

Minutes of the City Council
Sheffield Lake, Ohio
July 22, 2008

The regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, July 22, 2008. Council President Edward Podmanik called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY: Clerk of Council, Kay Fantauzzi, who, then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*******ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS*******

- Present: Podmanik, Bring, Kovach, Elliott, Diebold, Huska, Smith, Mayor Piskura, Treasurer E Hoenig, Finance Director Smith, Law Director Graves
- Absent: Rosso, Service Director Gardner (excused)
- Attending: Fire Chief Conrad, Civic Center: Nicola, Zoning: Ebenschweller, Park Board: Smith, Concerned Citizens, Members of the Media: Avon Lake Press, The Morning Journal

*Motion by Bring to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing 2009 Tax Budget meeting of July 8, 2008 with any corrections. Yeas All.

*Motion by Bring to approve the minutes of the City Council meeting of July 8, 2008 with any corrections. Yeas All.

*Motion by Bring to approve the minutes of the City Council Worksession meeting of July 15, 2008 with any corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS:

Monthly report of court receipts for month of June - \$13287.18.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

*******CITY COUNCIL REPORTS*******

Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer, Refuse: Chairman Smith reviewed the minutes of the July 7, 2008 meeting. *Motion by Huska to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Safety:**

None./Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment: None./Ordinance: None./Finance & Claims: Co-chairman Elliott reviewed the minutes of the July 15, 2008 meeting.

*Motion by Huska to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Investment:** Mayor Piskura advised our meeting for this quarter has been scheduled for July 24 at 10

am. **/Council Representative to the Community Center: None./Council Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals: None./Council Representative to the Planning Commission: None./Council Representative to the Park Board:**

Member Kovach reviewed the minutes of the July 21, 2008 meeting.

*******ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS*******

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Piskura advised I really don't have much to report on our on-going projects that you don't already know about. I believe that most of the people are here probably for Giant Eagle. Can you hear out in the hall, you can open that door if you want and that way people out in the hall can hear. I will tell you where we are to date. Of course, everybody knows Giant Eagle made their announcement that they are going to leave November 1st. Immediately after they made that announcement, we started doing what we could to talk to key people at Giant Eagle and key people within the ownership and I know that one of our residents Mrs. Belaska has been leading the effort to get petitions signed for Giant Eagle and she has done a very good job and everybody thanks her. This is where we are at – in my conversations I have spoken with the ownership and you have to remember that the ownership is comprised of Levin Family Trust. Arnold Levin has nothing to do with it anymore. The Levin Family owns 76% of that center, the Ratner Family owns 24% of that center and what happens is all the business decisions are made by the Levin Family. Of course, they haven't been the easiest owner to get along with in the past. Giant Eagle has blamed not only the difficult owner but market conditions. They are saying that the store doesn't meet their corporate model, that they require about 90,000 square foot model and with the fact that IGA in Avon Lake went out of business that they are banking on the fact that all of us are going to drive to either Sheffield Village or Avon Lake to continue to patronize Giant Eagle because they are the only game in town. We appealed to their corporate offices in Pittsburgh, their real estate division is run by a guy named Chuck Migilone and Shelly Sponholst who is actually the Vice-President took to the Board meeting to the President of the Company a question which I posed which is that if the city could somehow get back into negotiations or somehow reopen negotiations and be an active participant in negotiations to help try to have the two parties come to an agreement to renew the lease, would they consider keeping the store open and they did bring that to their Board meeting and after about a week and a half they got back to me and said no – they are firm in their position and that this just doesn't meet their corporate model that they are trying to affect. So I know Mrs. Belaska has been circulating this petition and I believe quite frankly that to bring this petition to the Administration in Giant Eagle to the Corporate offices is going to be largely un-productive. So we are focuses on the Board of Directors at the moment. We are going to take all of our efforts to all of the stake holders and see if we can get them to change the mind for the business. But in the interim, I believe that we need to plan for the contingent that Giant Eagle actually does leave. In that vein, I did contact economic development people in Lorain because this impacts the east side of Lorain as well. They had this similar situation happen in Lorain with one of their strips with Giant Eagle and what ended up happening is that Giant Eagle made their decision to leave and it was as firm as it was in our city and there was nothing that could knock them off that position so they ended up getting an Apples. I am not sure how everybody feels about the idea

of getting in a new grocery but we contacted Apples and they are interested. There is also 2 other people that are interested, Marc's and Dave's. We also have 3 with the opening of the boat launch, I personally have driven around 3 separate investors talking about wanting to purchase the center and actually develop it into something. So I don't know if that is going to come to fruition soon enough but the short of it is that working with Mrs. Belaska we are trying to do everything that we can to retain the Giant Eagle and in the instance that we are not able to we already started the ball rolling to try to get another grocery here. In Lorain they were able to do so, as soon as Giant Eagle left – Apples took over and they bought the inventory so the store never closed and as a matter of fact if you talk to Lorain people they were even happier because the prices were lower then Giant Eagle's. So that is where we are at in a nut shell. President Podmanik advised we reserve comments from the citizens under a special heading Citizens Commentary and that portion comes up after the Administrative reports at which time each and every one of you will have an opportunity to speak and question the Mayor or anybody on any issue, not just the Giant Eagle. If everyone will be patient, we will get there shortly. The only requirement is courtesy and civility, private conversations going to while other people are speaking – we try and eliminate that and we try to keep our comments brief and I understand that people can get passionate about their concerns but try and keep your emotions in check as well please. But we will open the floor for citizens commentary shortly after the administrative reports and at that time, everybody will have a chance to speak and we will stay as long as we need to. *Motion by Huska to accept the report. Yeas All./**FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Finance Director Smith advised I just have one request and that is since Council in recess for August and we only have one Council meeting, that we have Finance and Claims 15 minutes before at 6:45 pm. President Podmanik answered we will take care of that under New Business, we have some dates and times for that and we will take care of that at that time./**TREASURER REPORT:** Treasurer E Hoenig advised you have the June Treasurer's report./**SERVICE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Mayor Piskura advised reiterated the road construction starting shortly./**SAFETY DIRECTOR REPORT:** Fire Chief Conrad advised we opened up bids on Monday for selling engine 62 and Ed Nowak of Sugar Ridge, I believe that is a salvage yard was the top bidder of \$2675.75. So we finished stripping that truck today and I will be contacting Mr. Nowak tomorrow to make arrangements for him to pick that up. Mr. Bring advised in case anybody didn't know, we got the new fire truck through a grant due to the Chief and some of us people. Fire Chief Conrad advised it will probably be at least another month or month and a half. We did take it in to have the rear suspension looked at, they are going to have to add a leaf spring on each side to get the back end up a little a bit and a second leaf spring on the right hand side to take care of a slight tilt in the vehicle. That will further delay it being placed into service./**LAW DIRECTOR REPORT:** Law Director Graves reported in regard to Demolition Board, the Building Department and the

