

City council has new home:

Mike Kalinich Council Chamber is open for business

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Mike Kalinich Sr. Council Chambers is open for business

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It was a long time coming but Strongsville City Council has a new home. The Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chambers hosted its first meeting on Monday, Oct. 18.

Mayor Thomas Perciak welcomed everyone listening at home to the new council chambers during his remarks at Monday's meeting.

"For the first time in a long time this beautiful building has its own presence on our commons," he said. "I can't begin to put into words how much I appreciate that we've gotten to this point."

Perciak thanked all who were involved in making the new building that houses the state-of-the-art council chambers. He thanked residents for allowing the project to proceed, Police Chief Charles Goss, Lt. Bob Satterwaite, and Director of Communications and Technology John Bedford specifically.

"We did this at the right time, at the right price and at the correct interest rate," Perciak said. "We were able to accomplish something that we tried for decades to get done."

Bedford deserves a lot of the credit

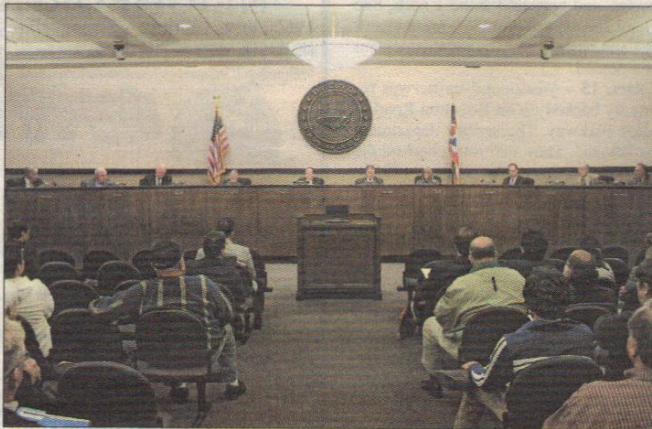


Photo by TERRY BRLAS

Strongsville City Council met in the Mike Kalinich Sr. Council Chambers for the first time on Monday evening, Oct. 18. The new chambers are state-of-the-art and housed in the new police headquarters building on the city commons.

when it comes to the bells and whistles of the new council chambers. He put in untold hours for a number of weeks making sure that Monday night's debut came off without a hitch. And it did.

These council chambers are a far cry from years past when water would leak from the ceiling during meetings.

Council members have new laptop computers at their disposal during meetings. Documentation can be shown on a huge drop down screen behind council.

Residents are able to view documentation at council meetings via the government channel.

The facility is impressive and probably more so to the individuals who will utilize the technology within to perform the city's business.

"You can't help but be impressed with the cleanliness and the design," Ward 2 Councilman Ray Haseley said. "It seemed like it took forever, but what we have is a first-class facility."

"This is a definite asset compared to the facility we were in for many years," Ward 1 Councilman Michael Daymut said. "This has been needed. It is an asset to the city of Strongsville."

Even though it was time to show off the new Mike Kalinich Sr. City Council Chambers, Perciak continues to remind that the project includes the new police headquarters which happens to house the council chambers.

There were at least four attempts to pass a levy to provide the funds necessary to build a new police headquarters and council chambers, twice in the previous administration and twice during current Perciak's time at the helm.

Council and administration put their heads together to determine how best to renovate the current headquarters.

"The fact of the matter remained that the state was on us to do something about our jail. If we had not renovated our jail it would have been closed," Perciak said. "Imagine not having a jail in a city with 50,000 people and untold others who come here to work every day. That was where our focus was, to make sure safety is in place. Secondly we knew without a new facility we could never attract new businesses, which is our lifeline."

Strongsville Council President Michael Gallagher may have summed up the feeling of all council members in seven well placed words.

"We are so grateful to have this," he said.