way it is for the City, or \$300,000.00 per year for the schools, then what we have to do is behind Ed Mueller's property, behind his land, as he's going to have to say there, if he doesn't sell and make enough money to move, he has to stay. Tecco will have to stay. He'll have to expand his facility in the back. I've seen the site plans for another 50,000 square foot building in the back for soccer. Those will be the choices. And what we're saying is that \$32 million dollars will have to be made up behind Ed Mueller's property, in the back, because we're not talking about developing 25 acres anymore then. Tecco will have to stay. Mueller will have to stay cause they'll have no choice.

Mr. Ritchie (Cont'd.) - And so what we're saying is in order to make that up, we will have to put a \$32 million dollar facility behind Mueller's current facility in order to make up this difference. Now if a \$32 million dollar facility comes to the City of Strongsville in the next two years I think that Mr. Magocky is going to be pretty interested in steering them to the City's land along the Industrial Parkway. Some... I've just recently dealt with two office buildings on Rockside Road to give you some idea of the costs. Those are \$20 million dollar office buildings. I don't think anyone's going to put a \$32 million dollar office building behind Ed Mueller's. They can't even get back there because you'd need a variance to drive behind it. Now I have a lot of more information. Out of respect, I'm going to stop. There's a lot more to discuss. I'm always available to discuss it. And the conclusion is that between the increase in the value of the land, the building permit dollars, \$650,000.00 of building permits which my clients are prepared to pay in advance, the first day that shovels hit the dirt. That's \$650,000.00 for the City. That's \$54,000.00 a year for the City because of the increase in real estate taxes, and it's \$300,000.00 a year for the schools, or we can leave it there and do nothing. And the nothing is, all Ed Mueller would be able to do is expand his facility in the back. Mr. Mueller's plans are to add storage and perhaps eight employees, perhaps. Tecco's plans for expansion are to add another 50,000 square foot soccer field. He may add another two employees, two. That's a total of ten. You will never get to the same stop that we're telling you can get to with those types of numbers. So the preservation of general industrial land, that's a great interest. It's a very legitimate interest. However, you can't look at this... it's not to preserve it in every location. This property is not most valuable to the people in this City zoned general industrial. And that's it.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you Al. Anybody else in the audience that cares to speak In Favor of...

Mr. DeMio – Ray, I just have one question.

Mr. Haseley – Oh, go ahead.

Mr. DeMio – Cause I know you're going to announce the vote date.

Mr. Haseley – Go ahead.

Mr. DeMio – Does this gentleman want the... Alan?

Mr. Haseley – Alan? Just a minute.

Mr. DeMio – Do you want the full complement of Council at the next... on your vote?

Mr. Ritchie – Absolutely.

Mr. Kaminski – Okay then. Cause I will not be here on the 15th.

Mr. Ritchie – Okay.

Mr. Kaminski – So I don't know if you want to delay....

Mr. Ritchie – No, I think because we have a four-three decision in Planning...

Mr. Kaminski – You need five, yeah.

Mr. Haseley – You may want to wait till the next one. That's your prerogative.

Mr. Ritchie – No. We'll wait till a full complement then.

Mr. Haseley – Okay. So noted.

Mr. DeMio – I didn't want you showing up here at the next meeting. That's it.

Mr. Ritchie – No. Thanks.

Mr. Haseley – Good. Thank you. Anybody else care to speak In Favor of? Anybody else in the audience? Or anybody in the audience that cares to speak **In Opposition**? Step forward, state your name and address, make your statement please.

Rick Dombroski – I live in Doylestown, Ohio. But I'm here representing Atlantic Tool and Die at 19963 Progress Drive. Mr. Mehwald, both Frank and Mike have asked me to speak to you tonight. They apologize for not being able to come here themselves. Mr. Mehwald is in the Far East at the moment working with our Asian partners. And his son is at our Texas facility. We are in opposition to this resolution. This property abuts our plant, what we call our Plant 2 Stamping Operations. And it will have... we see it as a long term problem for our stamping facility. Atlantic Tool and Die, for those of you who don't know, is a stamping facility. We are a world class manufacturer of automotive parts. We manufacture parts for virtually every auto company. And we are a tier one supplier to Honda direct. I have with me tonight some information regarding our company and a letter from Mr. Mehwald that I would like to give to members of Council when I am finished. We have had problems in the past with noise due to stamping operations. The Co Moor Development on the other side of Progress Drive, we've had ongoing issues there. We've had citations issued to our night shift supervisors in 97. There were some problems in 92, as well. That plant is not next door to our stamping plant, it's across the street behind another building. We operate a warehouse facility on that side of the street. So, we expect that the noise levels in the back building where this would abut would be somewhat higher.

Mr. Dombroski (Cont'd.) - We've had numerous occasions where people have asked us to curtail our night shift operation. We cannot do that. We are (unintelligible) supplier to the automotive industry. Penalties for shutting down an automotive plant, if you're not aware, run into the thousands of dollars per minute. I think the last number I saw was somewhere in the vicinity of \$8,600.00 per minute for a shut down. We are required to meet strict delivery schedules. We have delivery windows that typically range 30 minutes or less, where a truck arrives, we have to load parts and have the truck on the way before, or we will be penalized for that situation. If we're required to opt to curtail our operation to meet zoning and noise requirements for a residential area next to us it would certainly have a detrimental affect on our business. We cannot afford the capital required to duplicate the capacity we currently have, being a capital intense business it requires us that we use the equipment we have. I mean, we have roughly a \$30 million dollar capital investment required to duplicate just the machinery and equipment, not counting the buildings. ATD has undergone six expansions in the current location since 1967. In addition to that, we have open plants in Sharon Center, Ohio, Arlington, Texas, Anniston, Alabama. We have a design center in Costa Rica. Mr. Mehwald is over visiting our agent partners in Shenzhen, China and Singapore. We have truly a world class worldwide company that employs a number of people and generates a great deal of income for the City of Strongsville. In difference to what we just heard, Atlantic Tool and Die employs 160 people here in Ohio which includes our corporate office, all our engineering and design staff, and administrative staff. Thirty-four of those people are Strongsville residents. And we generate approximately a half a million dollars a year in tax revenue for the City of this operation. We have not asked for or received any tax abatements for any of our expansions, although they have been easily provided by our other locations. Anniston, Alabama was just this last year flying Mr. Mehwald around in a helicopter for doing plant sites. If this legislation passed, I've been... Mr. Mehwald has asked me to let you know that we are both unwilling and unable to do further expansion in Strongsville area. If we require to curtail our operations, we cannot force it to be that detrimental to our business. It may eventually force us to relocate from Strongsville. We are asking that this... that you look at this in light of the entire presentation and consider rejecting this application. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Anybody else who cares to speak In Opposition?

Darlene Price, 12694 Ionia Court – My property backs up against Mueller's. All of Olympia, the area that we live in, have been opposed to Mr. Tecco's propositions ever since they started in 1998. They keep changing, but we still maintain that in order to preserve the integrity of our homes we do not want that land rezoned. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Anybody else who cares to speak In Opposition?

Mr. Kaminski – Yeah, Mr. Haseley. I've only been on Council for a short time, two years, but allowing subdivisions to be continually squeezed into little pockets throughout the City is asking for trouble. I went to the residents' meeting that Mark had. It was a very good meeting, and they were very much opposed to this. I'd love to hear comments, e-mails, phone calls concerning your suggestions, as well, but right now I'm firmly against this rezoning and will for practically any industrial land. That's something that we have to develop and preserve, just like Atlantic Tool and Die. That is our lifeline and those are the types of businesses we need in our community. So I just wanted to voice my opinion on this issue.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you Mr. Kaminski. Is there anybody else in the audience that cares to speak In Opposition?

Mr. Roth – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth – Just real briefly. The way I do business is I call them early and I call them often. I get input from the residents that are most directly affected. I let them shape the development. I let them make the decision. And they are my boss. 87 out of 89 people at two meetings said 'No'. I'm saying no. And I implore my cohorts to say no. That's all Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Anybody else?

(None)

Hearing no further comments, council President Haseley declared the Public Hearing on the Ordinance No. 2003-32 application closed.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

BUILDING CODES AND CEMETERY – Mr. Roth: Thank you Mr. Haseley. First I want to talk about the... I appreciate Mr. Biondillo's report to me. And I appreciate the Police Department's decibel readings on the noise pollution on Progress Parkway, of all topics. But what I would like to see still done if I could for the residents' sake is identify the circle on the north side of the street that the sounds that are bothering everyone, disturbing the peace, are coming from. And I voiced several times that the decibel breaches have been between 4:00 and 6:00 in the morning on Monday and Wednesday and Friday's. And we've got five decibel readings here between midnight and 1:30 in the morning on other nights. So if we could check those times out. It seems to be like at the end of a shift, at the beginning of the next shift, these loud breaches of our law that everyone knows about and everyone's living by until just recently. I haven't had any complaints by anybody since 1997, so you know; I really appreciate Atlantic Tool and Die's cooperation, not one complaint.

Mr. Roth (Cont'd.) - They shut their big dock doors. It's been fantastic. No problems. I appreciated PPG. They put equipment in brick buildings for us to keep the resonating vacuums down with the volume. But we have somewhere, somebody breaching and between 4:00 and 6:00 in the morning on Monday and Wednesday and Friday's, if we could check that out. That's what I voiced before and that's what I would really like checked out.

On Yarrow Trail, I appreciate... I can understand Mr. Biondillo's and Mr. Walker's response... and I appreciate their response. But if we have any major work installing any street, any cul-de-sac, any curbing, I really don't want to see major earth moving equipment and moving equipment go back down Still Meadows and Westwood Farms. I want them to dump some gravel and come off of Albion, if they've got to add a cul-de-sac in the future because we're going to really shorten the life of our streets if we're going to allow the parade to continue down Yarrow Trail.

Ordinance 90 is up for Council's perusal.

We have the catch basin gravy train in full force. You know I'm really starting to notice over my sixteen years on Council how all the catch basins continually sink and deteriorate before the life of the street. And I've asked continually that our specs be amended and that we bring the catch basins up to par to match the life of the streets. Well, the Association of Westwood Farms gave me a long list and I went out and looked and many of them are valid. They're collapsing. So, you know, it's unsafe, it's costly. I'd like to see that ceased, but for now we need it rep... we need all them repaired.

The VFW, you know I asked two weeks ago, I received nothing. I want to know the answer to my question for the unorthodox situation of my residents on Strongsville Boulevard; all these commitments were made in 1992 that go with the property. If they're assembling the property for sale, I want to know what happens to all these commitments and promises that were promised to those people.

Mr. Biondillo – Mr. President, Mr. Roth

Mr. Roth – Yes.

Mr. Biondillo – I can address that. We have spoken with them on a number of occasions and they have presented this to the Planning Commission. They have no plans whatsoever of doing any future expansion of that building or utilizing that property for anything other than to consolidate it and make the zoning the same. I spoke with them as early as this afternoon again and one of the issues came up with the banking, with them going for financing. They're always asked, why there is a split zoning there? There are no plans as far as anybody else there is concerned to do anything with that building.

Mr. Roth – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes, and I was just going to confirm that, but he beat me to it.

Mr. Roth – Okay. And you know I appreciate that wholeheartedly and so do the residents of Strongsville Boulevard. Thank you, Tony. But my question still stands to Mr. Kraus, I want a legal opinion here, and I asked it two weeks ago, to.... if by some chance things change and these three large parcels that are way beyond the business district of Pearl Road, if they are gathered together and sold, do all the commitments that were made in 1992 go with the sale and go with the property.

Mr. Kraus – Mr. President and Councilman Roth. There were letters directed from the Law Department to Mr. Haseley dated February 10th and February 25th. We'd be happy to, if Mr. Haseley hasn't already provided copies to you.

Mr. Roth – I don't have them. That's why I'm asking.

Mr. Haseley – I haven't copied them yet.

Mr. Kraus – We would be happy to insure that you have copies by tomorrow.

Mr. Roth – I would appreciate receiving them. I would appreciate receiving them so I don't have to ask on the floor. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – Any questions for Mr. Roth?

FINANCE- Mr. Gallagher: Thank you Mr. Haseley. There is nothing before the Finance Committee this evening although I'd like to take a moment and explain Ordinance 2004-66 as it relates to Finance. As everybody in this room is well aware, and hopefully now all the residents are well aware that the City of Strongsville is no more different than any other city in the State of Ohio, if not the United States of America. The problem that we've run into, the finger can't be pointed at any one individual or any one thing. But the economy certainly has been something that has hit us very hard and kept us down. Our general fund revenue expenditure analysis for the past five years, in essence, we've been spending a little bit more than we've been bringing in which in essence impacts what you have as a cash carryover. Our projections have been pretty much right on as far as our actual intake and what we have projected. So our forecasts are pretty sound. It seems as though our forecast for 05 and 06 are going to be flat much like the past few years. 911 has hit us hard in many ways. It has touched everyone. And it is now touched us financially. What we need to do is to move this evening, hopefully, on 2004-66. This isn't.... this doesn't end it for us, but it begins what I would consider the beginning of what we're going to do as a City, and as residents with our City. We're going to have to move forward as a Council, and the administration will work together.

Mr. Gallagher- (Cont'd.) - And I would assume that everybody out there is going to watch us very closely. And what we do in the next year or two, depending on what we do do, will influence... either we're going to take steps forward or we're going to remain stagnant. And if we remain stagnant, much like the shark, if we stop moving, we're going to die. And what we can't do and what I can't do and I refuse to do is to allow the City to die. It's a very unpopular thing we're going to have to do this evening. It's something that's going to affect the majority of the people on this dais. I don't want to do it, but we have to do it. Each individual has a vote and I respect that vote. But I will suggest that if there is not support for 2004-66 and the following resolutions that hopefully will fix this problem once and for all, I demand a plan in its' place, a solid financial plan. This Council's worked very hard, I've worked very hard, the administration has worked very hard. The only place we have to go in this budget is personnel, and personnel is going to affect service. And that's from Police, Fire, City Services, Recreation, all the way down the line. And once that is started... and once again, there's no excess in this budget. We have to streets, no rotation of Police cars. Our Police vehicles will be on the road now with over, on an average, of close to 100,000 miles. We're sending our officers out without the proper computer equipment for communications. There's no question that our Police Station needs rebuilding or replacement, and as there are many, many, many, many other things. But what I would pledge and I would hope my colleagues would follow with me is that after this evening and 2004-66 vote is in, that we go to you individually, in groups, explain how we got where we got, detail exactly what has happened, show you are plan as to how we think we can correct this, and then place this before you an eventual vote of the people as to what you want to do with your City. That's where we're at. And I think it's only fair to let you know where we're at. And that's why I'm in support of 2004-66. Thank you very much.

Mr. Haseley – Any questions for Mr. Gallagher?

Mr. Roth – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes, Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth – I'm going to share my feelings briefly. First off, the media, the media raises its ugly head all the time. I wouldn't invest in a Plain Dealer or Sun News ever. You know, there's errors galore. I've noticed over sixteen years, errors of omission. Unbelievable. So the insinuations of all of Council and whatever, how they wrote it, I don't even know because I didn't personally even read it, is not true. I'm against 66 and here's my reasons why. First off, overwhelmingly the people of this City are against 66. Second of all, there's no reason and in my plan there is no laying off of the Service Department or Safety Forces at all. My plan doesn't cut Safety Forces or Service Department. And to use scare tactics and to say we're going to go right to the heart and cut some very vital people first before we get through with the frivolous fat that's been going on for sixteen years it wrong.