Demolition Board will continue to consider several nuisance properties throughout the city. Some are working to correct the problems, others may have to be demolished. One property on Maplevue, the owners actually suggested donating the property to the city. We will continue to work diligently to abate these nuisance properties. The Civil Service Commission, we need some people to serve and this is a good opportunity with a lot of people in attendance. If you are interested in being on the Civil Service Commission, call City Hall during normal work hours and see about submitting an application. They will need to meet sometime in the next few months and begin the process of testing, we are going to probably need to update our lists for fire fighters. The Records Commission met and we adopted a records retention policy that has been adopted by Council and all the departments are in the process of determining some antiquated records that may need to be disposed of. As far as legislation goes tonight, there is only one piece of legislation and that is the adjustments to the appropriations that came out of Finance Committee. In the future Ordinance Committee meetings we will be talking about some additional proposed zoning changes that were recommended by the Planning Commission. The only other thing that I would request is a brief executive session following Ordinances and Resolutions to discuss the purchase of property for public purposes. *Motion by Huska to accept the report. Yeas All.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY:

Dan Vorhees, 4043 Tennyson Avenue advised at the last meeting I asked about the capital improvements and why Giant Eagle was planning on spending the money for the capital improvements and then all of a sudden then decide to vacate the city. The business model - I am having a hard time buying that because they were moving ahead with the capital improvements being fully aware of what their business model was. So did we get a definitive answer of why the capital improvements were going in and then all of a sudden they decided to vacate, other then the problem with the owners? Mayor Piskura answered no, the short of it is I have been pestering them and I have had actually several conversations with the corporate offices and with the ownership and all they ever do is apologize and say no, it doesn't fit the model. Mr. Vorhees stated it still doesn't make a lot of sense why they were moving ahead with capital improvements? Mayor Piskura answered it doesn't make any sense to me either, I live in this community and I shop at that grocery store – everybody in this room is on the same page. But the simple fact of the matter is that when I am able to get through to the corporate office to the people that make the decisions, they are telling me our decision is firm and that is the end of it and they don't have an answer for the capital improvements and I can't answer for them. Mr. Vorhees advised I would like to thank Debbie for all her hard work, she really did a bang up job and for the citizens that are here, I think it speaks loudly for the community and shows a nice collective action and I still think we should move ahead with those petitions to Giant Eagle letting them know that we do care, we want them to stay here and let them know the community

supports them. You know Apples, their prices might be cheaper but their service is not there and they are not a union store and you know if you have any special dietary requirements then you are not going to find them at Apples. So whatever we need to do, I gave everybody my card the last time and told everybody what do we need to do – call me and I am still waiting. Mayor Piskura advised the petition I still think is a good idea. My comments are around the administration at Giant Eagle, they just seem to be firm in their position and our tact is to get a hold of the Board of Directors instead.

Mark Erdei, 4015 Tennyson advised I have one question, how do we legally stand on this eminent domain and now with this place closing it is going to join the rest of them empty stores – how do we stand legally on just going after imminent domain? I am puzzled on that one too. Mayor Piskura advised our lawyer is right up there and he will answer your question directly but the first thing that I would have to say is that we have been down this road and it is very difficult because of some of the recent court decisions but before we go down that road, we either have to a) have an investor willing to spend the money once we have acquired it or b) have the money ourselves. So we are working on putting together a proposal for a or b but the legal part of it our lawyer gets to answer. Law Director Graves advised there is only 2 ways you can take property by eminent domain and as an umbrella – it has to be a public purpose. A public purpose can either be a traditional construction; a road, a park, a bridge – these kind of things. If the city wanted to use that property for one of those things for example, demolish the whole thing and put a park there then we could do that and then the only thing would be litigated would be the compensation – how much the city would have to pay for the property. The other way to do it is through urban renewal where we have to make a case that the property is blighted. It is a tough case to make, we had a draft blight study done a couple of years ago and it was border line. Certainly if Giant Eagle leaves, if that store sets vacant and if any other currently occupied structures continue to become vacant, the case for blight becomes stronger and stronger. We would have a better argument to make in terms of taking the property for economic redevelopment purposes as part of urban renewal. Either way, it is going to be a significant amount of money. The last time we did this, we had a commercial appraisal done which came back at I think 4.2 million which we offered, at the time there were some investors that were interested. They hemmed and hawed and sat on it for 6 months and kept asking continuances and kept asking for time to come up with a redevelopment plan, at the end of that time they countered an offer at 6.5 million dollars which the property is no where near that. So even if we were to be successful in an eminent domain action, we still have the question of where to find the money as the Mayor pointed out to buy the property. It is either has to be a developer willing to come in and put 4 or 5 million dollars down or we are going to have to borrow the money, have a bond issue or something like that to buy it and then once we buy it – that is not the end. You still have to redevelop that

property so you are probably looking at another 5 or 10 million dollars. So one way or another, if the city gets involved in an imminent domain case, even if we are successful on the merits of it – it is going to a significant costs. Mr. Erdei asked is there a time limit on how long them buildings got to stay empty before you can try and say well this is blighted? Law Director Graves answered there is a number of subjective criteria, they look at all kinds of things. They look at the antiquated nature of the structures, vandalism, percentage of vacancy – there is a host of factors that go into an overall determination of blight and again that is another issue that we would have to have an expert opinion on and if we are going to go the urban renewal route – that is an issue that we have to overcome as well. We go in and say, we believe it is blighted and here is why and the ownership will probably produce the expert that says it is not blighted – so we have to win that and then we have to argue about how much, if we win that – how much we would have to compensate them? Mr. Erdei asked is there a percentage of how many open stores there got to be in that area or is it just one operating then that is not considered blighted? Law Director Graves answered vacancy is one factor, the term to use is blight. The statute says 70% of the area has to be blighted.

Debbie Belaska, 4014 E Lake Road advised on behalf of the concerned citizens in the northwest segment of this county I am presently along with the assistance of Sherry Talc and Dan Vorhees and other citizens and friends and family in this community 1,387 signatures to save Giant Eagle. I thank everybody for getting involved in the community and coming down tonight and showing the support that we want to save our Giant Eagle. Thank you Mayor and thank you Council, we appreciate your time and also want to remind everybody on the 2nd Monday of every month we do have neighborhood watch and there is a lot of different meetings that people can get involved in by coming down and getting involved with Council and all that. Thank You very much for your time tonight.

Amy Tackett, 861 Marion advised I have cancer and the fact that that Giant Eagle is 5 minutes away is extremely important to me. I have 2 children and to pack them in the van and go all the way to Sheffield Village, if I have to go to Sheffield Village then I am not going to go to Giant Eagle. I will go to Aldi's or whatever else is out there. I agree with the gentleman about the Apples, Apples is not the same quality, you are not getting the same as you would a Giant Eagle. Can you guarantee that we are going to get something that is equal to Giant Eagle as opposed to something that is like Apples? Mayor Piskura answered the bottom line is unless we are able to put together a package to acquire the property somehow, we can't guarantee anything. It is still a privately owned property and a private company. However, I have gotten over 90 emails that basically say the same thing that you just said in one way or another that I have already forwarded to both the owner and to Giant Eagle and hopefully when we get this set of petitions and we are able to maybe find some of the Board of Directors we will forward that message as well. But to answer your question unless we own the property. Ms.

Tackett asked how do you go about doing that, the eminent domain thing? Mayor Piskura answered yes.

Barb Minge, 790 Harris Road advised I had mentioned when I heard Giant Eagle about the older people in our city. A lot of money been spent, we need to do something to help these people get to the grocery store. I am willing to drive a few people at a time because they can't get on the LCT bus because how they to carry all the groceries back. I always think about Joyce when this comes up because that was her thing and we need to help them. Everybody knows who I am, everybody knows where I live and I would be willing to take 2 people at a crack up to the Giant Eagle in the Village and back for their groceries – I wouldn't mind doing that at all. I have another question Mr. Podmanik, I don't expect you to say what but do you do anything with all the information that I gave you a month ago because I haven't heard anything. President Podmanik answered yes, we did – that was available for Council's review and at this point and time Council and myself are still reviewing and we don't know if we will go any further with it or not.

Mark Erdei, 4015 Tennyson asked do they have any plans for that empty restaurant that screwed up the parking for the boat ramp. That would have been ideal to have it right across the street. Do they have an excuse like oh, we got somebody who is going to open up a restaurant in there or whatever. I know legally you don't have the right to be into their business affairs as it comes to dealing with their tenants but could we be more co-operative on finding out what is on their game plan. I mean they are in our city limits, I mean you go to other towns and that and they cooperate. You cooperate with the citizens, so what is going on with that? Legally can't you go in there and just say hey, you are in our city now what gives? I mean period, just be straight and honest with us and legally don't we have a legit argument there? You know, hey include us in – the heck with the business part of it. It ain't our business with their tenants but their in our city so hey come on. You know, you heard that expression either you crap or get off the pot. Well, what is going on – that is what I would like know. Mayor Piskura answered I am not sure if everybody is aware of this or not but the Levin Family Trust and the ownership that I described, they are not actively involved in direct management of the center. Over the last 6 or 7 years it has been a number of different management companies, today it is RMS. RMS Management Company does Parma Town mall, we are in contact with RMS and they have been working with the city. They took the results of some of our public meetings results and they brought them to the owner and they solicited a number of people and in addition to the city being interested in the Rax's building, they were also soliciting and I will just give you the list here. Soliciting and/or had proposals from people to occupy that Rax's parcel, they had a bait shop, they had an ice cream shop, a Taco Bell, Auto Zone, McDonald's, Wendy's, Arby's, Burger King, CC's Pizza, Country Kitchen, Denny's, Express Mart, Zep International, Dairy Queen, Subway but they had already moved and Sun Quest Systems WH. That company does give us a

report on their prospects. Unfortunately, I believe that with the ownership that we are dealing with nobody is able to come up to an agreement with them. As everybody knows the city put in a substantial improvement to the whole area with the boat launch that one of the things we were hoping would happen was that it would bring a draw in and a car count that people might patronize that restaurant or that center and when we looked at it they wanted to charge us \$60,000.00 a year. Mr. Erdei stated you would think that with the way the economy is and everything raising the rent on buildings isn't answer, don't you think they would be a little more lenient? I know that structure is paid for, wouldn't it be wise to lower the lease a little bit just so hey, I got people in my building. Anybody ask them that or are they just like hey, this is it and you don't like it tough. Mayor Piskura answered I actually have asked them that and the answer that Marc gives, the way the trust is set up – the majority is the Levin side and Marc is the controlling co-trustee. Marc never wants to cut a break to anybody because he has got a fiduciary responsibility to the rest of the beneficiaries in the trust, so it is what it is. Mr. Bring advised plus they also take a percentage after they make a certain amount of money they take a percentage of their profit. So if they make a profit they take a percentage of it. Mrs. Huska advised I don't know if this is still true but a couple of years ago when we as a city had Denny's interested, we found out at that time Rax's was still paying on their lease all these years even though they were not in there. They were not interested in doing anything with it even though Denny's wanted to go in there. Mr. Erdei asked so now could that happen with the Giant Eagle too? I mean their lease is up now, they could just say the heck with it and we will leave this building empty for a year or 2 years – who cares and legally we can't do nothing about it huh? Mrs. Huska answered as far as Giant Eagle, I would individually and directly to corporate voice all your complaints on the phone or in separate letters. As far as them doing all the remodeling they were doing, they have done that in other stores and then closed them. But I think if you individually send your complaints to them along with everything else that is being done, it may help. And then I think that public coverage in the newspapers and on TV sometimes helps.

Sherry Talc, Elyria stated I am not a Sheffield Lake resident but I just wanted to make a comment since I ended up involved with this issue that involves your city. First I just wanted to say I think this is really cool because to me this is democracy right here in action – it is the start of it. This whole process has been and that is why I decided to offer assistance to those that were starting this. The reason I did, actually there were a couple. One because I see the potential with this, when I talk to residents in Sheffield Lake and saw their concern and that they were willing to do something. Whether sign a petition, come to a meeting and whatever else, make phone calls. I thought that was a great opportunity, whether the Sheffield Lake keeps their Giant Eagle or not. Though I would say don't give up, I would say continue and make those phone calls to Giant Eagle, RMS – send the letters, hold a rally – do what you have to do to not give up but then whether they stay or go

continue that process by staying involved in your community, whether it is participating through the civil service, whether there is other volunteer opportunities or just voicing your opinion because whatever happens, whether you can take this with eminent domain and that ultimately happens or somebody comes in and purchases it. Stay involved with a redevelopment with that area because it has such potential, especially the boat launch and if you tie those 2 together. I mean I look at that and I just see so much there with retail, with possible multi-family units – a little bit of everything and a great crosswalk so that people could come back and forth between the boat launch that is well designated. I mean there is so many things that you could do with it and I would say be a part of that process so that could make a statement about what happens here. I think ultimately your elected officials and your city staff – they want your involvement because that aids them because no community is just about the people that are paid to work there. It is about you and it is about what you want here. So I think you have a real potential with this so don't quit.

Kerry McCullough, 685 Roberts Street stated when you are talking about that closed restaurant, I did have a phone conversation with our Mayor approximately 2 years ago. I can't get a call back to get that restaurant open, if it is \$60,000.00 a year, I would gladly pay them rent on that unit for \$60,000.00 a year. I know what that unit made, many of you when I was there know what that unit made but if they don't return your calls you can't hold him accountable. You can't hold anybody accountable but whoever management group is in at the time and at the time it was Paran Management. Since then RMS doesn't return calls, what I was told was their not renting new to anybody and that is the only thing I got. You can't hold the Mayor responsible because somebody is stupid. I don't know what they are doing with it, it is up to him. I would like to publicly thank our Building Inspector for doing his job. Through my difficult situation that I am going through right now, he has made sure that we as tax payers are protected. He is checking codes making sure as my house goes back together that things are correct and if they are not correct they are being corrected. So I would like to say thanks to our, I know Bill isn't here but pass it on to Jon that thanks for everything that he has done and I want to make that public because our Building Inspector, I know people say that they ride around in cars – well, they do get out and check things to make sure that things are to code.