Mr. Roth (Cont'd.) - Before I put my hand out to the people and many of them who are suffering, before I put my hand out for more taxes, I want to know the bottom line. And they said the bottom line three weeks ago, and we cut \$700,000.00 that night. I want \$1.4 more. There's no specific plan identified. Does the \$700,000.00 we cut three weeks ago go right back in the budget to be wasted when you get more tax money? There's no vote of the people here. And we don't have the fat trimmed on this. And I've watched and I voted sixteen years in a row, no to the budgets, because in my opinion I identified approximately two million or more each year which is a waste of \$32 million dollars. Now you can stop excessive spending and top heaviness and wasting money, or you can start being frugal and handle your money wisely. And I'm not talking about cutting vital manpower. That's it.

(Applause)

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Any other questions.

INDUSTRIAL/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT- Mr. Daymut: Thank you Mr. Haseley. We met this evening and I'll defer my report from our February 23rd and February 26th meeting till the next meeting so we can move the meeting along. We'd just like to at least inform you that the breakfast meeting date tentatively has been changed from April 1st to the 15th. And our next regular meeting will be Monday, March 22nd. Thank you Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Daymut?

PLANNING, ZONING AND ENGINEERING – Mr. Haseley: There's one ordinance, 2004-84 place on first reading, send to Planning Commission, refer back to committee. If there's any questions, I'll field them.

PUBLIC SAFETY- Mr. Daymut: Thank you Mr. Haseley. Public Safety gave favorable recommendation to Ordinance 2004-75. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room of the Ward 1 Fire Station. That's all I have Mr. Haseley. Thank you very much.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Daymut?

SOUTHWEST GENERAL HEALTH CENTER – Mr. Gallagher: Thank you Mr. Haseley. I attended last week's meeting and will be attending the next future meeting when I'm informed. That's all I have.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Gallagher?

PUBLIC SERVICE – Mr. Kaminski: Yes, Public Service met this evening to discuss several ordinances; 2003-281 contract renewal for Waste Collections Services, recommendation is suspension and adoption, 2004-76 through 2004-83 all pertaining to Route 82 widening, those are also suspension and adoption. And finally, 2004-86 which is right-of-way easement for Route 82 widening, that's all suspension and adoption. And that concludes my Public Service report.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Kaminski?

Mr. Coyne – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes, Mr. Coyne.

Mr. Coyne – I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Joe Walker. He assisted me with a Council complaint last week on Delaware Drive with several of our four-legged friends running amok. And he made everybody happy in the process and it would have been an issue that we'd still be hearing about, but he took control of it with his staff and resolved it to the residents delight. So I want to thank him for that issue. It was an emergency situation and he cleaned it up quickly. So I wanted to thank him publicly.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Anything else for Mr. Kaminski?

Mr. DeMio – Just briefly Ray.

Mr. Haseley – Yes, Joe.

Mr. DeMio – Before you walked in, a little bit early before the meeting started, I'd asked the Mayor to discuss the bus issue for the senior citizens, Westwood apartments if you will. And if they get... I'm sure you got the same calls. There's three or four folks that are very disturbed about the change. I would only ask that you talk to them within the next week, which I was promised you're going to do that tomorrow morning or 10:30, right. So for those folks at Westwood Farms, please look for that meeting tomorrow at 10:30. Where will it be at?

Mrs. Nyegran – At Westwood Farms?

Mr. DeMio – Westwood, Westwood. I'm sorry.

Mrs. Nyegran – It will be right there in their....

Mr. DeMio – It will be in their...

Mr. Coyne – Community Room.

Mr. DeMio – Community Room, okay. Would you give us a little updates because we'll get some more calls, if it's okay with the Mayor.

Mayor Perciak – Please.

Mr. DeMio – Would you please give me a copy of whatever your agenda is?

Mrs. Nyegran – Sure.

Mr. DeMio – Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – That's it Joe?

Mr. DeMio – Thank you Ray, that's it.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Anything else for Mr. Kaminski?

RECREATION/SENIOR AND FAMILY PRESERVATION - Mr. Coyne: Thank you Mr. Haseley. First I'd like to thank Barbara Nyegran; she provided me with the schedule... the transportation schedule for the senior citizens. And it's running very effectively. As most transportation issues, we run into some bumps in the road sometimes, but I'm fairly confident she's going to resolve the Westwood issue. And to have one complaint in seven or eight years in not bad. We're trying hard to accommodate our seniors, and I think that they're pleased. So thank you for what you're going to do tomorrow. Number two, I'd like to recognize Steve Kilo and his staff on the father/daughter dance this past Saturday. My daughter and I had a chance to attend it. It was outstanding, well attended, very well organized, and everybody had a good time. And it's always impressive when you have the Director and his immediate staff there doing the grunt work. And Steve Kilo was on the front line. It could have been handed off to someone else, but he was right there for two hours and for whatever time prior to that. So I want to give credit where credit is due. You did a good job and I continue to be impressed. So thank you.

Mr. DeMio – And if I may? I've learned how to do the Waltz now. Last night, from Thursday.... Or Saturday's night father/ daughter dance. So thank your group there Steve.

Steve Kilo – I will. Thank you.

Mr. Coyne – I only can add that there was a lot of dancing involved and I probably need to take some lessons, invest in them. I've never been too good, but maybe next year extend it to three hours, I'll get a little bit better. But, good job. I have no other ordinances or resolutions this evening, but if anybody would like to ask me any questions I'd be more than glad to answer them.

Mr. Haseley – Any questions for Mr. Coyne? Thank you Mr. Coyne.

SCHOOL BOARD – Mr. Roth: Thank you Mr. Haseley. I went to the meeting on February 19th and lo and behold the Mayor was there next to me. And he gave; he led off and did a nice job. He presented his case. And he gave on talk on Issue 15, 16, 17 and 66. And then I was jealous because he was allowed to leave and.... No, it was an interesting meeting and I was glad to be there. But Linda Ponstagle, the Guidance Counselor gave a talk on all the programs they have for our students.

Mr. Martin, the Principal, gave a talk. Mr. Mattingly also gave his report and also announced that he's retiring July 1st, the School Treasurer. The school web site was expanded. All fall nine varsity sports did fantastic this fall. They have plans to add portable classrooms, relocate preschools, and have an addition to eight classrooms in a Multi Purpose Center to Muraski. Center's roof was discussed, Center Junior High. And let's see, the Superintendent have the power, announced he had the power to place any student in any elementary school facility. The next two calendar years were announced. And many more other things, but that's an outline. That's all

Mr. Haseley – Thank you Mr. Roth. Any questions for Mr. Roth?

UTILITIES, RAILROADS AND FRANCHISES – Mr. DeMio: Quickly. We have two ordinances; 2004-74 and 2004-84 in which are both suspension and adoption. Basically, they are assisting the Route 82 expansion. Also, Mayor if you could, and we talked about it a couple weeks ago, if you could get us some numbers for Mike Daymut, myself, and anyone... I think Jim was at the meeting and Pat was at the meeting, about the sewer charges for those folks on 82. We really, really need them. To give you an example, there's a couple people in the audience that called me this week, this past week. And they're very supportive of the widening. I mean, they understand. They really want to get that budget in line, their own personal budget. So if there's anyway Mark can get us some numbers, you can call the meeting. I said this last time, you can call the meeting. I'll make myself available; just give me a couple days notice. If you want to run the meeting, please call it. That's how many calls that we've been getting. So Mike is that fair? Is that basically what....

Mr. Daymut – Mr. Haseley, Mr. DeMio. Unfortunately, I think we're at the twelfth hour with this and the meeting really has to take place. It can't be speculation anymore. So I would implore the Mayor, and could you possibly....

Mr. DeMio – What time is your meeting next month, Monday?

Mr. Daymut – My meeting's at 6:00. But Mayor, if possible, because we do have to have the legal team there and the engineering team there. If you could possibly work around your schedule I'm sure we could invite the residents. But we really, really have to come to some resolution with this in the next 30 days or less.

Mr. DeMio – Well, here's my solution if it will work. Can we do it... where's your meeting at, at the Ward 1 Fire Station?

Mr. Daymut – Yes.

Mr. DeMio – Can we do it right after that Mayor? Would that allow you to...

Mayor Perciak – I'm sorry, I didn't hear you, what?

Mr. DeMio – I'm sorry. Would that allow you and Mark enough time to get some numbers for us, after Mike's meeting at the Ward 1 Fire Station? Do it there since he's already there.

Mayor Perciak – We have a Charter Review Committee meeting next Monday night at 7:30 so I'm going to be here for that.

Mr. DeMio – Okay. Is that an organizational meeting, or just the...

Mayor Perciak – No, its meeting number two.

Mr. Kraus – Mr. President.

Mr. Haseley – Yes, Mr. Kraus.

Mr. Kraus – Councilman DeMio. I had forwarded you a memo dated February 20th. Maybe tomorrow we could talk about it on the phone before we go too much further.

Mr. DeMio – As long as we conference call Mike.

Mr. Kraus – That's fine.

Mr. DeMio – You know, Mike, you're there and just get a hold of me or whatever.

Mr. Daymut – I'll make myself available. Thank you.

Mr. DeMio – This way we can get it all done. And again, anything you send to me, just please give it to everyone on Council on that issue.

Mr. Kraus – Right. And this memo was directed to everyone on Council,

Mr. DeMio – Okay.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Any other questions?

Mr. Roth – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth – I think I... just beg my indulgence. I just want to... Does Council feel, well we talked... I can't go into any details on this, but I feel like it's my duty to try to get the people together before anybody does anything behind closed doors or not. So I'm thinking of calling a meeting Tuesday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Breckenridge case. Now can I do that? Am I allowed to do that?

Mr. Kraus – Mr. President.

Mr. Haseley – Yes, Mr. Kraus.

Mr. Kraus – Councilman, pursuant to earlier discussion, can we talk about that tomorrow with you after we make some phone calls tomorrow as we indicated to you some time earlier this evening that we would make.

Mr. Roth – Okay. I just... I don't need....

Mr. Kraus – We'll get back to you tomorrow Councilman.

Mr. Roth – I need it then because I need time to advertise a meeting if that's going to be the case, an additional meeting.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth – Okay.

RULES AND ORDINANCES – Mr. Haseley: I met with the Law Director today to make sure that all the ordinances and resolutions were in proper legal order. Would you please affirm that?

Mr. Kraus – Yes, Mr. President. They're in proper legal form.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Council-As-A-Whole also met this evening concerning Ordinance 2004-66. I am going to ask for a vote tonight. There will be amendments. We'll handle them as the order in which we received them. Resolution 2004-87 recommendation was suspend and adopt, 88 and 89 also were suspend and adopt. That was what we had our Public Hearings on for the Agricultural Districts. Industrial Community.... I'll field any questions.

Mr. DeMio – Ray.

Mr. Haseley – Yes, Mr. DeMio.

Mr. DeMio – We had some discussions in the back about 2004-66. It's my personal opinion we have come a long way in about 25 minutes. And I'll tell you, and Ken stop me if I say the wrong thing in the middle of the sentence. And I shared with Jim inside where the gentleman regarding Tecco was speaking. I really believe we understand that we need a revenue enhancement. I think... and I can refer to one of my neighbors in the back of the room who said, Joe, you may be able to tell me everything today, but I have to be able to decide for myself if I can afford it, but I can't vote on it. But he may want to do that. And I think we are so close, and I really mean this, we are so damn close in working this out. The numbers the people have given me this weekend about who would be laid off, who wouldn't, it drastically different today than what I heard about a week ago, and Saturday and Friday night. That was shared today with us. That's the first time I've heard a number from the administration. I appreciate him telling me this. Okay. I only asked because I've told many of the folks that have worked with me over the last nine years that I just don't like that the people don't have the input. I do appreciate Mike Daymut's resolution about our intent to put it on, but we must expand that. Because the one thing everyone's told me that I've talked to, there's some people that just won't hear it either way, but the one thing that everyone has told me is, I may be for this, let me hear the breakdown. And I'm not going to blame the Sun News and The Plain Dealer because they had one article each on the issue. But I truly believe, Mayor, Council, that the average person on the street still doesn't know. And I'll refer to three people in this room, I won't give their names, two called me on sewer issues and had no clue about this and is pretty astute of what's going on. I begged this Council, I begged this Council President, I begged every official, every director to give us a couple days. I don't want one person out of work. That's against every piece of philosophy I have in my heart. And everyone knows that about me. But I cannot believe that we can't work this out. I really mean this.

Mr. Haseley – What are you referring to when you say work this out Joe?

Mr. DeMio – Ray, I can't discuss what I talked about in back. We are so close.

Mr. Haseley – Well you're not going to get a chance to put it on the ballot. There's no time for that.

Mr. DeMio – Ray, I understand that. You can put it on the ballot for November. You can possibly put....

Mr. Haseley – I'm talking about putting in on the ballot before... We have to present a balanced budget.

Mr. DeMio – Ray, I understand that.

Mr. Haseley – In order to do that we have to vote on this this evening.

Mr. Kaminski – I think what Joe's saying is the language is different. Possibly they would consider supporting it.

Mr. DeMio – Right. And you know for us to get... this was only me, I'm not saying it for anyone else. For us to get a resolution that's an intent today, thank you Mayor for giving me that information today at about 6:15.

Mayor Perciak – You're welcome Joe.

Mr. DeMio – And I appreciate that, I really do, because I did not know that about the resolution. I had a conversation with Mike Daymut earlier, we discussed many things. Unfortunately, we didn't discuss the resolution. Jim Kaminski and I did not speak for a variety of reasons, we missed each other. And I didn't know about the three and a half year amendment up until today when I talked to... or, two and a half year; excuse me, until the day I talked to the Mayor. I don't want to delay it to delay any hurt. I know it's an anxiety. I talked to one gentleman has health issues with their family. I deeply, as everyone here on Council, cares for every employee. I've said it a hundred times, you make us look good, you make it easier for us to do their job. I just think that we are very close. The only day in which I cannot make this is Thursday night. Outside of Thursday, I'll make myself available anytime.

Mr. Haseley – Well I can't make it any night this week.

Mr. DeMio – Okay, then make it the morning. I can make any morning this week.

Mr. Haseley – Well I can make any morning.

Mr. Kaminski – Okay, the only problem is...

Mr. Haseley – Well I can make tomorrow night, but I don't see what's going to change between now and then.

Mr. Kaminski – Right. The only problem is we wanted this to be a vote during a regular meeting where it was televised so the people would know because then people will be upset because if it's voted on during a special meeting, they're going to say, you know you squeezed through this thing. You didn't do it during a regular meeting. That's something that I have a problem with.

Mr. DeMio – Jim.

Mr. Kaminski – But hold on, let me finish my thoughts here.

Mr. DeMio – Sure.

Mr. Kaminski – It was Mike Daymut and I that talked last night, very late last night, matter of fact up till 10:00, 11:00 that we both together came up with this resolution of intent to work together towards a resolution for November. These should stay separate. They should stay separate. They're two different issues. I don't think we can blend them together. Okay. We can't. So what's going to happen is we can delay this two days, we can delay it a week, we can delay it till March 29th, the last day before the State requirement. It's not going to change. It is not going to change what we have to do. Now believe me, it would be so easy for me to vote no on this, but we're not only elected to represent the people, but we're also elected to represent the best interest of the City. And sometimes people miss that segment of our job. And that's probably the hardest part here. And also, some of the people that are sponsoring this ordinance are the most fiscally responsible Councilmen that we have. And so for them to be able to take the blame on this vote is really unfortunate. And I've got to share that because a lot of people are going to come up and say because you're voting for this, we're going to work against you. And I don't think that's the way to handle this issue. What we need to do is work together for November. And we did make progress tonight, we did make progress, but it's a separate issue. What we put on the ballot from November is a separate issue than this tax rollback. And if that issue passes in November then we can do away with this and give 100% credit again.