Andy Belaska, 4014 E Lake asked is 1400 signatures going to go to the corporate office or are like you said, you are going to do it some other different way because we have 1400 signatures and you also said signed letters and bring this to corporate? Well, we have 1400 signatures, are you going to submit those to Giant Eagle. Mayor Piskura answered I am going to give them to everybody. Mr. Belaska stated I thought you said you weren't going to. Mayor Piskura clarified what I said was or what I meant to say if I didn't say it was that I don't place much faith in the corporate offices, they have already made their determination and I am

concentrating more on the Board of Directors. Although I will forward all petitions to everybody, absolutely. Mr. Belaska asked we will know that you sent those petitions, all those signatures to them? Mayor Piskura answered absolutely. Mr. Belaska asked if Giant Eagle closes, Rax closed, Hardee's closed, the shoe store closed – everything else is closing, Rite Aid is going to close and who knows what else is closing. Is our houses going to go down in taxes, so does that mean our taxes are going to go down – are you going to lower our taxes? All these stores are closing, everything is going down the drain – we are going to have foreclosures, we are going to have people needing rent assistance. Are we going to open up an urban development here because that is what it looks like is going to happen. We are going to end up needing urban development, it happens and it happened to Elyria – it is going on there, in Lorain. What we need is investors, we need people to come here and start looking – we have 1400 signatures and that means people are interested in what is going on here.

JoAnn Eldridge, 4065 Lake stated I probably shop at the Giant Eagle almost everyday or every other day because I can't make up my mind what to eat. I want to thank Debbie for getting Friday night and I am on my way back to the Giant Eagle when I leave here. But she asked to sign the petition and I really appreciate and I applaud her effort to get us all organized and also I wanted to make a comment – there is email group that is going around and I am inspired by some of the letters that have been written and I am planning to write my own letter. That is why I am here to formulate my thoughts but I am not like some of you, I am not going to be a loyal customer to Giant Eagle. If they leave I am not going to shop there and I am going to tell everybody I know and I know people all over the United States, I am going to tell everybody I know what they did to us and hopefully if they are trading on the stock exchange people will start doing something about that as well. But my letter is going to be a letter of anger because to me that supermarket is part of the neighborhood and it makes our community a viable community and without that it is not a good sign for the healthiness of our city. So I want to thank Debbie for getting us all here tonight.

John Hines, Lorain stated it is about a 5 minute drive down the road to get to Giant Eagle. I have 2 sons and I make it a habit of coming out here and doing my grocery shopping. In approximately 2 weeks, I will be receiving orders to go into the US Army and I can't see leaving this town that I have been in service for delivering a newspaper bringing your news every morning, sometimes early and sometimes late but I try to do the best job I can. The one lesson I have learned and I hope everybody can find the urgency here, everybody can talk and everybody has got ideas. In a strategy class, someone from the outside comes in and says look at what is happening. You guys are kind of used to it, this is all news to me. I found out 2 weeks ago, maybe 1 week ago that the store was closing and you guys probably knew long before I did but looking from outside in I drive down the roads and I was like this is a nice looking town and you got in the center of town a square

that causing you guys a lot of problems. I think that there needs to be some real close looking at the laws and there has been amendments to laws and outside help from other governments that see that sometimes they need a little more help. I would be willing to do some research and see what that help could be but that is the strong arm of what is happening in this country. This little small town is an example of the breakdown in this society. People that are pushing other peoples arms and trying to prosper off of somebody else's to spare it. The urgency that I see is, the lady that said she would offer a ride and Mayor you talked how the Giant Eagle has a model. Well, what about the model of what is going to happen here, what is the model of how many people need a ride to the store, how many times a week, how far is it to go, how much gas is it going to take to get there and is that store that you are going to go to prepared to bring in that increase in volume and are they prepared and are they aware and those plans need to be rolling. Whatever you guys have for your next meeting, you know plans need to be made because these people do need to eat and they can't go to that store anymore because it is not there. So I am an outsider looking in and just trying to brain storm it, this can't happen and it is not going to happen, you guys can't suffer because of somebody that has control over one little square.

Hank Gonzala, Alameda/Ferndale stated what I want to say is about the gentleman saying about raising our rent on stores. Well, anytime the rent is raised on stores that should raise that much taxes on the people that are raising that rent and further more I complain about the parking lot having a lot of pot holes in it and if they don't want to fix the pot holes let the city do it and send them the bill. That is all I got to say, thank you and thank Debbie for calling me here.

Romolo Debottis, 868 Lake Breeze stated me and my wife moved to this city in 1987 and we raised 3 kids here. They went to our schools, have been very proud of this city. I used to live on Holl and at that point we had a choice, we needed a bigger home and we decided to stay in Sheffield Lake and we moved to Lake Breeze. Since moving here we have seen a very slow, gradual deterioration of the shopping center – probably the worst that it has ever been at this point. As a person, I think we are blaming the people – I don't think Giant Eagle is responsible. We are taking a company and basically asking them to stay in an area that is absolutely terrible. I took a walk through that shopping center yesterday in the middle of the night as I do so often and I said why would a company want to leave this shopping center. Is it the sidewalk that I ride my bike over that I feel like I am on the Gemini, that is how bad it is. Is it the Hardee's that the kids have knocked 3 to 400 holes in and it took us over a year to patch up and they have been closed. Mr. Mayor, with no disrespect but we can say that there is 20 or 30 people that want to come and fill those vacancies and no one ever has. Who is going to come to a shopping center that has as many pot holes as the moon has holes in it? That is basically a gravel road now, it is not even blacktop anymore. I think the carnival is a shame to even set up there, those people. I walk through there, how

many broken windows. I am surprised that little kids skate boarding which I know they are not allowed to skate board there, haven't cut off their arm. Exposed glass that is broken and all it is is boarded up. Leaky roofs, people that leave the building and are allowed to keep their garbage and junk there without even cleaning it out. They don't even whitewash the windows so we can't look inside. I have been constantly looking inside and the only thing I haven't there is rats on the inside and maybe it is just the time of the day that I am looking in. We just got a couple of stores left and it is the worst I have ever seen it. So why would Giant Eagle want to invest 2 or 3 million dollars in a place like this, why would any reputable store want to come to this city and put that kind of money into that building or that parking lot. If I were them I would do the same thing, if Sheffield Village looked like us and we looked like Sheffield Village they would be closing the Sheffield Village store and they would be coming here and that is what we need to look at. The Levin Family is to blame here, we have let them get away with everything that goes on at that store – everything, we have enacted anything. At least replace the glass that is broken, paint the walls, fix the leaky roofs, re-gravel the parking lot. You have trees that have fallen down, they are half hanging down – they are dead and we let them sit there. We don't even take down the dead trees, we don't allow them to take down the dead trees. The sidewalks are absolutely terrible, the grass is almost grown over on both sides – there is really no sidewalk anymore, we don't even make them trim the grass. Weeds that are higher then our knees at times, they don't even spray or fertilize. So who would want to invest in a project like that, I wouldn't – I would be ashamed. Mayor Piskura advised I agree with you 100% and until recently the city had no jurisdiction to do anything in there with a commercial property and we didn't have a commercial Building Department that could go inspect it. As of I think not last summer but the preceding Fall, we did get certified and we did go and perform several inspections over there where we have several outstanding property maintenance violations against them. As a matter of fact, we are in court over a \$10,000.00 dispute, I agree with you 100% that it is absolutely the ownership that needs to be prodded and all I can say is that we are trying to do just that.