Mr. DeMio – And I understand that. See this is what... Now let me just, let me just And I didn't take notes; this is all off the cuff. Let me just answer a couple things. A: You had the evening to discuss this matter, okay. The evening. Last night whether it's the middle of night or not. I did not have that privy. I don't disagree with you, it should be separate. I'm not saying the ordinances should be... the resolutions should be separate. I just truly believe that we're very close here. Jim, you said it yourself. I think we owe that. I don't want to vote no on this, but if it's in this form the way it is today, I told each and every worker that I've talked to that I always left 5% out that I may, you know, keep the door open, cause I did. But to get these things at six or 6:00 is not due diligent.

Mr. Kaminski – I guess, what changes would you recommend in the Ordinance? In 66, for example, the income tax credit reduction, what changes would you make in that?

Mr. DeMio – Off the cuff, no guarantee Jim.

Mr. Kaminski – Right.

Mr. DeMio – Okay. Because again, I just got this. Put it on the ballot for November. Allow the ordinance to reflect until a date next year, maybe February. But those are things I'm going to agree to as a whole. The ordinances are separate. Okay. I understand what Mr. Batke is talking about. He needs time. And in November if it's a November, then we know what we have to do for sure. But I just think we owe it to the folks. We've had many finance meetings, I'll agree with that. Mike has done a good job with that, the Mayor, Don Batke. But all I've asked for is a few more days and it's not fair. It's not fair to go over this in one day based on the... Mike....Pat had an ordinance last week and everyone thought he gave these things to me... I never got them till I got here.

Mr. Gallagher – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Gallagher.

Mr. Gallagher – All right. I don't want to hear about due diligence. We've had this Joe. We've had this budget since November.

Mr. DeMio – So you've had, you've had the resolution and the new ordinance.

Mr. Gallagher – No. I'm not talking about that.

Mr. DeMio – Okay. Well, that's what I'm talking about Mike.

Mr. Gallagher – I'm talking about... I'm talking about the budget. And what we have done, and keep in mind, I think everybody's losing sight of what the reality of this is.

Mr. DeMio – I'm not losing sight of any reality.

Mr. Gallagher – The past four years we've cut 38% out of this budget. Fact.

Mr. DeMio – Correct.

Mr. Gallagher – 38% of our budget's been slashed in four years. We can't balance the budget this year. We came close last year if you remember when I called the meeting up at Ward 3's Fire Station, I believe, or Ward 1. And at that time I wanted to start discussing what we're discussing here. Because let's face it, for three years, at least two and a half years, the red flags have been raised. So, due diligence dictates we would have been looking at this two and a half years ago.

Mr. DeMio – Did we ever have an ordinance that said this before?

Mr. Gallagher – I'm not discussing the ordinance, but also let's not be shortsighted. With a one-year look at this, you've got contracts that can't be negotiated. Who's going to negotiate a contract when you're looking at nine months? You can't. You've got... You know we've talked about it before. You know they pop our bond rating, fold it up. It's over. You know to get back to where we need to get back to, when things were good, and they weren't all that great because we were carrying over two million dollars when in reality should be about four or five million on a carryover. And we were spending when we had the money, all of us. All of us were doing that. And the indicators were 38% as we progressed down, cut out of our budget to get back to where we were when things were good, we need to return the 38%, that's our roads and everything else. If it were raining tonight we'd all be under plastic. We don't even have simple maintenance of our building. So, you know a day or two due diligence, I mean, all it is is verbiage. The reality is, is either you do or you don't. And you know what, if they were going to vote for me because I'm voting for this cause I don't want the City to stop, then that's what's going to happen.

Mr. DeMio – Mike.

Mr. Gallagher – That's the chance we take.

Mr. DeMio – Mike. I never one time referred to anyone voting for me or not for me. So.

Mr. Gallagher – No. I'm saying that to me Joe.

Mr. DeMio – Okay.

Mr. Gallagher – So, I don't see....

Mr. DeMio – I understand.

Mr. Gallagher – I'd love to....I'd love to sit here and say, you know what, two days is going to make a difference or whatever, but it isn't.

Mr. DeMio – Well two Councilmen at night time came up with an idea.

Mr. Gallagher – Joe, I've been working on this and I've been burning the phones, and you can ask Mike Daymut.

Mr. DeMio – I agree with that.

Mr. Gallagher – We've had some heated, heated discussions. I called Mr. Coyne Friday, I called Mr. Daymut Friday. I've been throwing proposals left and right. I've been dribbling this thing and spinning it like crazy.

Mr. Kaminski – Right. And the whole intent of the idea is, and it would be in the language on the ballot. It would have to be there to everyone's point. If it isn't there, then I agree with you because then the rollback may never occur. It's got to be in the language. This is an intent. This is an intent to work out a solution. That's what this is.

Mr. DeMio – But it doesn't decrease; it doesn't eliminate 66 if the people say no. Okay.

Mr. Kaminski – If we include it in our proposal, yes it will.

Mr. DeMio – Well how would I even think to know that Jim?

Mr. Kaminski – Because this is an intent to work out a solution for November's ballot. And that's what this is. Give everyone the opportunity to vote.

Mr. DeMio – And that is the single wholehearted reason.

Mr. Kaminski – We can discuss this until the deadline for the ballot, which is when, September?

Mr. Coyne – July.

Mr. Kaminski – July. Okay. So we have until July to work out the wordage for this ordinance.

Mr. DeMio – So you're saying that we got the card numbers in today, what the issues and deployment would be.

Mr. Kaminski – Yes, and they're staggering. I disagree with you. Thirty-some... that's a lot of jobs to lose.

Mr. DeMio – Okay. I'm not going to disagree with that even though I wasn't the one who gave the number. But we get that today. We get a new ordinance today and amendment to the ordinance and an intent today. I mean, you know.

Mr. Gallagher – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Gallagher.

Mr. Gallagher – Mr. DeMio. Joe. You know we've had this budget since November. Mr. Roth's right. You know we finally had that once last against the wall, heels against the wall meeting where we came up with \$700,000.00. And that was summer help and everything else. That's no streets. Don't call for your street. There are no streets. You know these people don't really know.

Mr. Gallagher (Cont'd.) - When they find out what's not in this budget, that's when the trouble is going to start. This things been stripped. So we've had this all this time and now two days, and I don't care what resolutions we're talking about. What's going to make a difference? What's going to make a difference? Where were these suggestions with or without resolutions?

Mr. Kaminski – Since January.

Mr. Gallagher – Since November.

Mr. DeMio – Including yourself, the Chairman of Finance. I don't disagree with all that. I don't, I don't, I don't disagree with any of that.

Mr. Kaminski – And speaking of, I have a whole booklet here. Mark, I never got your plan. Did you ever put it in writing? I do not have a plan from you.

Mr. Gallagher – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. DeMio – I don't think Mark's part of this discussion.

Mr. Kaminski – I know, but I was looking for it.

Mr. Haseley – All right. All right. All right. Wait a minute guys. (Gavel) No more debate. We're either going to vote on this or we're not.

Mr. DeMio – Well, I mean....

Mr. Haseley – If you want to delay it you're not gaining anything. These people are here to hear a vote tonight. We should give it to them.

(Applause)

Mr. Coyne – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes.

Mr. Coyne – Thank you. I'll try to be brief. Obviously these are difficult times in the City of Strongsville. When you talk about reducing your work force, it's not an easy thing to do obviously. I would tell you this. I don't think there's been a stronger advocate of the Police, Fire and Service Department than myself during my terms on City Council. I think that I've been probably one of the most outspoken members in supporting those forces. On February 9th I sent a memo to Mayor Haseley recapping the money that we reduced from the budget. I also went on to ask him, additionally if we're successful in designing a new revenue source and there would be any additional funds left in 2004, I'd like to know how Council would prioritize any dollars left in 2004.

Mr. Coyne (Cont'd.) - Further, I would also like to have a plan developed for 2005 to see what our priorities would be; roads, additional Police Officers, Fire Fighters, vehicles, communications, etc. And I also put in there an idea that I came up with termed the Sunset Clause. I introduced that at the last meeting. And simply the original ordinance which was introduced by Mr. Haseley, all it had was a provision to renew it annually, which in other words, at least in my opinion, is a permanent increase in the reduction of the income tax. The reason I introduced that is that I thought with Mayor Perciak being new on board and inheriting some tough financial times it would be fair and everybody's best interest, put a check and balance clause in the ordinance. And I did that. And I asked Council to take a week and take a look at it. And basically what it did is it provided us with dollars to get out of our financial difficulty this year and next year and it would expire in December, 2005. This evening, and the only one I heard from besides... I've heard from Joe DeMio and I heard from Mike Gallagher cause we spoke Friday, and I spoke from Mark Roth. But until this evening when I just received this ordinance, and that's what I think what Joe's trying to talk about, we're too far apart. Where mine expires in 2005, yours expires in 2006. And then this evening, because Joe DeMio pointed out we did receive from Mr. Daymut a resolution expressing the intent of Council to question on the November, 2004 ballot, the question of whether an existing city income tax rate should go to 2.0, should be increased to 2.25%. If I didn't introduce that amendment last week this would have been a permanent tax. And I'm glad everybody's starting to get on board with the Sunset Clause because it's a good provision. And the reason why I introduced that is because residents do not want to see a permanent tax. They want to see some light at the end of the tunnel. I believe the residents of Strongsville want to see us bail ourselves out, but I don't think it should be forever. And if I didn't introduce that, it would have been forever. And like I said, I'm glad everybody's on board with it. But the simple fact is, is that I heard Councilmen more times than none say that they're upset to receive information the day of the meeting. And we did receive it the day of the meeting. Now people had a week to contact me. So the phones were burning up on Sunday night, I didn't hear from any of the Councilmen about... I gave you a week to look over yours; you gave me twenty minutes to look over mine. You know personally I don't think it's fair. And as far as the financial situation in the community is concerned; I've had 116 phone calls and the vast majority of them are against any type of increase without a vote of the people. But to be fair, I said.. I stood back; you know I don't (unintelligible) with this job. It's not easy when you're going to take some flack. I thought I was doing the responsible thing by putting a clause in, taking care of our situation now, place this on the ballot. But one thing that this doesn't say and maybe it will say later on, there's no provision in here to cease the tax credit if it passes. So I think it would just.. what it does is just offers a lot of confusion because what you want to do is pass this on for two years and then put this on the ballot and people are going to say, well, I'm getting money taken out right now. There's no clause in this right now to remove what we'll vote on tonight. So in a sense, Joe is right. I mean, there was some things thrown at us.

Mr. Coyne (Cont'd.) - Now let's talk about the budget cause besides Mark Roth, I've been here second to him. We've made some tough discussions in the past. In 2000, or actually 1991, we were in a similar situation. We went to the taxpayers and increased the city income tax from 1.5 to 2.0% with a vote of the people. We passed it with 63% of the vote. Why? Because we had a plan. We had a specific plan that they would know what they would receive for their tax dollars. And we've ridden the tide for that for the past ten years. In retrospect that's been our salvation. We've raised a lot of money because we took the initiative to do that.

But my intent was to introduce the Sunset Clause from anywhere from a year to eighteen months. My amendment ends in 2005. You need to have that check and balance. That's what I'm going to be voting on tonight. I firmly believe the residents are willing to bail us out temporarily, but to make it permanent it's not fair to them. Not fair to them at all. I think they believe in us. I think we need to do it on a temporary basis. But I... no one called me to let me know that they're going to move it up a year. And I'm not disturbed by that. I mean, that's your right as a Councilman, but I gave you a week, you've given me twenty minutes. That's not fair. And tonight's the first time I actually received a response from my February 9th memo on where the cuts are going to be. That's the first time in almost a month I've heard anything. Now what's also very disturbing is our friends in the... our city workers. On Friday I was contacted by Dave Dudas, head of the Teamsters and told that fifteen service workers were going to be reduced if we didn't pass this this week. Prior to that Mr. Dudas informed me, along with Mr. Vadini at a meeting, I believe, and the head of the firefighters union was there, and head of the police union was there that it would be a good idea that they contact me and Joe DeMio and some other Councilmen to talk about what we're going to do to try to resolve this. We had a good meeting and we talked about a lot of things. And that meeting helped me move a little bit off of where I was to try to compromise. But, you know I'm not going to give away the kitchen sink here either. This is a growing fund that we're passing. It's at 3.8 million dollars. Every time someone gets a raise, every time there's a bonus, anytime there's a person on there it continues to grow. And to give somebody four million dollars a year for a lifetime, it's just plain wrong. Foreclosures are the highest they have ever been in the City of Strongsville. There's people in the community that do not know where their next meal is coming from, where their next mortgage payment is coming from, where their next utility payment is coming from. And I think this Sunset Provision is a good one, but we can't take advantage of it. And as far as putting it on the ballot is concerned, I think people would like see that. But I guess what really bothered me most is the manipulation on this issue. Not once was Council told till tonight where these cuts were going to be. And for Mr. Dudas or any other union heads, I mean, we should not be the last ones to hear. Like Friday, I was shocked to hear that.

Mr. Coyne (Cont'd.) - Originally they were told that five service workers were going to be laid off, Friday it was fifteen, now it's something else. Like I said, the memo tells it all. I asked it on February 9th. Everything I've done has been in great sincerity. And frankly I can give no more. I've been fair. I think if you talk to Neal Rosman, Neal would agree I met with him. I met with the Teamsters. I met with Police Department. I met with other city employees. I have been extremely fair. I have moved off my position to try to accommodate everybody. But I just do not like the way it's handled, to put scare tactics to employees, to try to put pressure on Council over the weekend. It's not right. Perhaps if I would have known a month ago where these cuts were anticipated to be, we could have sat down and talked about it some more. So I'm here to tell you I think I've done everything. I've given all I can. Joe DeMio's right, I think we're close, there's a compromise. And frankly I'm just disturbed. And I respect the fact cause I miss Council meetings too. I missed a couple this year. I have some extreme problems with my kidneys. So I sympathize with Mr. Kaminski being out of town on March 15th. What he does is his livelihood. But again, this was introduced a few weeks ago. We had a special meeting just to put it on second reading. And we're rushing to pass it tonight. Mike Gallagher's right, is it going to change a lot of things? No. But you know what, if we can win one more Councilmember over to get a conclusion here, I think it's a good thing. I think it's going to benefit everybody. And again, I'm very empathetic... I don't want to see any employees leave. That's why I moved off my original position and compromised. But I'm not going to give anymore on that. I think I've been fair, and that's where it stands.

Mayor Perciak – Mr. President, if I may?

Mr. Haseley – Yes, Mayor.

Mayor Perciak – I'll try to be brief ladies and gentlemen. Good evening. All the plan and all the discussion and everything, all the language being exchanged here tonight, we failed to address one major topic, is our bond rating. Now, as a City Council they have their opinion. As the administration, I'm the elected official. I am the person charged with deciding as to who in the City, and we will administer the City and we will go ahead and we will make the decisions according to bargaining agreements and to whatever we have to do as far as employees are concerned should I not be handed a balanced budget. I promise you I will do it fairly and I will do it honestly. But that is an administrative decision. It is not a legislative decision.

Now let's get to the bond rating. When we're talking about dollars here and we're talking about extending this to 2006, we have to be thinking about this town is seven, eight, nine, ten and every time we go to the bond market to finance a project in this City. And if we don't show fiscal responsibility and if we don't take and show the courage that we need, our bond rating will be lowered. And that will cost each and every citizen in this town many more dollars than you know.

Mayor Perciak (Cont'd.) - Right now we enjoy a AA1 bond rating. If we do not get control of this budget, if we do not become more fiscally prudent, they are going to lower our bond rating. And every time we go out in the future to do anything in this city, whether it's streets, whether it's a new Police Station, whether it's a new Fire Station, we're going to be penalized, and we're going to be penalized with new and higher interest rates. And that's what I'm thinking about. I'm just not thinking about the short term, I'm thinking about the tomorrows. And I've listened to all the rhetoric and who is right and who is wrong, but nobody's thinking about what it's... how much is it going to cost each and every one of you here and at home if we don't do something. We have got to accumulate some cash and demonstrate to the street that we are fiscally responsible and we are worthy of a AA1 or AA2 credit rating. And that's what we are charged to do.

(Applause)

Mayor Perciak – And as far as this Mayor's concerned, I took an oath that I would uphold the law and that's what I am going to do, and I am going to do what is strategically in the best interest of every citizen of this City. Like I told all these guys on Council, I'm going to do what's right by the people. And if the people four years from today don't elect me, so be it. But I am going to do what's right. And that's what we have to do. I have to protect everybody here.

Mr. Coyne – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes, Mr. Coyne.

Mr. Coyne – Just a response to that. The reason why we have a bond rating we have today because members like, some of us who have been on Council, made the tough moves, made the tough moves to increase the sewer fund when it was unpopular.

Mayor Perciak – But we're jeopardizing it. We're jeopardizing it Pat. Please understand, this is what I've done for thirty years of my life. We're jeopardizing it. Please don't tell me this. We're jeopardizing it.

Mr. Coyne – Which we increased.... I'd just like to finish.

Mr. Haseley – Mayor, Pat has the floor for now.

Mr. Coyne – We increased the sewer fund in order to make it more solvent so we could do more projects to enhance our bond rating. We put to the ballot to increase the income tax from 1.5 to 2% to raise additional revenue to make that bond rating more outstanding. And it's collectively the past administration and some of the members of Council up here who have brought that rating to where it has been, with the help of Don Batke and Matt Stuczinski. So to say that we don't care about the bond rating, it's not true. All I'm saying is, and what I stated is, is that I moved off dead center for not voting for this to trying to come up with a solution. And my solution is the Sunset Clause. Now nobody even heard of it until I brought it up last week, or this would have been a permanent tax. All I'm saying is, is that we've been fiscally responsible, we've done a good job by our actions of the sewer rates, taking a sanitary sewer fund, the bond ratings have reflected that. We've done real well. That's all I'm saying.

Mr. Kaminski – Right. One last comment and then I think the people will have their opportunity to voice their opinions. The amendment, it's called amendment because the move to amend Mr. Coyne's recommendation for Sunset, there's one change, and one change only, and that's the date. That's moving the date to two and a half years out because we already have a proposed budget all the way out to 2006.

Mr. Haseley – One and a half.

Mr. Kaminski – No, No. The amendment takes it to December of 2006. February 27th Mr. Batke, I believe this was shared with all of us, gave us a budget out to 2006. We know that without another stream of revenue that we have to keep this in place till at least that long. Okay. And again, I apologize for some of the last minute solutions that we tried to put on the table, but those are not being voted on tonight. Those are not being voted on. What's being voted on is the 2004-66. These other ideas, we can continue to work on.

Mr. Coyne – You know Jim, and you're right. We got that...

Mr. Kaminski – And most of the Councilmen agree with this Sunset Clause, Pat.

Mr. Coyne – But Jim, what point I was going...

Mr. Kaminski – And we're going to vote for it.

Mr. Coyne – Right. The point I was trying to make, until I introduced it you wanted to make it a permanent tax.

Mr. Haseley – That wasn't the intent Mr. Coyne.

Mr. Kaminski – No, that wasn't the intent.

Mr. Coyne – What was the intent?

Mr. Haseley – The intent was to review it and obviously if it wasn't needed anymore, and that's going to take couple of years, not one or one and a half.

Mr. Coyne – Well Ray, reviewing it annually and putting a Sunset Clause in it are...

Mr. Haseley – Are two different things.

Mr. Coyne – Are two different things.

Mr. Haseley – I agreed with the Sunset...

Mr. Coyne – I'm glad you realize it...

Mr. Haseley – I agreed with you...

Mr. Coyne – Thank you. I'm glad you realize it. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – And if you'll give me the opportunity of talking instead of yapping over me, I'd appreciate it. When you told me about this, I agreed with you and you have to say that's true. I also said at the time that I didn't think it was long enough. We have to give this an opportunity to work or we're going to be here again next year.

Mr. Coyne – Which there's a provision that, that you could look at it and renew it in case you need it again.

Mr. Gallagher – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Coyne – That's part of the Sunset Clause is that you can review it annually and review your budget for the proper checks and balances. That's what a Sunset Clause is.

Mr. Gallagher – Just finally. I think it's important that Council understand when we went through the Finance hearing sessions and we got to the end, we had every opportunity to slice and dice and mix and move. Right at the end I waited for everybody's input whether verbally on the record or to be read into the record if you're unavailable. I got none of this.

Mr. Coyne – February 9th.

Mr. Gallagher – We returned the budget...

Mr. Coyne – February 9th.

Mr. Gallagher – This Council, for what I would suggest is the first time in the history of Strongsville, returned an unbalanced budget back to the Mayor. And then all of a sudden everybody got interested in solutions. In reality, he could have started chopping people then because we sent the clear message; we've done our job, we've gone as far as we can go, we don't want to go any further. We in essence didn't do our job, we didn't finish our job, and we threw it into his lap. And now we're throwing this all around to try and balance the budget. It seems a little disingenuous to me to be throwing terms around any everything else. Let's just vote on this and move on. We're not going to get anywhere.

(Applause)

Mr. Coyne – Mike, my point was to be disingenuous.

Mr. Gallagher – We're not getting anywhere, so...

Mr. Haseley – Let's continue on and finish with the reports.

Mr. Daymut – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. DeMio – No, but Michael. Wait a minute. Let me... I started.. Just because I've not interrupted anyone. And I agree with Jim and I agree with Mike. But the fact of the matter is we got this Friday night which is the proposed budget, February 27th; I'm reading it right, the proposed budget for the next couple years. We got...

Mr. Batke – Mr. Chairman, Mr. DeMio. You've had that information for weeks. Budget hearings have been concluded.

Mr. DeMio – Okay, well then I guess...

Mr. Batke – This is old news that you keep reiterating.

(Applause)

Mr. Batke – You folks have had this information for weeks. Now it's about time that you step up to the plate and do what you were elected to do and quit trying to politic.

(Applause)

Mr. DeMio – You know what Don, I don't believe I ever interrupted you and I won't start today.

Mr. Batke – There's always a first time Joe, so go right ahead.

Mr. DeMio – I understand that.

Mr. Coyne – Well Don, I'm surprised. That's the most you've said anything in the fifteen years I've been on Council. Usually it is, I have no report.

Mr. Batke – Yes. And this is the first time you folks talk about that you've ever seen a budget.

Mr. Coyne – I didn't say that.

Mr. Batke – But I'm hearing that from some of your colleagues.

Mr. Coyne – I'm just saying, I'm glad after fifteen years I'm hearing something than I can certify these funds....

Mr. Batke - Good. Well, then why don't you listen?

Mr. Coyne – Or there's no report.

Mr. Batke – If you listen, you'll learn...

Mr. DeMio – Don, Don, Don....

Mr. Coyne – You need to learn.

Mr. DeMio – Don, just let me....

Mr. Haseley – All right. Come on boys (gavel).

Mr. Coyne – Last spring you were seeing a \$250,000.00 cash balance.

Mr. DeMio – Okay, wait, let me just...

Mr. Haseley – Let's bring this back to order.

Mr. DeMio – Okay I will. I didn't ever... Ray, interrupted anybody and I don't want to start.

Mr. Haseley – I hear you Joe.

Mr. DeMio – If you'll allow me.

Mr. Haseley – Let me... I would rather finish the reports and then we're going to get into this anyway, and that's the time for it, please.

Mr. DeMio – Well...

Mr. Daymut – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Daymut.

Mr. Daymut – I'm the only one out there. Ladies and gentlemen, you see how difficult it is. I'll give you my position very quickly. I've never raised taxes since I've been on Council. I do believe something has to be done. I still believe in the right of the people to vote on something. I proposed something this evening that needs to be refined by this Council. And I'm asking for you to help me to try to get this Council together so we can achieve what we need to achieve in the best interest of the citizens of Strongsville and provide the services we need to. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – Okay. Let's continue on.

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

Mayor Perciak – Okay. Tomorrow is Election Day ladies and gentlemen and we have a couple of renewals on the ballot; Issue No. 15 which is 1.5 mill renewal for the operating fund. We encourage your vote. We encourage you to vote and we encourage you to vote yes. This is not; this is not a new tax. Issue No. 16 is a renewal for our Fire Department. This is not a new tax, this is a renewal. This is for our Fire Department, for our firefighters. Please vote yes. This past week you've received, and probably the last few weeks, talking about the revitalization of Strongsville's north end. This is not a tax. This is a rezoning issue. My wife and I are going to vote yes on this rezoning. So please, vote your conscience. My wife and I are going to vote yes on this. This is a rezoning and not a tax issue. That's all I have Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Any questions for the Mayor?

FINANCE DEPARTMENT - Mr. Batke: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. Funds will be made available for the ordinances and resolutions on this evening's agenda up for adoption. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Batke?

Mr. DeMio – Just tell me when I can speak Ray?

Mr. Haseley – You can speak now if you want.

Mr. DeMio – Regarding 2004-66.

Mr. Haseley – Go ahead.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you. Before I was interrupted earlier, I'll just say I like the information I received Friday night. And I agree, it's an accumulation of many items that we've talked about for quite some time. I'm not even disagreeing with that. Okay. My whole point is we received a lot of different items including the new things. I don't think it's that much to ask. I know people want to know, you know, about their livelihood. I agree. I've told it. I've told people how I felt. You know, again, if we could allow us to get together on these two new items I will say we are very close. If they go the way they are today, as is, I personally am not voting for them. That's all I wanted to say. It wasn't that big of a deal. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – All right. Anybody else for Mr. Batke?

LAW DEPARTMENT- Mr. Kraus: Yes, thank you Mr. President. Just a couple things to report. The administration and this Council have been following the progress of the bankruptcy regarding Adelphia Cable Communications. I can report to you that late this afternoon I received some information indicating that they have filed a plan of reorganization in the United States Bankruptcy Court and that, hopefully, based upon some eight billion dollars in financing that they have tentatively secured that they'll ultimately be coming out of bankruptcy. I'm forwarding some information to the members of Council by memorandum tomorrow. If you have any questions, get back to me. The Law Department will continue to carefully follow the developments in the Adelphia cases we have in the past based upon the significance to the City in terms of the franchise agreement that we have for our residents.

Secondly, I want to report that pursuant to authorization of this Council, on February 20th, the Law Department filed a appropriation case for the property located at 13601 Royalton Road under the quick-take procedure that was filed in the Probate Court. We've not yet received an answer from the defendant, but the matter is pending in the Probate Court and has permitted Mr. Sunyak to certify to ODOT that the right-of-ways on that particular section of the project have been successfully obtained.

And thirdly, I want to report that in the case that was recently filed of West Paving Asphalt Company versus Stradtman Construction Company that the Court of Common Pleas has scheduled a case management conference on March 16th which I will be attending on behalf of the City of Strongsville, and I'll be reporting back to Council on the results of that case management conference. That completes my report Mr. President.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Kraus?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

David Dudas, Secretary/Treasurer, Principal Officer of Teamsters Local 52, 6511 Eastland Road, Brookpark, Ohio - Council President, Mayor, Councilmen, Department Heads. I can only speak on what I've been told and what I know. We had Teamsters Local 52 represent the Service Workers and the Building Inspectors of this great City. And yes, this is a great City. Okay. And they do an excellent job for all of you. Okay. When Council members called Service Director, our people are immediately dispatched and take care of the issue or the problem, whether it's a traffic light, snow removal, animal control problem, road repair, or whatever the case may be. Our members are there. They make the Mayor, the Council and the City look good, not only for you but for the residents and for the people who drive through this great City. They answer to all you beckon calls. We at Teamsters Local 52 were the first organized group to come to you, the City, knowing that you guys had a financial problem, and offered an extension to you until you can work out and figure out where you are going. We came to you prepared with the paperwork, the extensions to each other, and to the State Employees Relation Board. We didn't demand bargaining. We didn't hold your feet to the fire. Now we feel our feet are being held to the fire now. On February 12th the Mayor called a special meeting for all union officials. The very next day on Friday the 13th, in that meeting all union officials were told that if the ordinance doesn't pass the City was looking at five layoffs, each from... five from the Police, Fire and service workers and two building inspectors and approximately 25 part-time Rec. workers across the board. Since then, Friday, last Friday, I'm informed that things have changed. We're now told that fifteen service workers, which is 25% of the Service Department, will be laid off and the two building inspectors that we represent. That's unacceptable. That's totally unacceptable. All of you up there keep saying that the service workers do a great job for the City and for the Councilmen. For the last four meetings that I sat in, be it a budget hearing or a Council meeting, all we heard was praises. Why? Why? Cause we were here. Because all these good people showed force and put you guys on the spot. We don't need praises. This is what we get for performing our jobs, second to no other City. Fifteen of your employees, our members, facing layoffs, plus the two building inspectors. Put your political differences aside. Look at the devastation you're going to create. Look at the devastation for the families. Do the right thing. Fifteen employees laid off from the service workers, again, is more than 25% of the group. Will the residents tolerate that? Can you afford to go backwards, back in time, down to 41 service workers and expect the same level of quality and service that our Teamsters Local Union 52 members, your employees, provide? We urge all members of Council to do the right thing. Please get together, protect the services, protect the residents, protect the City in whole, protect jobs, protect the livelihood of the people, and most importantly protect the quality of life for the Strongsville employees, your extended family in the workplace. Just in closing, to all the department heads and Council members who returned all my phone calls and the phone calls to these good people in your employee, I thank you for your honesty, your candor, and your concern.

David Dudas (Cont'd.) - For those of you who chose not to return the call, at least we feel now, we know where your stances on the issues of job security and quality of life for your fellow coworkers and for the services to these residents. We're just looking for a fair shake. Please get together and do the right thing. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Haseley – Thank you David.

Steve Quinlan, 19797 Tanbark Lane – On behalf of the Service Department I'd like to extend a thanks and a gratitude to those members of Council that have endorsed 2004-66. Our sincere thanks. We're very thankful for it. Mr. Roth you said that... I want to thank you for not wanting to see anyone laid off. I'm in your Ward. I appreciate that. But it appears that if 2004-66 doesn't get voted in, there's going to be layoffs. It's that simple. That's the way it's been presented to us as a City.

Mr. Roth – I don't agree with that.

Steve Quinlan – That's fine. You said you've heard from the people. I called you three weeks ago; I have not got a call back. You haven't heard from all the people. Same as Mr. DeMio, three weeks, no return call.

Mr. DeMio – Your message was, and I quote, "call me if you haven't changed your mind". And I did not change my mind.

Steve Quinlan – No, it was not a change of mind.

Mr. DeMio – I talked to you... I'm not going to debate this with you.

Steve Quinlan – I'm not either.

Mr. DeMio – Okay.

Steve Quinlan – I hope that...