Resident of 4020 Day Dr., Lorain stated this might not be my city, I shop at Giant Eagle and I shop at Rite Aid, I live in Lorain on the east side. I have seen Lorain go down hill and go down hill, Oakwood shopping center in Lorain – look at it. Now that is being demolished. Other places in Lorain are being demolished because the city did not come together and work as one to try to keep some of it. That is what is going to happen to Sheffield Lake, if the city don't pull together to start pushing the people that own the shopping center – you ain't going to have nothing. That boat dock ain't going to do you any good because there ain't nobody going to come here because there ain't going to be no stores to shop at because I shop at Giant Eagle and I shop at Rite Aid, I used to shop at Drug Mart because the stores like Drug Mart just do whatever they want to and they don't follow through with

what their supposed to be doing. If there is a citation there, fine them – don't let them get away with it because I don't even go to Drug Mart on the east side, I go to Rite Aid in Sheffield Lake. Now you tell me that is not going to happen in Sheffield Lake, that is not going to fall down hill and fall down hill. If the city don't come together as one and start working, everybody that is sitting here – if you all don't coming together and start working as one instead of this one this and this one that and this one doing that because Lorain is. I have lived in Lorain for over 30 years and I have seen Lorain go down hill. They just closed the bank on the east side, Lorain National Bank. There is restaurants that they have closed down. The only thing on the east side, there is a Convenient that has been open for years on Colorado Avenue and it is closed. Like I said Sheffield Lake is not my city but I shop in Sheffield Lake, I use Giant Eagle, I use Rite Aid and I agree with the gentleman here. I have lived on the east side for over 25 years and I have seen it. It used to be a nice shopping center but now it looks like the slums because there is nothing being done with it. I know the people that work at Rite Aid and the reason why Rite Aid is pulling out is because the ceiling leaks, now you tell me the city can't fine these people and make them fix the ceiling for Rite Aid. I go in there sometimes and there is buckets sitting on the floor because the roof is leaking. Ain't nothing can be done about it, should be because it is going to end up the same way as Lorain. Everybody is fighting against one another.

Sherry Talc advised I just wondered if I could make a comment about that, I completely agree with you that the owner needs to be held accountable. But at the same time right now Giant Eagle is a part of this community and the attitude that they have is this doesn't fit our corporate model. But yet since they are here and they have been here how long, they have made money here. I don't know where that is at right now but the potential that is there and for them to be willing to be a part of what you guys want to do I think the fact that they are not willing to do that says something about them as a corporation honestly.

Dan Vorhees, 4043 Tennyson stated one more time and I will try to make this quick, I forgot to thank somebody – Ralph Hoffman, Roberts Street. We were out there in Community Days bugging a lot of people trying to get signatures. So thank you if you were one of those guys and we bugged you. Second of all, the comments made by previous 2 or 3 citizens – we got a organization, a family, a trust who has got the city by the short hair and I got a real problem with that. This is my city, this is our city, you are our public servants and we need to put on a demonstration, bring some shame to this group of people – this trust and get some solidarity back in this city and bring some pride back in this city because it is an embarrassment. That shopping center is an embarrassment, that shopping center is an embarrassment and I think the citizens of this city has had enough and I think you guys should help lead the charge. The Law Director, you can help me if I am breaking any laws. But seriously, enough is enough – we got a group here that has got the city by the short hair and I have had enough of it. I am not going to live

here for 35 years and watch it steadily go down hill. I am going to get off of the couch, these folks have gotten off the couch – it is time we stand up and stand together and do something about it, whatever we got to do about it.

Ann Marie Woltman, 649 Sheffield stated I think it is a crime and I think what we all need to do is meet here again at the next Council meeting and we need to invite all the newspapers, all the radio stations, our Congressmen. That is my suggestion and I don't think it is Giant Eagle's because I was talking to an employee of Giant Eagle and Giant Eagle offered the Levin Family money and they keep raising the anti – it is a tax write-off for them, that is all it is. Mayor Piskura advised in my comments I apologize, I neglected to mention that both Betty Sutton's office and Sherrod Brown's office have been contacted and already said that they are willing to help. Mark Ballerd at the Lorain offices already started making phone calls, so we do have some bigger politicians helping us.

Selma Conrad, 216 Mariners Way stated as I have been watching our city badly against this family, not just in the past decade or whatever but for the past 50 years. I was a resident, I was a homeowner 50 years ago when that shopping center was filled and I know when Mr. Levin built that shopping center and was a slum landlord and the Mayor was fighting to have those houses that he owned brought up to code and what troubles he had with him and this has continued on and on. Now I left the city and built in Avon and my children grew up here and graduated from Brookside. I came back here 5 years ago, I had felt like I had never left because there wasn't that much of a difference from the time that I had left but I see the excitement of the Mayor and I have to commend you for working as hard as you have worked to try to get something done and it is like David fighting against Goliath. You have got an ownership that has so much money and so much politics and everything behind them that unless we get this story out you are never going to be able to fight them. The Radner Family, my gosh they own half of Cleveland. Mayor Piskura advised let me just real quick, I have talked to Jimmy Radner and they want nothing to do with it. They have a minority share, they want to sell as they can't get along with Levin. It has nothing to do Radner Family. Mrs. Conrad continued alright, the Levin Family that has kept this going all these years and when this gentleman said that they got us by the short hairs – he has had the city by the short hairs for as long as I had lived here. As I said I moved into a little house on Brockley in 1950, so that is how far back it goes. Now I just want to say that what we need is to get some publicity, we need the media to get involved, we need our story to be told and the more our story gets told the more it is going to affect this family that has been here and caused this city to keep from growing and have the kind of city that we long for. Now you have got an administration, you have got city Council, you have got people here that are ready to do something. situation – help him, help him. Get it out to your newspapers, get it out to your radio stations but get it out to your TV stations – we need to make noise about this and then we might be able to have a chance to fight against this group that has kept

us in bondage all these years. Mayor Piskura advised there is a couple of residents that live in Sheffield Lake that are involved in the media, the Plain Dealer and Channel 5 and they both offered to help and one of them right now is putting together a campaign for us or a strategy to go to the Plain Dealer with. But the one thing that I did want to point out, you know when you are talking about the family – along as there is Press in the room and all of you are in the room is that this family it is the Levin's, it is really not the Radner's. This is the Levin, this is still government – this is family made the donation to CSU to fund their entire urban studies department. They are 8th in the country in urban development, they train all of the economic development guru's across the country. This is the same family that is holding onto this property and that is part of the media campaign that we are trying to put together.

Sandy Jensen, 865 Warwick stated I graduated from CSU so I will just scratch that off my resume. Many years ago when I was going to CSU, Mr. Levin was my customer at the hardware store and recently I have seen him shopping at the Giant Eagle, so I know at least until a couple of years he was a shopper there. I frankly am tired of the big bubble that they have around them but I have never been able to get the address for the Levin Family. I mean if someone could provide that to me. Mayor Piskura advised it is public record and we can get it to you right now. Mrs. Jensen stated it is always like these management companies, could you make it public record for everybody? Mayor Piskura advised we can give it to you right now. Mrs. Jensen advised so we are all going to write to Giant Eagle and the RMS Management Company, that sounds like a ship that has gone down and the Levin Family Trust.

Resident of Lorain stated the Levin Family has Board of Directors I am sure, instead of getting the one Levin name, can we get like 4 or 5 people that are on there or is that private? Mayor Piskura answered it was actually left in trust by one of the elders in the Ratner family and one of the elders in the Levin family like 50 years ago. There are 2 co-trustee's, Marc Levin and Jimmy Ratner – they are co-trustee's that are responsible for the administration of the trust. However, there are several beneficiaries and the trust is a document in and of itself that is confidential. So the only people that we have access to is Jimmy Ratner and Marc Levin and Jimmy Ratner – there are beneficiaries in the Ratner and there are beneficiaries in the Levin family but the Ratner's own 24% and the Levin's own 76% and those are the only 2 contacts that we have. We have tried to get the list of beneficiaries to solicit them directly but the only way to do that is to sue them.

Debbie Belaska, 4014 Lake stated I did contact the foundation and I asked them to send a representative because I thought we have a very disgusting shopping center, I am tired of looking at it personally. I invited Joseph Corrino down and he said he would think about. I contacted Union Local 880, Tim Fergus and asked him to bring a representative from Giant Eagle down to explain their side of the story. I contacted Betty Sutton's office and invited maybe a representative down. I have

made phone calls to the media to invite them down. I have done all the phone calls and I am glad you are all down here helping me out because I didn't want to be like one person marching, I am glad to see that we are all marching to the same tune here. We need a back bone and we got the back bone of the Mayor and the back bone of this Council and I think they are ready and we are willing to work together. Let's get those letters and get those petitions signed and let's let Giant Eagle – we want you here and we want other businesses here too. We have a beautiful pier, we have a beautiful community and we have beautiful homes and there is a lot of things we can develop. It is just going to take the citizens and everybody working together as a community.

George Rafilates, 339 Missouri, Lorain stated I am a retired school teacher at Admiral King. I shop in this store here in Sheffield Lake, I have been shopping here since I bought my home on the east side of Lorain. When I first moved to this community many years ago to start teaching I was living on the west side of Lorain and at that time there were 2 grocery stores on 21st Street and Leavitt Road. There was a Pick and Pay and there was an A&P and within the first 5 or 6 years that I lived in Lorain in an apartment on the west side – both of those stores closed down and that shopping center went to hell, just like this shopping center is going to hell. The Mayor in Lorain unfortunately didn't do anything about it to stop that, I commend you Mr. Mayor of Sheffield Lake for your efforts in trying to stop this. Like I said I shop in your community and then when I bought my home on the east side, there was a grocery store on Kansas Avenue and then that store closed down. Then as the gentleman said earlier, I was banking at Bank One on Kansas Avenue because I didn't want to have to drive downtown over the bridge to go to a bank so the bank closed down. So then I went to Lorain National across the street and then that bank closed down. Now we have situation here, the same thing I have experienced in the community I live in the City of Lorain. Lorain has virtually as far as I am concerned has gone to hell, there is some people trying to regenerate it. I think the present Mayor is trying to do things to help fix it up but it has a lot of problems. But if this grocery store goes here, here in Sheffield Lake it is not going to only hinder people in your community but it is also going to hinder a lot of people on the east side of Lorain but we virtually don't have any place to go. What are our choices, in the whole City of Lorain there are only 2 blasted grocery stores to shop. You have your choice of Fligner's Market in downtown Lorain and your choice of unfortunately Apple's on Meister Road and there are no other grocery stores in the City of Lorain. A city of that size with 2 stores that really don't carry a lot of stuff and have all kinds of problems and lots of riff-raff in there and here you have a store that has been virtually a very small Giant Eagle but it accommodates your community as well as the community that I live in and I want to commend this lady over here Debbie. She stopped in the store the other day, her table was at the entrance of the grocery store. I didn't know if she was selling something, cookies or whatever, I couldn't figure out what she was doing over there so I had

to investigate it. I want to commend you for your efforts Mr. Mayor and Council, I want to thank you for your time for letting me speak. I am hoping that something will be done to change the format here and that this store will be able to stay open. So thank you again for your time.

Cody Rogers, Sheffield Lake stated the reason we want to put all this work into the shopping center is because me and one thousand and some odd people who signed that petition love it here and well, the kids also can just ride their bikes up here. It is so convenient there, it is where we hang out, it is where we go when we are getting on our parents nerves. Debbie stopped my grandma the other day when I was in the car with her and got me interested in this so I started making these signs, save our store SOS and made an eagle – Save Giant Eagle.

Linda Reinhold, 4307 Brockley stated I am thankful for the opportunity, 2 of my 5 grandkids are here tonight. I want them to see that this is government of the people, for the people, by the people and we are the people. Things only work if we stay interested and if we stay invested in our government. Again, I want to thank Debbie with all my heart for all the hard effort that she put in. She was out there Friday, Saturday and Sunday getting petitions. She got all of these people interested in this and this is an awesome thing, this is what we do need to do. I did call the management company as well, I did call Giant Eagle and did get their sympathies and they said that they would pass it along. I also as some of the other people have said let them know that I lived here for 20 years now and I have always patronized our store. I was raised in Avon and my father taught me, you support your local businesses in your town. You don't go to Elyria to Walmart or K-Mart or somewhere else, you support the businesses in your town and so we support our Family Dollar, we support our local Rite Aid, we have always supported the grocery store since we have moved into town. But I also let Giant Eagle know that even though I have been a loyal customer for 20 years, if they pull out of our town and I am forced to waste my gasoline riding to Sheffield Village I will not feel an allegiance to them. If I waste my \$4.00 a gallon gasoline to go to Sheffield Village I am not going to be loyal to Giant Eagle any longer. I am going to go to Aldi's or Sam's Club so that I can compensate myself for the gasoline that I wasted since they were disloyal to us as a community and will not stay here. The second thing is can we fine the Levin family, can they be fined for allowing the buildings to fall into disrepair and letting the parking lot fall into disrepair and if we can, why have we not? Law Director Graves answered they have been cited numerous times. Mrs. Reinhold asked have they had to pay? Law Director Graves answered I believe so. Mrs. Reinhold asked can we raise the fines can continue to fine them until they want to do something? Mayor Piskura answered yes, we can raise the fines. However, the thing that you have to be real careful on, if we raise the fines and we start just fining them to death as a method to get them out of here they are just going to turn around and pass it on to their tenants and we are still going to have the same problem. They are going to have higher costs and they are

going to take the revenues that Mr. Bring spoke of they are not going to have and we are going to be stuck with the same problem. So we are kind of in a quagmire. Mrs. Reinhold stated then I am more than ready to write to anyone and everyone that you have an address for. We will make phone calls, we will write, we will go, we will rally in the parking lot and we will do whatever we need to do. We want these people out of here as a city. We want our city back, this beautiful boat dock is in here. We want a shopping center that is alive and thriving. When I lived in Avon and I even patronized my own stores in the 50's and 60's, there was no JoAnn Fabrics there was there was down here and this was a thriving shopping center and I came here to shop and this is a ghost town by comparison. So we do want our stores back, we want our city back and we want a community center out here across from our boat dock with stores that we can be proud of and not be ashamed of when people drive through our town. So yes, I will be loyal to Giant Eagle as long as they stay here but if they dump us then I have no loyalty to them any longer.