Mr. DeMio – I called everyone that called me, back. You can talk... I have my list right here.

Steve Quinlan – That's fine.

Mr. DeMio – Okay.

Steve Quinlan – I'm not going to debate it with you, I'm not going to argue with you.

Mr. DeMio – That's fine.

Steve Quinlan – Okay. I know what message I left and I asked for a return call. Got a return call when you were running for Mayor, when you were looking for support. I didn't get one this time. Very disappointing

(Applause)

Steve Quinlan – For those members of Council who do not plan on voting for 2004-66, can you say that the City is going to sustain the quality of life and services that the residents have become accustomed to? Each of you are elected to make a decision for the betterment of the City. You all do a fine job, but if anyone gets laid off, is that for the betterment of the City? Sometimes it seems like some of you are afraid of losing votes in your next election. Of those few votes that you may lose, is that worth costing someone their job. If you vote no for 66, you're voting yes for laying off employees. We're asking you, what is an employees job worth, their livelihood? We're asking you to vote yes on this. Our jobs our livelihood depend on it. We need your help from every one of you all. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Haseley – Thank you.

Charles Vento, 13463 Tomson – Joe Walker, what are we going to do to get me a sign out in front of my house so I can get my truck out of my yard? You know, you can put a sign out there "Do Not Block Driveway". You know, you put the permit up there, allowed the people to built that home when they did it. Now it ain't my goof up, they allowed the driveway on the wrong side of the properties. Now I have a right to get out of my driveway. When that school opens up and they start having games and everything, I ain't going to be able to get out of there. I fight as it is now to get out when people have parties and everything around there. You can put a sign up there saying, in my neighbor's driveway, in the middle, and that means ten feet with an arrow pointing to his driveway. That will allow me to get out of my parking space. I'm sorry, but I didn't built the house. If that was the way, you should have stopped it and said the driveways ought to be all the same. I'm on the opposite side of this road, so it throws my driveway off when somebody else has to back into it. Now I'm tired of fighting to get out of my driveway. As a citizen I have a right and I have a way to get out of my driveway. And I want a sign put up. I've been after you for almost a year on this. And you come up with all kinds of excuses, but you can put a parking sign up cause I've seen them in business places, "Do Not Block Driveway".

Mr. Walker – Yes I can Mr. Vento, I can put a sign up and I haven't given you any excuses. I've given you valid reasons as to why that sign is not needed. Parking is restricted on your side of the street. Okay. You've lived there for how long now?

Charles Vento – Eighteen years.

Mr. Walker – Eighteen years. And the first I heard of this sign was last year. How did you get out of your driveway for the last seventeen years?

Charles Vento – I've been fighting it. But I've been fighting it every time. It's got worse...

Mr. Walker – And how old are those houses?

Charles Vento – It's got worse since the schools had games and everything going on there.

Mr. Walker – Okay.

Charles Vento – I moved in in... my street wasn't like it is.

Mr. Walker – How old are those houses there?

Charles Vento – The houses were built in 72.

Mr. Walker – Okay. I think I was in about the 6th grade, so don't hold me responsible for the driveway situation, okay. I wasn't calling the shots then. All right. I told you I'd come out there and look at it. I have looked at it and a sign is not warranted.

Charles Vento – What do you mean it's not warranted?

Mr. Walker – Every other street... every other street in the City has got the same scenario. Other people have large cars and they can get in and out of their driveways.

Charles Vento – But nobody has a driveway that is not lined up with another driveway. That's my problem here.

Mr. Walker – But, but....

Charles Vento – The law says you can put a sign up there. It ain't going to stop nobody from parking there. The only thing that's going to stop in that area, the whole street is still open to park.

Mr. Walker – I understand that.

Charles Vento – Now why didn't they do that when they built the house then, say that can't be done that way.

Mr. Walker – Well, there's...

Charles Vento – I got a van. It's rough for me to get in and out of there.

Mr. Walker – I unders....

Charles Vento – Everybody's got small compact cars.

Mr. Walker – I understand. I have looked at it for you but it does not warrant a sign.

Charles Vento – It's not worth it. It can't be done?

Mr. Walker – No. I said it does not warrant putting a sign up there.

Charles Vento – Why not? Why. You ain't given me a good enough reason. If that was your driveway you couldn't get out, you'd find a way to get a sign up there. I'm not asking for the whole street to be stopped, no parking. I'm asking so I can get out of my own damn driveway.

Mr. Walker – Mr. Vento...

Charles Vento – And I think this is ridiculous.

Mr. Walker – If you'd like I'll meet you out there again and I'll show you exactly what I'm talking about.

Charles Vento – Like you said, you couldn't put no signs on the side streets. When the Fire Department come out there and seen there was a legal.... It was illegal what they were doing parking out there; you guys put the signs up. All the years, nobody would put a sign up there cause they're scared of the damn schools. And I'm tired of fighting the schools.

Mr. Haseley – (gavel) Mr. Vento. Chuck. Mr. Vento.

Charles Vento – I'm fighting them already for my damn backyard that's (unintelligible) out.

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Vento, please.

Charles Vento – You know I'm getting no cooperation.

Mr. Haseley – Well why don't you come in and meet with Mr...

Charles Vento – It's gone over everybody's head. I've been on this over and over and over and over about this parking space.

Mr. Haseley – Well you come here and nothing happens. Why don't you come in and meet with him. And you can argue all you want to in his office.

Charles Vento – I asked him in a nice way plenty of times and it's gone nowhere. It's gone nowhere.

Mr. Haseley – Well.

Charles Vento – I mean, the law says I have a right to get out of my driveway. When you can't get out of your driveway, you got to provide a way for me to get out of my driveway. And the way to get out of my driveway is to be putting that sign up which would bother nobody else, just restricting that one area to get out of my own driveway. Now you tell me that's going to destroy everybody on the street.

Mr. Haseley – I'm not telling you anything.

Charles Vento – No. He's... that's what he's trying to say here. You can't do it.

Mr. Kraus – Mr. President.

Mr. Haseley – Yes.

Charles Vento – They can do it, but they don't want to do it cause they don't want to get an enemy with the school.

Mr. Kraus – Excuse me, Mr. Vento. Why don't we let.... Mr. Walker, why don't you present me the information on this, and then Mr. Vento I'll review what he's done. All right.

Charles Vento – Um hum.

Mr. Kraus – So give me a chance to meet with him and let me look and see why he's saying that we can't put the sign there. I may end up agreeing or I may end up disagreeing, but I'll put a ruling out as a Law Director based on what the facts are and what the law is. Okay. So if you could give us a chance to do that then I'll follow up with Mr. Walker this week and then we'll get back to you Sir.

Charles Vento – The fact that... I mean, all I'm asking is my (unintelligible) spot....

Mr. Kraus – Okay, Mr. Vento. That's what we'll do.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you.

Roger Lockhart, 10267 Versailles Drive – I've been a resident of Strongsville for fourteen years. I have some comments to make regarding 2004-66. Mr. Haseley, I'd like to start if I can with a question for you. As the sponsor of 2004-66 you are quoted on the front page of The Sun News dated February 12th as follows: Strongsville is "one of the few Cities left giving a 100% tax credit". So is that an accurate quote?

Mr. Haseley – After really looking at it, and I think your e-mail pointed it out, and then I investigated it, no it is not. We're one of the few major ones, but there are a great many others.

Roger Lockhart – Well just to add some numbers to that.

Mr. Haseley – That wasn't the reason for my submitting that to begin with, but...

Roger Lockhart – Okay.

Mr. Haseley – Go ahead.

Roger Lockhart – Well according to the RITA tax tables, 107 communities, a total of 62, that's 58% - a clear majority, currently offer a 100% tax credit. And it's important to stipulate that if Council and the Mayor vote tonight to pass 2004-66 you will move from the majority of communities that offer 100% credit to the minority of communities that do not.

Mr. Haseley – Well, let me be clear. The Mayor doesn't have a vote in this.

Roger Lockhart – The Mayor ratifies it as I understand Sir.

Mr. Haseley – Oh.

Roger Lockhart – Another comment regarding the budget itself and the justification in the budget for 2004-66. Mr. Roth, I have read all the news articles; not once, twice, but maybe three or four times. And this information, and I can provide specific quotes if you like, the perception is that Council has cut and cut and cut and cut the budget and can't cut any further. Two quotes if I may from the minutes of January 20th. Mr. Gallagher, these are quotes from you: "as I said, for four years this has been continuous, four years cut, cut, cut". "So you've got 38% in the last four years has been cut out". Now, I'm just a citizen and I read this information. This is the only information I have available to me. It's in the public record, both in the newspaper and in the minutes, and the idea I get is that the budget for 2004 is actually lower than the budget for 2003. In fact, I came to find out that the budget for 2004 is higher than 2003 by 5.5%. Gentlemen, you have not cut the 2004 budget by my definition. This information compiled together, I begin to lost trust in City Government when you decide to a quick fix the budget with up to a 25% tax increase imposed without popular vote solely on the facts of Strongsville residents who work outside the City. A tax on the only people who live inside Strongsville, who require nothing, ask nothing, and take nothing from this City to generate income. Council, you have no legitimate claim to this income to this money. Council, the fact you've allowed this discriminatory measure to even come this far to me is appalling. I want you to vote against 2004-66. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Joe Strensick, 13465 Royalton Road – I've been a resident for 37 years. And I came here for the purpose of finding out about the sewers on Route 82. And if it wasn't for Mr. DeMio returning my call, I wouldn't be here. And I would like to know and I would like to get an answer about our sewers on Route 82 between 130th and Webster Road. And while I was here I had.... got to stick my nose into this thing, on the 66. Mr. Kaminski, I've been here 37 years so I do have some years on you. I would like to know when we had a tax in Strongsville that was only a temporary tax. We have never had a tax.

(Applause)

Never even the United States – you're taxed, you're taxed and it stays here. The other thing, I am a tool and die maker by trade and it seems like when there's pay cuts, it's the hourly worker, it's the blue collar worker. How many administrative people are losing their jobs? Has any of you people taking a pay cut?

(Applause)

I'd be willing to give you a hundred bucks if you collect a hundred bucks off of all these people, you'd have some money. But it's not fair that you blame it, and take it out on the blue collar worker. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Haseley – Thank you Joe.

Mr. Roth – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes.

Mr. Roth – Just want to say that's a very good point, and I totally agree.

Mike Eloma, 13505 Royalton Road – It was the same as issue as him, the sewers.

Mr. Haseley – Same. Okay Mike, thank you.

Donna Lockhart, 10267 Versailles Drive – And I concur with my husband. I think that the fact that you are going to raise taxes on 60% of the people in Strongsville is irresponsible. And I would ask you to reconsider. And I do not know as part of your measure, it's not clear to me even if the Sunset Clause is even part of this. It appears to me as if City Council and the budget are just kind of winging this. And I just wish that you would take some responsibility for your actions without having to take it from 60% of the people. Thank you.

(Applause)

Craig Stalder, 10219 Versailles Drive – The street's well represented. My goodness, you guys have got yourself into quite a pickle. I mean, you're threatening these fine gentlemen with their jobs and these people over there with taxes. And I really think you guys are taking the cowardly way out it by this type of tax. You know its non representative. And I think there has to be a different way where we can save these people's jobs, and to keep the taxes the way they are, and bring a ballot up later. You know, do some temporary cuts, whatever you have to do. Thank you.

(Applause)

Karen Stalder – I'm going to pass. Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you Karen.

Roy Jech, 12748 Ionia Court – That's the same on the rezoning.

Mr. Haseley – Okay. Thank you. On the rezoning. Thank you.

Don Lee – Ray, I pass.

Mr. Haseley – Thanks Don.

– Ray, I pass.

Mr. Haseley – Thanks Don.

Roseann Cynqier, 17757 Potomac Drive – Ladies and gentlemen, I am really afraid, I am really afraid to think of what would happen if we didn't have the capacity of the Police and the Fire that we do now. I owe my life to the City of Strongsville's Fire Department. It's a tough decision to make tonight, but I really believe the City needs to do what the City needs to do. And I will be voting for issue 66.

(Applause)

Bill Vassil, 18271 Fox Hollow Drive – How much money did we spend on this lighting system that really doesn't work? I think this was brought up at the last meeting that some of the traffic...

Mr. Haseley – What this?

Bill Vassil – No. No. No. You know what I'm talking about, you're traffic lights.

Mr. Haseley - Oh.

Bill Vassil – It was brought up at the last meeting that this traffic light didn't work and it stayed on too long. I happened to go out at 10:30, out to the end of Shurmer. I sat there for approximately four minutes, and five cars came down Pearl Road. Now that's ridiculous. You paid out a few million dollars for this traffic system. And by the way, I did it going back too. I came through the little strip mall and sat there and waited. And I got just about the same amount of time with maybe three cars more than I had coming out of Shurmer. Now that light doesn't work to well. I think we better have it checked and let them fix it.

Mayor Perciak – Mr. Chairman, may I?

Mr. Haseley – Yeah.

Mayor Perciak – Bill, Mark, Chief Goss. Please, will you address this situation with these timing and these lights already.

Bill Vassil – And do it, do it, check at night, you know at that time. You'll find that I'm right. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to speak to Mr. Roth if I may?

Mr. Haseley – Privately?

Bill Vassil – No. Right here.

Mr. Haseley – Be my guest.

Bill Vassil – I'm a lifetime member of the VFW Strongsville Post. And you know every couple of years the residents have to open their yaks over there. I'm sorry, but that's been there a long time. And it's about time we get off the case of the servicemen that have a little place to go. If they don't like it, move. We spent our time in the service. We did our jobs. Right now the VA is cutting everything away from the service people and it's a crying shame. There are people that are going around with one leg and can't go to the VA because we're going to close the VA facility. It's wrong. These people gave up a lot. We have a nice little place over there. It's well policed, well taken care of. Get off our backs

(Applause)

Mr. Roth – Mr. Haseley. Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes, Mr. Roth.

Mr. Roth – Mr. Vassil, you know I can completely understand your point of view. But you know, first of all I have a job to do to be a voice. Second of all, many of these residents are veteran's themselves and they have the utmost respect for everything that is happening there. And they've lived and cohabitated for the last twenty years.

Mr. Roth (Cont'd.) - It's been an unorthodox situation. All they're asking for is simple answers to their questions. And what they don't fear... they don't fear their fellow veterans. They fear the future with maybe someone else of less repute in there. That's what they fear. And they just want their questions answered.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you.

Neil Rozman, 14065 Timberlake Drive – I'm also the President of the Strongsville Firefighters Association. I grew up, and prior to moving into Strongsville, I lived in Parma Heights. And Parma Heights only has a 50% tax credit. And with that 50% tax credit, we had a pool that we could use during the summer only, a few small parks scattered around the City, one Police Station, one Fire Station. Our streets were usually plowed and our trash was picked up. That was with a 50% tax credit. Up until this point, we've had 100% tax credit in Strongsville with a fantastic Rec. Center, four Fire Stations, a main Police Station with mini Stations, Service Department that is beyond compare in this county, and I think for 60% of the people who live in Strongsville but work elsewhere, to think that all of that could continue forever basically free of income tax to them is not realistic. Last weekend I went to the golf show at the IX Center, stopped on the way, bought a can of pop for \$.75. They were selling used golf balls at the golf show, \$.75 apiece. Mr. Batke, if you'll make sure I don't get too far off here. For a person making \$60,000.00 a year in Cleveland, but living in Strongsville, they'll owe about \$300.00 a year, minus their marginal income tax rate which will take it down to about \$240.00 a year because that is tax deductible off their federal income tax, leaving them with about \$.67 a day, the price of that can of pop or that used golf ball. To me, after listening to everybody speak I think it comes down to a matter of trust. Mayor Perciak, Councilman Haseley, Councilman Gallagher, Councilman Roth, Councilman Daymut were re-elected or elected in November because you are trusted. Councilman Kaminski, Councilman DeMio, Councilman Coyne will be re-elected because they are trusted. The question in my mind is can we trust you with the money that this would raise. At \$.67 a day.... I know... It sounds questionable, but at \$.67 a day, yes, I can trust you with a price of an old golf ball, or the price of a can of pop. It's not always popular and I'll rely on the opposition to make sure that the money is wisely spent. But we elect public officials; we need to trust our public officials. \$.67 a day, that's all it is.

(Applause)

Shannon Burns, 14492 Polo Club Drive - I find myself sort of complexed tonight. For those of you that know me and maybe those that don't, I would never be caught standing in public supporting a tax increase. What I feel right now is that we have to look at different perspective in the state of the tax revenues in the City. Within the last few years we've had a significant tax reduction at the federal level. The state has found itself in a situation that they're in need of funds. They're even considering raising taxes. We can all debate as to why that is. Part of what the state has done, as you all know, is they have reduced some of the funding to municipalities. With that, what happens, this trickle down that we're all benefiting from. Much of us, many of us are benefiting more than a 1% of our tax rate, some even up to 10%, or I think it's 7 or 8. The City, as you all know, are now the ones that are left with the burden, the final last piece where we're now forced to raise taxes. And we know, and I don't know the number, and Mr. Batke I'm sure you can explain this to me, but I believe that there's a Workers Comp. increase that the state is no longer funding to the tune of a half-million... I'm sorry. Something to that effect. Am I correct there,... Huge part of this deficit that we're looking at. My fellow... people that are in the back of the room do not particularly care for a tax increase. What I'm looking at here, I can look seven people in the eye and say; you can take care of my quarter percent tax increase much better that my state elected official can, and then my federal elected official can. I know Jim Kaminski's cell phone number. I know Joe DeMio's home number. I can look up Mr. Coyne's number; I don't have it off the top of my head. The point I'm making is, is that if I don't feel that you're taking my tax dollars and using them correctly, I can do that. So I'm in favor today of increasing taxes. Record this, you may never hear it again, because I can look and talk with Mayor Perciak and say, this is what we should be doing and we're doing a fine job in doing that. Thank you.

(Applause)

Charles Vento – Speaking of gentlemen, speaking about the traffic lights, we have... Walker, not Walker, I mean, up here by Dodge Dealer. That light is a long one. Coming out of the cemetery on Sunday's I wait almost four minutes to get out of cemetery. On Sunday's, why can't we have these lights flashing in these areas? I mean, we don't have no traffic. And the one by Whitney.... Westwood up here, that's another long one. On Sunday's, no traffic, but you're waiting on the side streets good three to four minutes. This is ridiculous. We could go to flashing lights and let people out of those areas. Coming out of church, you can't even get out of church on St. Joe's on Sunday's. I go down the next street from the light to get out. I wait at the light one day almost three and a half minutes on Sunday, no traffic. And you can't turn; you turn the wrong way you get a ticket.

Mr. Walker – Mr. Vento, how did you get out of your driveway?

Charles Vento – Huh? You may think it's a joke, but it ain't to me. It ain't a joke to me. I mean, this is ridiculous on Sunday's I mean. There's no traffic. Why do we have to wait so long for a light? Years ago, I remember when I was a kid; they used to flash there after certain hours and that in certain areas. We could... that's ridiculous. I mean, you tell me you can't do nothing about that?

Mr. Walker – We're looking at all of them.

Charles Vento – You've been looking at them for the last couple of years that I know of.

Mr. Walker – I know. I know.

Charles Vento – And it seems to be getting worse.

Mr. Walker – The problem with putting them on flash, we lose our preemption capabilities for the safety forces, so that's a big concern that we have.

Charles Vento – (unintelligible) differently for weekends because that's when it... It's ridiculous. You got to sit there and no traffic. And if you dare to make a turn the wrong way, there's a cop there going to give you a ticket. So you can't win. You gonna sit there and wait four minutes and burn up the gas at \$2.00 a gallon. That's ridiculous. I think we should do something about that. Thank you.

Joan Meek, 15486 Highland Park Drive – Mr. President and Council. And I just want to say that I've listened to both sides here. It's been a very interesting experience for me. I am never for anybody ever being laid off. I pray for that everyday for myself. I'm thankful I have a job everyday. I also am very concerned about more money being squeezed out of my paycheck. I love this town, I grew up in it. I moved away for about twelve years, and I'm back for about another fourteen. I'm almost 50 years old, so I spent a lot of my lifetime in this City. And I'd like to stay here. My mother's in a nursing home within this town. My father's about to the point to be put there also. I'd like to be able to stay here, afford to be able to stay here and be able to visit them in a way that fits into my schedule, which is almost daily. By passing this amendment, it's squeezing me even further. I've had to learn in order to stay in this town, or to live anywhere, to balance my budget, and to ask myself do I need this when I go to the store or for whatever it is. And when I look at what you're trying to do I ask that same question to you. When you look ahead and want to put in a new facility, do you look at that as gingerbread, or do you look at it, is it really necessary, is it going to benefit the majority of the people? We need to have a firm foundation before you have the gingerbread in anything, whether that's in a relationship or in a City. And all I'm asking you to do is be fair in this. Mr. DeMio, I think two or three times tonight has tried to say to all of us that we are so close I think to coming to a resolution. And if I understand him correctly saying that we may not even have to have this amendment.

Joan Meek (Cont'd.) - Correct me if I didn't understand that right. And if that is true, I understand you want to... we all want to have a vote tonight. But if we are that close, if it means that we may not have to have this ordinance passed through why can that not be heard by us. It may make a difference in how you all vote tonight. So if it's possible, I would like to hear what those close calls are. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. DeMio – Ray. You know, there's only so much we're allowed to say out here because of the restraints we have legally in the Caucus Room when we shut the door. I can't tell you exactly what Mr. Perciak said or the Law Director said or Mr. Batke said. I can just tell you I really believe we're close. I believe, and I want to tell you this... and if this is out of the Executive Session, sanction me, oh well, I'll live through it. It won't be the first time I'm sued.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you.

Mr. DeMio – I said, thank you... No, I'm not done. Ray, I'm sorry. I said I would support a ballot issue on the ballot. I said please allow me to put my name on it. I won't work against that. I wouldn't do that. My whole point was I wanted to hear from the people as well. If we could continue that thought, God forbid a couple days, I understand people want to vote on it... That was really all.... Where's the young lady, I'm sorry. That's really what I wanted to say because I think people are getting misinformation. And I agree with the Mayor. The bond rating is a tremendous problem. Just like I have good credit and I enjoy lower mortgage rates because of it. That's the same reason he's concerned about the bond rating. And I think everyone agreed with that, I don't think anyone disagreed with that. I think that's a very valid point. My whole point, after nine and a half years.... nine years of being here, I've made errors and I've made mistakes. I received two ordinances, a nice piece of information from Batke that summed up... Mr. Batke had summed up everything. I appreciate that. I think it was a good thing. But I just got two of the three of those items today. You know \$250.00 or a golf ball like Mr. Rozman said, are big issues to some people. We have three people on my street alone... anyone's been on my street, it's not many, that are not working right now. So I have to worry about those folks too. I apologize if I misunderstood your message. I had a conference call with Mr. Lucas. I tried to get a hold of Mr. Fisher as well. And I believe Mr. Lucas will verify that. And if I screwed up the message to you, I personally apologize. You've been to my home. You're more than welcome to come there anytime. You could have knocked on my door. And I'm not saying you have to, and I maybe should have come to your house, I agree with that too. But I would never not call someone back because I disagree with them. So I wanted to take that... I mean, people came up here and said I called them back. I apologize wholeheartedly. I shared with two Union Members; Mr. Dudas as well as Mr. Lucas.

Mr. DeMio – Cont'd. - You're more that welcome to come to my home at anytime. Mr. Dudas and I played phone tag for two days. Neil, I left a message on Mr. Rozman's voice mail. It doesn't mean because he didn't call me back, that I didn't want to hear from... he didn't want to hear from me. Sometimes those things just happen. So I wholeheartedly apologize to you.

Mr. Kaminski – Quick statement though. We and I think there's one issue being missed in an April 1st deadline. I think people have to realize that this absolutely has to be resolved by April 1st; that's the state law. And there's only two ways. There's only two ways; is the tax reduction and the head count reduction. Those are our two choices. That won't change between now and April 1st unfortunately.

Mr. DeMio – But the dynamics of what had happened in the last day, and apparently you at least talked to four councilmen because they agree with you on your ordinance. You know, and I was not one of them apparently. They narrowed the gap because Mike and I did talk about this a couple different times. And if we were on the sense, if that's the term we want to use, that's the term I think we were both at. Is that fair Mike to say that?

Mr. Kaminski – We agreed because we all agreed with the Sunset Clause that we would include that, just changing the date. That was the.... You know...

Mr. DeMio – I understand.

Mr. Kaminski –For a year apart. That's right, changing the date by the one year, yes. That was the proposal.

Mr. DeMio – And if this Council does not want to afford me the luxury of a few more days, so be it.

Mr. Gallagher – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. DeMio – You know, I'm not going to... I'm not going... I'm not going to...

Mr. Kaminski – Set the meeting up.

Mr. DeMio – I said that.

Mr. Gallagher – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – No. We... I'm sorry...

Mr. DeMio – Okay.

Mr. Gallagher – This is... this is... You know what, all due respect Joe...

Mr. DeMio – Mike, I answered... Mike, I answered a resident who came to the floor.

Mr. Gallagher – I understand that, but this is....

Mr. DeMio – I was not going to say anymore Michael.

Mr. Gallagher – This is audience participation. Why don't we let the audience participate? We had our shot at the budget. We had our opportunities. We packaged it up; we sent it back to the Mayor. We should shut our mouths because we had a shot to do this. We had every opportunity. And I sat there and I said, I'll sit here all night and we couldn't do it. So let's let the people talk.

Mr. Haseley – All right. Let's.... this is still audience participation.

Mr. DeMio – Ray, but there's someone that asked me a question, I'm certainly going to address them.

Mr. Gallagher – I understand Joe.

Mr. Haseley – That's fine, you already did Joe.

Mr. DeMio – I know I did.

Mr. Haseley – I don't have a problem with that.

Mr. DeMio – Thank you.

Mr. Haseley – Certainly.

John Adamcik, 13595 Harper Road - All right Ray. I came up; I was watching the Council meeting on TV. I came up here after... I cannot believe our Council, Mr. Mayor, forgive me, I cannot believe yourself. I cannot believe the President of Council. You guys can't work together. What is going on here? You would make more headway if you all worked together instead of demeaning each other. You know, arrogance from the top. If you don't vote for this, we're just going to shut the City down. We're going to layoff as many people as we have to layoff. Mr. Batke cutting in. Mr. Haseley, Mr. Daymut, everybody's just talking over each other. Act a little bit more professional. Maybe things would get done in a more timely fashion. You know, it's a little bit off the cuff, but I'm sorry. It looks like a circus on TV. It does look like a circus. It looks like a power play between certain people and another group of certain people, and you guys are butting heads. And quite frankly, it's not the way I want a City to be run, and I'm a taxpayer. Quite frankly, I don't care about the 25% tax increase or decrease. Why don't we all vote for another 25% tax increase on people who live and work in the City. Make it fair for everybody.

(Applause)

Mr. Haseley – John, I'm going to answer that. They did that eleven years ago.

Mr. DeMio – On the vote of the people Ray.

Mr. Haseley – On the vote of the people.

Mr. DeMio – Oh, okay.

John Adamcik – And that's the proper way it should be done.

Mr. Haseley – And those are the ones that were affected; who live and work here by and large.

John Adamcik – This is a government of the people, by the people, for the people; not the other way around.

Mr. Haseley – I agree.

John Adamcik – At least that's, you know, that's what I took out of American History.

Mr. Daymut – Mr. Haseley, I agree with that. Maybe we can... maybe now we can get this Council together to agree to do something.

John Adamcik – Yeah, quit nitpicking.

Mr. Daymut – We're carrying the legislation, let's see if we can get it organized on it, okay gentlemen.

John Adamcik – Right. You guys are supposed to all be professionals. Act like it. At least come across on TV like it. Thank you.

(Applause)

Bruce Lockhart, 20323 Abigail Lane – Boy, he took a lot of my fire. You know I was going to start with a little bit of correlation. You know like if you were the president of a bank and the bank was a little bit short on money, could you just go to the Board of Directors and ask them to vote to go in and dip into everyone's savings account and just kind of fix it here and there. Never mind. Sorry about that Mayor Perciak.

Mayor Perciak – Truly Sir, all we have Sir, all we have to do is go to the federal (unintelligible) bank and ask to borrow it.

Bruce Lockhart – What really, truly sickened me here tonight... and to tell you the truth, I don't care whether or.... my brother's going to kill me, I don't care whether or not we get a 25% increase in the tax. What sickens me about tonight is these gentlemen from Local 52 are sitting here, our police officers, I'm sure our fire department is sitting around here, none of which I have an argument with, and they do do a fine job for me. And this is dirty politics. To bring them into this and say, hey gentlemen, if they don't pass this, boy we're going to stick a knife in and cut your guts out. (Applause) That is dirty politics. And it absolutely sickens me. Gentlemen, practice some fiscal responsibility and make it benefit all of us. Thank you.

(Applause)

John Higgenbotham, 7413 Spring Garden, Parma - Council, President, Mayor, All the Department Directors. I work in Strongsville, I am a Captain in your Fire Service, I'm also the training officer. The issue has to be looked at logically and it has. The issue is: one, when did I vote to put in a tax increase? That was done a while ago, many years ago. I did it in Parma, the people in Strongsville did it here. The one issue that was left out was that that Council in Parma said to us: we have enough money to operate thus we can have a tax credit, 100%, for me in Parma. Now that was great. Didn't have a problem. I paid 2% here, I live in Parma. I chose to live there to finish my daughter's education and eventually I want to move here. I stand in front of a Council, this is the second time, first here. I stood in front of Parma's Council at the time that they reduced the tax credit 1%, 1%. It cost me \$800.00 a year, give or take without the federal tax deduction, in Parma. Now that saved off a fiscal crisis there. Actually this is the third time I stepped in front of a Council to talk and I usually don't do that. The second time I stood in front of a Council I was really irate and that was because Parma had fiscal mismanagement by millions of dollars. I was proud to stand in front of that Council and tell them that a 75-person Police Department in Strongsville, their overtime budget for 20 less people was ¼ that of the 1.5 million they spent in that City. Mr. Gallagher, one of the issues that has not been discussed tonight that people really need to know, that 38% that was cut out the last four years, that was cut out of everywhere. That wasn't fat. That was the roads. This year, and other things, this year add to training officer for your Fire Service, our budget has been cut to zip. In the last four years we have dipped into our own pockets to go to mandatory training in order to make this all work. I have spent thousands of dollars of my own money to do so when I shouldn't have to. Mandatory training, structural collapse, HazMat materials, water rescue, trench rescue, EMS and paramedic and all of the other fire training that we should have. That's not even including MDP's and any of the rescue vehicles or any of the Police vehicles. That's not including any of the other stuff.

Mr. Haseley – John, if you're... John, excuse me, if you're going to address Council, please address us.