Bob Ebenschweller, 362 Cove Beach stated when the young man got up a little while ago. It reminded me of a decade or so ago when I happened to be a member of Council, a woman and a couple of other ladies came forward trying to form a youth center in our shopping center. I was part of the committee that went down there to look at the property, I think it was the old Woolworth store I think was there at that time. The representative from the company met us there and he opened the door and we walked in and looked at it and I could not believe what I was looking at. You had floors where the tiles were torn up, holes in the walls, sheets of stuff hanging from the ceiling and the questions asked are you going to put this into a condition that it can be rented and the answer was no, this is as is. I guess the contract says that if you buy anything and bolt it to the wall or floor – it stays when you leave, if you fail you lose. Right then, my enthusiasm about that shopping center went down fast and I didn't think there was any hope for it at all. With a philosophy like that company has, it is as if they didn't care if they rented it or not – they would just sit on it. Since that time we passed a pretty strict property maintenance code and I am a member of the Zoning Board right now. I know that private owners who are renting houses have to have their house pass code before they can rent it, before it gets an occupancy permit. If we are a commercial Building Department now, do we not have a right to insist on that as well? If a homeowner has a house and doesn't want to bring it up to code or he doesn't want to rent it so he can't not bring it up to code. So if they just leave it lay, they can still have the property maintenance code enforced on them under our commercial license that we have correct? Law Director Graves answered yes, we are citing them for code violations that we are aware of.

Law Director Graves advised the address as it appeared in the public record in the appropriation petition that the city filed is; Marc Levin, 6615 Malta Lane, McLean, VA 22101. He advised Arnold Levin has nothing to do with this Trust.

Bruce Lourie, 790 Robinwood stated I am new to the community, I have been here about a year. I came from the Slavic Village, the east side of Cleveland. So coming out here is like coming out to California, Hollywood you know with nice neighbors and everything. I got a quick question, Mayor you said Dave's Supermarket possible is interested. Mayor Piskura answered yes there are 3 prospects, one comes with a different investor but the 2 that the current ownership and the leasing company is looking at is Dave's and Apple's. Mr. Lourie advised I used to work for Dave's Supermarket, it is a great grocery store with reasonable prices, phenomenal owners and it is actually better than Giant Eagle. My question is, worried about this Levin and everything like that, does Sheffield Lake own any other properties that we can build our own shopping center. Mayor Piskura advised we don't have an assemblage of property sufficient enough probably to build something like that. I think if you really wanted to go down the road of ownership we would have to explore seriously the thought of acquiring the property that is there in some fashion, straight up purchase or eminent domain or something like that.

Selma Conrad, 216 Mariners Way asked I just wanted to ask if it would be possible again going back to this idea of getting publicity and media attention in addition to what you are working on? Mayor Piskura answered absolutely. Mrs. Conrad stated if we couldn't have Matt Londe and Sherrod Brown come to a meeting here in Sheffield Lake soon while the concern and excitement and have enough notice to the community. I don't know if your community center is big enough to hold enough people to come in to this meeting but have these guys come and let the residents talk to them and see what they can do and maybe they can push this eminent domain business along. You know politics, this is a political year and it goes a long way to get things done. So I wonder if that would be possible. Mayor Piskura answered I am very confident that we can get our state legislature members, I am very confident that we could get Betty Sutton to attend. Sherrod is a little bit more difficult. We could probably get a commitment from him that will come with a condition, what they do is a day before the event oh we are 90% sure – they always give themselves room to back out. The more local people I am sure we can get a commitment out of. If you were looking for something maybe in the 3 week range, if you are looking for mid-August then I am sure we could arrange a substantial rally. Mrs. Conrad stated well lets do it and that we bring the publicity to get started. To get all the media, all the TV news programs going and get the newspaper coverage and get the ball rolling in other words. Let's get some pressure going, when they see that we are really serious about this and we have got some muscle behind it – some political muscle, we might be able to get a little help there. Mayor Piskura answered you could plan on mid-August, we will put something together and then if anybody here is not on the news list just email me and I will put you on it and I will contact Mrs. Belaska about a date and we will try

to get some of those bigger politicians here too. Mr. Bring stated you could always have it at the school too John.

Sherry Talca asked about receivership potential? Law Director Graves advised we are open to all possibilities.

Sylvia Rimm, 3901 E Lake stated we have lived in Sheffield Lake for 14 years and I was attracted by the nice community center with shopping available so I could ride my bicycle or walk to the stores and obviously like everyone else I saw it all go down hill. I wondered if there is any kind of federal funding so that as a matter of fact we claim that as a blighted area, that we would be able to get some sort of funding as part of urban renewal to make our shopping center and our area renewed again? Mayor Piskura answered there is federal funding and we went down that road a couple of years ago prior to those court decisions. We had lined up in the neighborhood of \$300,000.00, so while there is some federal funding for that property acquisition and demolition if we need to there is really not enough available – it will just help ease the pain a little bit of the purchase. Mrs. Rimm asked even if it is considered a blighted area? Mayor Piskura answered even it is considered a blighted area. There is money available just not enough. Mrs. Rimm stated it just think it is really nice that the community has gotten together in support and maybe we should send that petition to Levin, I don't know if it we would help but somehow we have to get our message to him..

Bob Nicola, 218 Mariners Way stated I do a lot at Community Center every week and work Meals on Wheels. We got a food thing down there and people coming from all over. We got a good thing going there and I want to see a good thing continue to over here in the shopping center. We got our Mayor who got the beaches now so a person can park a car and get down to the lake. The thing that gets me like I said, one family has got everything locked up. (not at mic, balance inaudible).