John Higginbotham – What I really have heard, what I'm really proud of is that this has logically been thought of and thought through, that you didn't lower this by 1%. You're not thinking about lowering it by 50%, you're lowering it by 25%, ¼ of a percent to give everybody breathing room for several years. And again, for less than \$.67 a day, is worth it. Now one of the issues, Mr. DeMio that you had brought up, I understood. I lived in the City of Parma. I voted for an income tax increase, 2%. They granted me, the person who lives in that City 100% tax credit and I got to use... I've lived there all my life. I'm 46 years old. Use every available service from that community, until this year it never cost me a penny. So the idea of lowering, or raising tax by lowering a ¼ percent is really a misnomer because we did vote for that. We voted for that years ago. Yes, we don't like it so we elect people to do their jobs. That's what they have done. There is no fat in this budget. I had to tear through this budget and I tore through it and I looked at last years' fiscal year-end statement. In the last six years I know where every penny went. And I'm telling the public right now it was efficiently spent. The 38% that they had to cut out happens to be everything we need; reverse 911, police cars, MDP's, personnel, training. And I haven't even gotten to the Service Department that has been phenomenal for this City. ¼%, \$.67 a day, you have done your job. There's no debate. Do your vote. Get it done with tonight. I told Parma, their Council, at the time they wanted to put it on the ballot. 2 ¼ % will give you 100% tax credit. There were 100 people in this audience. Person after person after person got up and said, why should I vote to increase by income tax ½%, 2 ¼ . And then some where along the line, another Council can take that away because they may need it, 100% tax credit. So you're deferring your duty to vote tonight to some other Council down the road. That's wrong. Do it tonight. Rest on your vote and we'll try to make everything work. Thank you.

(Applause)

Mr. Haseley – Thank you John.

Mr. Kaminski – Real quickly Ray. There was an article to the Fire Stations in all of Cuyahoga County in Sunday's paper. And if you take a look at the budget versus the population, Strongsville is at \$107.00 for fire and EMS. Solon, for example, \$213.00. You know if you look at every community down the line, what he is saying is absolutely true. They've done a phenomenal job with the budget and that goes in all of our departments, not just fire and EMS.

Laurie Scelina, 10270 Stamford Court – And I just wonder why isn't there a way that the whole community can share in this burden. Why just the people that work outside the City of Strongsville? That's what really bothers me. And I guess I'll just leave it at that.

Mr. Haseley – Thank you.

Rich Jarmusik, 8646 Oakleaf Drive – I feel the same way she does. I feel like because I work outside the City that I'm being punished for doing that. It isn't my fault that I work outside the City. If my company was located here, I'd gladly work here. I do have a question for you Mike. How many calls did you get on this issue and what was the response of those calls?

Mr. Daymut - I won't give you a number, it was in the hundreds. Literally between e-mails and calls there was a time probably over the last few weeks that I couldn't hang up the phone and could barely get back to them. I was averaging about 23 or 25 a day and people were getting cut off my answering machine when I was just out for a couple of hours.

Rich Jarmusik – What were the consensus of those calls?

Mr. Daymut – The consensus were mainly, well actually the majority, 98% of it were, this is an unfair tax. Just what we're talking about now and that really something needs to be done. The majority of people who I did discuss it with understood where I was coming from and that they understood our problem. The reality was they did understand where we're at. They just thought it was unfair that they were being discriminated against. And the best I've been able to come up so far is to try to do this in a very fair manner and the shortest period of time possible, which is November. And you know I'd asked several times and was told according to Ohio Revised Code, we could not put this issue on the ballot. And it's obviously too late for that now. But we can do something in November. And I'm asking for everyone's help to work with us. The problem with the Sunset Clause that we have in there, as all good Council and all good Attorney's, you know there's a out in there. You know it isn't a true Sunset Clause. You take a look at it, and if you need it that's where you decide then, a year from now, two years to three, I don't care how many years from now it is, that we have the opportunity to continue that on depending whether it's us, the seven people who sit in front of you today and the Mayor, or someone else. And I firmly believe the vote of the people is the correct way to go with that, that this is a fairness what I proposed which would spread the impact over the entire community. And you would have the right to decide if you would like us to provide the services in the manner that we need to do that. My... As you know, some of the reports you've heard, public safety, and I'm a proponent of that, police and fire. I've had the opportunity myself, in my personal life, to use both, police to the detriment the fire probably to the good because you know they've done some good things.

Rich Jarmusik – Oh so have I.

Mr. Daymut – What you hear about cuts though, what you hear about cuts is the fact that... Mayor, I'm not sure, maybe the Mayor can correct me, have you hired anybody since you've been here?

Mayor Perciak – No I haven't.

Mr. Daymut – So you know right away we know we can't cut those people because they don't exist. And it's been my experience being up here, I could not support anything unless I really knew there was a need for it. And that's what I believe right now. But I think there's a fairness issue that we, I would hope, be able to work out here.

Rich Jarmusik – Oh I hope so because I'm also a union member and union worker and I've seen in the past three years a lot of my fellow workers get laid off. And it's a real tough burden, it's tough to see them go. I don't want to see any of these guys go. I think you have a responsibility to work this out and quit using them as pawns. I mean, you've got to find it someplace. I don't know how it can be done. But it always comes down to the ones that provide the services and I hate to see that. Thank you.

(Applause)

Larry Boron, 21492 Brookfield Place - I work in Cleveland. When the tax rate was increased from 1 ½ to 2, it was sold as an increase that would not hit the majority of residents since Strongsville gave a full tax credit. The City is filled with strip malls, SouthPark Mall, several industrial parkways that choke us with traffic. We all knew that traffic was price we pay for lower taxes. City Hall played that out, so did City Council. You're pulling us back. According to some of the articles I've read, there's a current shortfall of 1.4, it may have changed. You're asking for 3.8. I work for a major corporation. We don't.... If I submitted something like that I'd lose my job. It was quoted in The Plain Dealer that residents like myself do not pay their fair share. I take offense to that. I pay plenty of real estate taxes, part of which go to City services. My wife and I shop in Strongsville. We help maintain the tax base. Why was the City rink approved and built during the start of a recession? We all know that the economy goes up and down, we have to plan for this. What does it cost the City? I know we've already put our felt in cement on that and can't get out of it. I work in the tax profession. Is RITA collecting all the payroll taxes from businesses in this City? Are we checking to make sure that the licenses they've given out are being followed with tax returns with payroll? I don't want to drive away businesses. My company looks for rebates all the time. But we've got to make sure that the people we are giving rebates to, promising payroll taxes, are paying their proper taxes. I hope the Finance Director is looking at RITA and making sure they're doing a full job. And I really feel bad for all these people. If 1.4 is what we do, don't take 3.8. I really don't trust politicians giving money back, it just doesn't happen. I hope we can do something for our Service Directors, they do a great job. Thank you.

(Applause)

Chuck Walter, 18422 Heritage Trail - I'm just... The discrimination - they're saying that the people that work outside of the City and inside the City. Couldn't we have a flat tax where everyone if you work in the City and live in the City can share that burden too? I'm willing to do that to keep the family together here. We're all family. This was a farm country at one time. Everybody knew their neighbors and hopefully we can keep it that way. So I don't want to throw a wrench in all the ideas here, but I think we can all share. Thank you.

(Applause)

At this time President Haseley recessed the meeting at 11:00 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2003-281 by Acting Mayor Haseley and All Members of Council. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO ADDENDUMS TO AGREEMENTS FOR THE FURNISHING OF SOLID WASTE, RECYCLABLE AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES, AND FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE STRONGSVILLE TRANSFER STATION AND THE RECEIPT, TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st rdg: 12-15-03. 2nd rdg: 1-20-04. 3rd rdg: 2-2-04. 4th rdg: 2-17-04.

Motion to amend by substitution by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion to adopt as amended by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll Call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2003-281 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-66 by Mr. Haseley. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 880.32 OF CHAPTER 880 OF TITLE FOUR OF PART EIGHT OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY, TO REDUCE THE PERCENTAGE OF TAX CREDIT ON THE AMOUNT OF INCOME TAX PAID ON TAXABLE INCOME BY A CITY OF STRONGSVILLE RESIDENT TO ANOTHER MUNICIPALITY FROM 100% TO 75%, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st rdg: 2-17-04. 2nd rdg: 2-24-04.

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Coyne, I invited you to amend with your motion.

Mr. Coyne – Yes, I'll make a motion to amend the Ordinance, I believe, by putting in the provision in Section 2 that; the provision of Section 1 of this Ordinance shall be operative from April 1, 2004 and shall terminate at midnight December 31, 2005. And then again in the next section, that the provision of Section 3 of this Ordinance will be operative from then after January 1, 2006 unless Council determines, in its own sole discretion, that there are insufficient funds available to operate the City without a reduction of the City's income tax credit.

Mr. Haseley – All right. Do we have a second? Do we have a second?

(None)

Mr. Daymut – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes.

Mr. Daymut – I move to amend Ordinance No. 2004-66 with the amendment that we received this evening sponsored by Mr. Kaminski, myself, Mr. Gallagher, and Mr. Haseley providing for in Section 2 the date December 31, 2006 and in Section 4, is that 3... 4, I believe, yes, shall be operative from and after January 1, 2007 unless Council determines, in its sole discretion, that there are insufficient funds available to operate the City without a reduction of the City's income tax credit. I believe that's correct.

Mr. Kraus – Mr. President

Mr. Haseley – Yes.

Mr. Kraus – Before that's seconded, I'd like the record to correctly reflect that really this is a motion to amend by substitution reflecting the provisions that Councilman Daymut has indicated, for the record, and others since we had prepared this. It's really a motion to amend by substitution.

Mr. Haseley – All right. Do we have a second on this?

Mr. Kaminski – Second.

Motion by Mr. Daymut to amend by substitution, second by Mr. Kaminski.

Roll Call: Ayes – Haseley, Gallagher, Daymut, Kaminski.

Nays – Roth, Coyne, DeMio.

Motion to adopt as amended by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. Kaminski.

Mr. Roth – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes.

Mr. Roth – Point of order. All through our City Charter it reads, two-thirds vote to suspend, to make an amendment, to carry anything of weight, especially unvoted things in this City. I counted eleven... I went through the Charter, I counted eleven times it says two-thirds of Council vote, and if with taxation and with amendments. It's... even in the middle of Article IX, Section 2, the first line and the middle line; affirmative by two-thirds vote of the members, and in the middle it says, in other instances which is a catchall, catchall for everything else, Council by a vote of two-thirds will proceed on an amendment.

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Kraus.

Mr. Roth – Every, every, everything that's of any weight in this City, especially unvoted things, should... they're either unanimous or they're two-thirds vote of Council. So that's how I feel now that this... at this time and this version and this way, it's defeated four to three.

Mr. Gallagher – Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Kraus, would you address Mr....

Mr. Kraus – Yes. Mr. Haseley, the requirement on a motion to amend is four. There's nothing.... We've already looked at this, there's nothing in this Charter or in any other authority that would deviate from the requirement that a motion to amend required four votes. Article... Roman Numeral IX of the Charter that the Councilman is referring to has to do with amendments to the Charter which is something that our Charter Review Committee has been working with. There is no question. It's not a gray area. It's not a gray issue like some issues are in my business. It's four. The motion to amend carries by four.

Mr. Roth- Mr. Haseley.

Mr. Haseley – Yes.

Mr. Roth – I'm not going to debate this and argue it and I'm not a lawyer, but common sense says that when you have such a weighty issue that, and you got the intent all through our City Charter for every major issue, a two-thirds vote is required. I believe a two-thirds vote is required, but that's the ruling. I disagree with the ruling also earlier this year that... I'm not talking about performances or anything else, I'm talking about how we did things different in the 60's and 70's with the transition of Council and with the vacancy of an issue. These are issues that we have precedent in. There was no intent to wear three hats for one individual. And there was a lot of reasons for that. And there's a lot of reasons....

Mr. Haseley – Mr. Roth, that's... that's...

Mr. Gallagher – Point of order.

Mr. Roth – Well I'm just telling you I disagree with this decision because....

Mr. Haseley – Well, that's fine, we all realize that.

Mr. Roth – Two-thirds vote is required I feel. It's an important issue.

Mr. Haseley – We have a motion to adopt as amended with a second by Mr. Kaminski.

**Roll Call: Ayes – Gallagher, Daymut, Kaminski, Haseley.
Nays – Roth, Coyne, DeMio.**

Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-66 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-74 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ADDENDUM TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN URS CORPORATION-OHIO AND THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OF SEPTEMBER 2003, FOR ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, IN CONNECTION WITH A STUDY OF THE MUNICIPAL STORM AND SANITARY SYSTEMS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE CITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-74 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-75 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY UNDER THE OHIO EMS GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW RESCUE SQUAD AND FOR TRAINING ACTIVITIES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-75 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-76 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYALTON ROAD (SR 82) WIDENING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Hartman)

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-76 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-77 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYALTON ROAD (SR 82) WIDENING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Dieckman)

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-77 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-78 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYALTON ROAD (SR 82) WIDENING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Dewey)

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-78 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-79 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYALTON ROAD (SR 82) WIDENING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Lantzer)

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-79 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-80 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYALTON ROAD (SR 82) WIDENING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Ritchie)

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-80 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-81 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYALTON ROAD (SR 82) WIDENING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Lazovic)

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-81 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-82 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYALTON ROAD (SR 82) WIDENING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Nagimyak)

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-82 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-83 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYALTON ROAD (SR 82) WIDENING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (Riley)

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-83 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-84 by Mayor Perciak. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO PAY OHIO BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY DBA SBC OHIO CERTAIN EXPENSES FOR UTILITY RELOCATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROYALTON ROAD WIDENING PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Ordinance No. 2004-84 Adopted.

Ordinance No. 2004-85 by Mayor Perciak and Mr. Haseley. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1262.03 OF TITLE SIX OF PART TWELVE-PLANNING AND ZONING CODE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE TO PERMIT AS AN ACCESSORY USE A SUITE OF A STORAGE ESTABLISHMENT AS A MANAGERIAL RESIDENCE IN COMMERCIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS.

First reading. Referred to Planning Commission and Planning, Zoning & Engineering.

Resolution No. 2004-86 by Mayor Perciak. A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY AND INTENTION OF THE CITY TO APPROPRIATE A FEE SIMPLE INTEREST, TEMPORARY RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENTS AND SEWER EASEMENT LOCATED ON ROYALTON ROAD (PPNS 392-14-003, 393-03-007, 393-03-008, 393-05-008, 392-14-004, 392-16-004, 392-16-005) IN CONNECTION WITH THE CITY'S ROUTE 82 ROAD WIDENING AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2004-86 Adopted.

Resolution No. 2004-87 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF MERYL AND CYNTHIA HOSSFELD TO PLACE LAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2004-87 Adopted.

Resolution No. 2004-88 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF SUSAN LEA SCHNITTKE TO PLACE LAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. Kaminski. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2004-88 Adopted.

Resolution No. 2004-89 by Mayor Perciak and All Members of Council. A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF ALBERT AND ANNE FESS TO PLACE LAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2004-89 Adopted.

Resolution No. 2004-90 by Mayor Perciak and Mr. Roth. A RESOLUTION GRANTING PERMISSION TO TRANSFER CERTAIN CERTIFICATES FOR BURIAL RIGHTS IN THE STRONGSVILLE MUNICIPAL CEMETERY. (Bourne)

Motion for suspension by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio. All members present voted aye and the motion carried.

Motion for adoption by Mr. Daymut, second by Mr. DeMio.

Roll call: All ayes. Motion carries. Resolution No. 2004-90 Adopted.