William Adams, 908 East stated I have contacted John several times about what has been going on and for everybody that wants to know, I have contacted not only John but I have contacted Sherrod Brown, Betty Sutton and our Strickland by email. Of course I have got their normal response back but I know Sherrod he will probably do something. I have known Sherrod since he was just a pipsqueak when he first started in politics and I have stayed in contact with him all these years. He has done a lot of stuff to help me, through my health disabilities and everything else. I know the man is a good Christian man just like John is a good Christian man and he will fight for whatever he can do but you are going to have to realize people he hands are tied in a lot of this stuff because he is fighting big money here and I mean big money and it is hard to fight big money as a small community no matter what you do. It is like trying to go up against Plevins Law Firm in Cleveland for example. There is more money there then any of us could ever imagine, so hang in there, fight with our Senators and Representatives and fight with John and we will get it. Somehow, someway we will get something done.

Ward 3 Eric Elliott stated everybody knows it has been a bad year in Sheffield Lake. I mean with St. Thomas saying that they were going to pull their school out of Sheffield Lake, the foreclosures going on. You have to understand one thing, John has been fighting, everybody on city Council has been fighting, there has only been one thing missing and that is you. I mean, Debbie Belaska you are one of the positive, Bob you are a positive, Len Smith who a lot of time in getting that boat launch in. We need you, without you we are just little guys shouting – we need you. Keep coming to your council meetings, come to all the committee meetings because without you, we are just going to sit here spinning our wheels. It is not that we haven't been trying, believe me we have talked about this shopping center until we are blue in the face. So we need your back, so we need your help.

Len Smith, 734 Robinwood stated I would like to say to Law Director Graves, if you could give a little insight to the people knowing what kind of fight they are going to put up and that the city had a lawsuit against Levin. How many years did that lawsuit stay active and costs the city money over a drainage ditch? Law Director Graves answered over 20 years. Mr. Smith stated the man fought the city for 20 years, he doesn't like the city and the family doesn't like the city and they will do what they can to put this city down and they are not afraid of spending money to prove it. The only way you fight them is you march down to Cleveland and you bring them out in the open and you tell them this family is a family that has done this to our town. What you guys have done is awesome, I sit here and get tears in my eyes. It is unbelievable to see how everybody has come together for this and believe me everybody that sits on that side of the counter and sits in these aisles, everybody here is on the same page. We don't want to lose the store, we don't want to have people that we know that are on baseball teams, coach our kids, we don't them to turn around and lose their job or their wife not to work. I know 5 people that are going to lose their jobs, 5 people who are active in the community, work with kids and everything. This is just awesome but they need to be brought out, they are hiding back there behind their big business. They are a family of attorneys, they think they can power this city and they have done it for years and have a track record of doing it, all over a drainage ditch. I think the reason they don't like this town and it is my opinion has to do with the lawsuit that they made this city go through for over 20 years. It is awesome and I just want to commend everybody and I am sorry if I get emotional but I love this, the fact that people take part in their government because that is what it is about.

Debbie Belaska, 4014 E Lake stated it is about time we tell them to pack up and get out here. Let's send them packing, you tell your friends, you tell your family, you tell your brothers, you tell your sisters, your neighbors, at church, at the library – wherever you go, let's send them packing and if they don't want to be here we will bring somebody back in that is interested in our community as much as we are.

Resident, 4052 Ivanhoe stated I agree with you and you and you and that nice lady there about putting pressure on the Levin family. I am sitting back here taking this all in and (not at mic, inaudible). I don't believe they have a furniture store in Lorain County because if they did I would boycott them. If you have any family or relatives on the west side of Cleveland, I don't know what else they own, they are so rich they probably own other businesses. I would just get the word out through all this publicity and media, we are going to boycott them, our family, our cousins, our friends. You know once you wake them up and then they hear their name getting in the dark light then maybe they will want this. I am glad everybody has stuck together on this.

Ward 1 Edward Diebold stated on a positive note I would like to commend John the Mayor for doing such a great job and he has been fighting this thing. He has been fighting real tough and it is a rough road to go. All these great suggestions that have been made, we had that incident with the cats on Lake Road. Now if we could get the media out here like we had for that incident, we had 3 TV stations out here and that was all over the paper. So let's say at the next Council meeting, instead of having this many people that we had double this and we held it in the Civic Center and we had the TV down there and the radio. I think that would give a pretty big impression and a positive movement and if that didn't do it then we are really barking up a tree but I think that would maybe a possible suggestion. Mayor Piskura stated for this meeting I just wanted to point out that all of you that don't know John Edwards is in the back of the room, he is the Avon Lake Press reporter so if you have any comments for him. We also have somebody from the Morning Journal here, up in front in the blue shirt – Matt Summon. Just so that you are aware that the press is here if you have any comments.

Taylor Nagy stated I have lived here for about 6 years now. We just moved up the street and we are very close to Giant Eagle and it is very easy for me and my brother to run down to get stuff for my parents. It would be a huge loss if they left us and I am saying this because I want to support this city and me and my cousin are here to show that it is not just the adults that are here caring about Giant Eagle, it is the kids too.

President Podmanik thanked everyone for their participation and stated I love to see people in the seats at these meetings. I love this, packed house – we may have buy more chairs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None./NEW BUSINESS: President Podmanik explained generally August is our vacation month for Council. At our Worksession we had made discussion about dates and it was determined that August 12th would satisfy our code for meeting times and dates. We can't more then 30 days between meetings so August 12th would satisfy that requirement. We would have one Finance meeting in the month of August the time to be 6:45 pm and the Council meeting would be at 7 pm and that would deal with any business the city would

have during that month which we consider our vacation month. At the Worksession, everyone on Council who was here agreed that would be adequate date and time and if there are no objections to that. *Motion by Smith for Council to vacation for the month of August with the exception of August 12th for a Finance meeting at 6:45pm and Council to follow at 7 pm. Yeas All.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1.) Council#058 – EMERGENCY – an ordinance providing for the establishment and increase and decrease of certain funds within the annual appropriations ordinance of the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio and the declaring of an emergency.

*Motion by Huska for SUSPENSION OF RULES:

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES: Yeas All – Smith, Huska, Bring, Diebold, Kovach, Elliott.

*Motion by Huska for ADOPTION:

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Yeas All – Diebold, Elliott, Bring, Kovach, Huska, Smith.

Ordinance Passes#55-08

*Motion by Bring to go into executive session for the discussion of purchase of property for public purposes. ROLL CALL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: Yeas All – Bring, Elliott, Diebold, Kovach, Smith, Huska.

*Motion by Bring to return to regular session. ROLL CALL TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: Yeas All – Kovach, Smith, Bring, Huska, Elliott, Diebold.

Law Director Graves advised let the record reflect that the City Council of Sheffield Lake did adjourn into executive session for the discussion of the purchase of property for public use pursuant to the Sunshine Laws.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach to adjourn at 9:15 PM. Yeas All.

CLERK OF COUNCIL AFFIRMATION: This Meeting Of The City Council Of The City Of Sheffield Lake, Ohio Was Held And Conducted Under All Rules And Regulations Governing The Sunshine Laws Of The State Of Ohio As They May Apply. All meetings are recorded and available in council offices.

CLERK OF COUNCIL
Kay Fantauzzi

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
Edward R Podmanik

I, Kay Fantauzzi, duly appointed Clerk of Council of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of Council of July 22, 2008.

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM
Richard Rosso

MAYOR
John J Piskura