Resolution No. 2004-91 by Mr. Daymut. A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF COUNCIL TO PLACE ON THE NOVEMBER, 2004 THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EXISTING CITY INCOME TAX RATE OF 2.0% SHOULD BE INCREASED TO 2.25 %

First reading. Referred to Council-As-A-Whole.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS AND CLAIMS:

Approval of delegate list for Annual Meeting of Southwest General Health Center.

Motion by Mr. DeMio, second by Mr. Roth. All members present voted aye and the motion approved the delegate list.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Mr. Roth – Yes, Mr. Haseley.

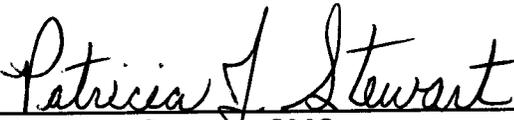
Mr. Haseley – Just a quick question. And believe me all I'm searching for is a yes or no. Does the \$700,000.00 we trimmed three weeks ago stay out of the budget?

Mr. Haseley – Yes.

Mr. Roth – Okay. That's all I wanted to know.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before this Council, the meeting was declared adjourned by Council President Haseley at 11:30 p.m.



Patricia J. Stewart, CMC
Assistant Clerk of Council



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March 1, 2004

Re: Ordinance 2003-32

Dear City Council Member:

You may be familiar with our company, Atlantic Tool & Die. If not, let me take a moment and express our continual commitment to our Strongsville community. We have been a well-respected, profitable organization contributing to Strongsville's economic growth and prosperity since 1967. Currently we contribute **almost one-half Million dollars of revenue in taxes for the City of Strongsville.** We are located at 19963 Progress Drive. We employ well over 500 associates and are a world-class manufacturer of metal stampings for the automotive industry.

Our Strongsville plant employs 160 full time associates, 34 are Strongsville residents. This plant produces the bulk of our metal stampings, which are then shipped worldwide. We stamp from .020 gage steel to .375 gage steel in our stamping presses, which range from 60 ton to 600 ton. There is no doubt that the noise levels inside the facility are quite loud and in the summer, with our doors open, you can hear the presses running.

This leads to the purpose of this letter. We respectfully request that you review the following information with regard to rezoning 20000 and 20064 Westwood Drive, Strongsville, Ohio from General Industry (GI) to Residential Townhouses RT-C. We vehemently oppose this Ordinance.

Our property at 19963 Progress Drive abuts the property up for re-zoning. As stated, the noise level outside the plant, while in compliance with the Strongsville City Ordinance Noise Levels, is audible during the summer months. This in the past has caused great angst among the residents in the Co-Moor neighborhood, which is north of our property.

We have had many complaints since 1992 regarding the noise level our plant produces. The noise levels not only negatively affected the Co-Moor residents, but their complaints affected our business. It only makes sense that if your backyard is an industrial parkway, you will hear the noises associated with industry.

This battle was clearly stated in an article in the Sun Star, 11-12-92, "Roth said he believes the sounds which he said are keeping people awake at nights in the Co-Moor area adjacent to the industrial park, are coming from late-night operations at Atlantic Tool & Die.... Roth, who said both firms should be made to put a muzzle on the late-night sounds **or have their third shifts shut down by city order.**" This is just one sample of the problems we as a business face with one residential area near our property. Obviously, we cannot shut down shifts to appease a residential area.

We feel that the rezoning of this property from Industrial to Residential will no doubt lead to the same complaints. We are not prepared to go to battle again with the residents of Strongsville now on both sides of our property. In addition, with the re-zoning you are limiting our ability to expand our business, thus limiting the potential revenue for the City of Strongsville.

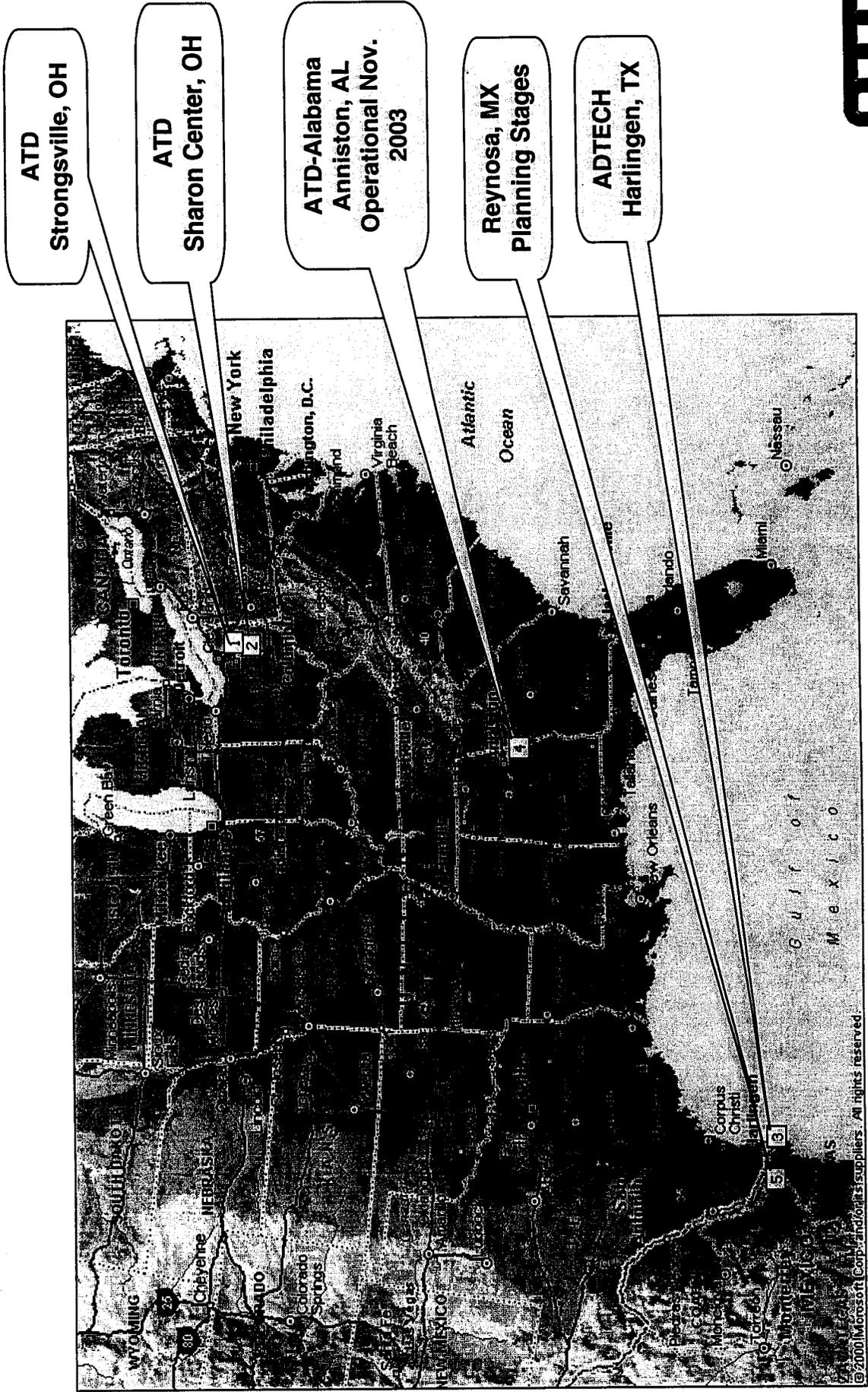
Enclosed, you will find supporting documentation regarding the issues we faced with the residents of Co-Moor. We respectfully ask that you reconsider this ordinance. It will be a bad decision for the Industry of this community.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss this matter at (440) 238-6931.

Sincerely,

Mike Mehwald
Executive Vice President

MANUFACTURING LOCATIONS



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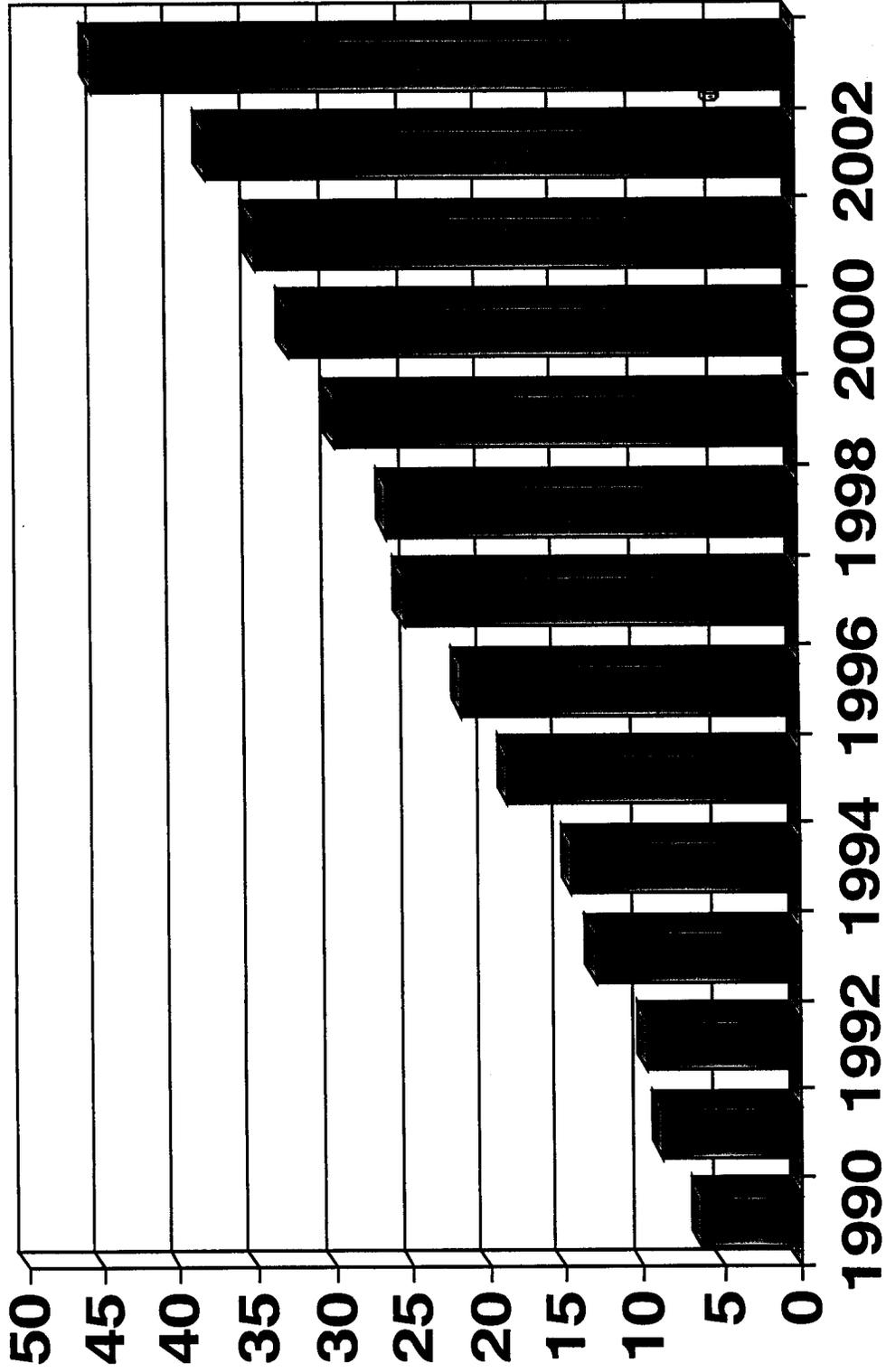
ATD

GLOBAL SUPPLIER / PARTNERS





AID-INVESTMENT



■ Capital Investment (in Millions)

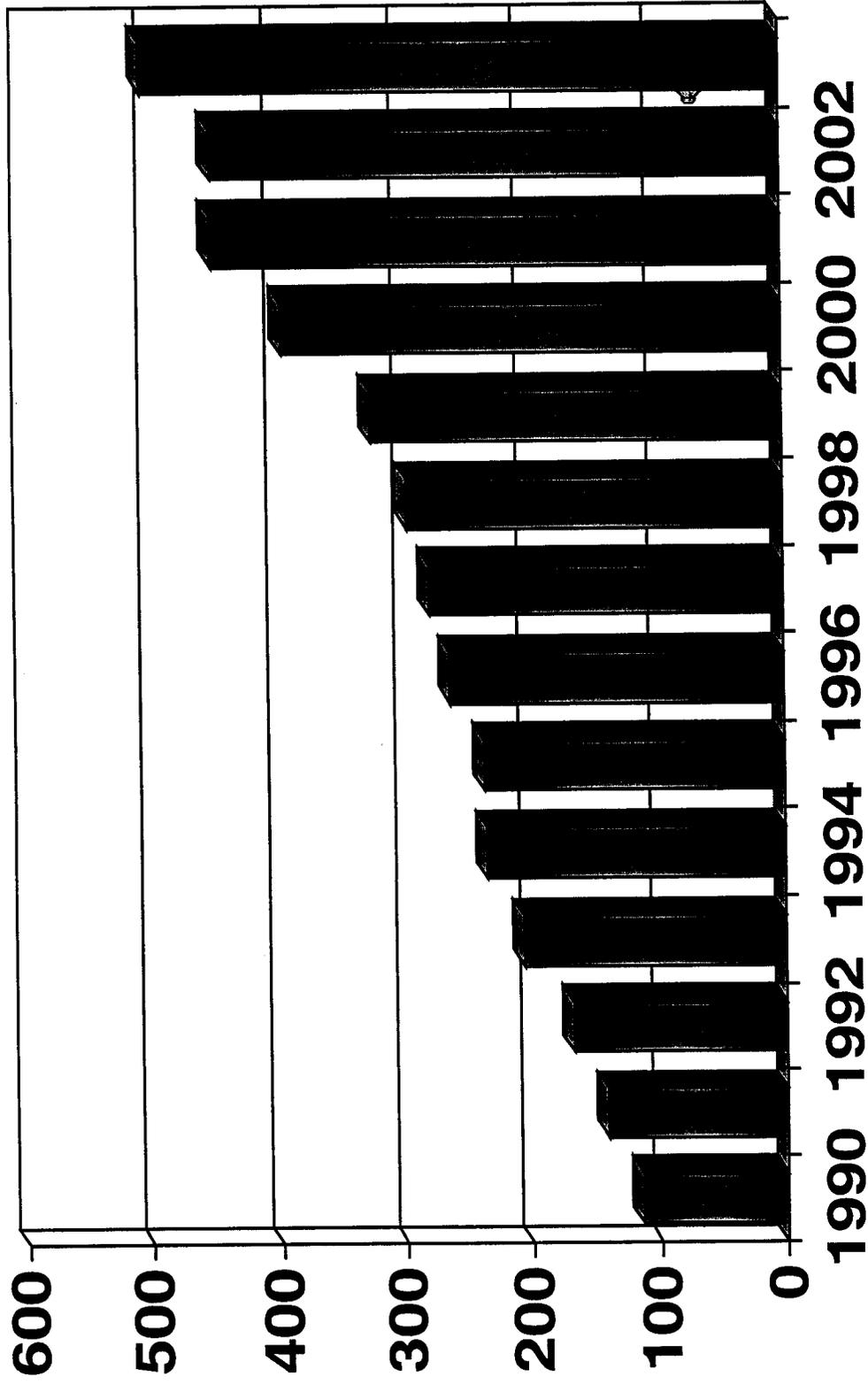


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ATD EMPLOYMENT



■ Associates Employed (includes temporary help)

ATD

AID SALES

