

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
November 22, 2011**

The regular meeting of the City Council Worksession was held Tuesday, November 22, 2011. Council Pro Tem Rick Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:21 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Rosso, Huska, Stark, Bring, Kovach, Elliott, Smith, Finance Director
Smith, Service Director Smith
Absent: President Podmanik, Mayor Piskura, Law Director Graves (excused)
Attending: Concerned Citizens, Members of the Media

PRESENTATIONS: None.

*******COMMITTEES*******

**ROADS & DRAINS: None./SAFETY: None./BUILDINGS, LANDS, VEHICLES
& EQUIPMENT: None./ORDINANCE: None./FINANCE: None./PARK
BOARD: None.**

*******ADMINISTRATIVE*******

**MAYOR: None./FINANCE DIRECTOR: None./SAFETY DIRECTOR:
None./SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Service Director Smith reported the reason Tammy is very adamant about some of the funds is because we have actually been going over the numbers for a while now working really intensely with projections too. So we have been able to be ahead knowing where we are going well before instead of reacting afterwards. So being able to react in front of an issue is so much better and is proven to be a lot better this year alone. We have had a lot of surprises. I would like to read a little thing that I put together concerning the sewer fund, what I am talking about is the general sewer fund. "Due to the excessive rain events throughout the year 2011 with a month and a half yet to go we have got very, very large sewer bills from the City of Lorain. Approximately \$340,000.00 total for the year 2010 – last year and as of yet for 2011 we are at \$505,000.00. You add an estimated \$30,000.00 for the last 2 months of the year you are going to come out to approximately \$565,000.00 for the costs of sewage through Lorain for the year 2011 estimated of course but real close. That is approximately \$225,000.00 spent more this year than last year. The expense of all the infiltration as was brought up – yes it is the number 1 thing and has been since I have taken this position. We have actively started programs and tooling ourselves to solve and work towards solving a lot of the issues of I&I and inflow. The system – it is very, very challenging because it is not just one simple thing. Gutters – yes you are right, curb drains – everyone's sump pumps going on at one time. There is another thing that everyone here hasn't really taken into account and that contributes to it and that is the underground trench system that is in the city. Everywhere

there is an open ditch and there is a driveway pipe, there is gravel around that driveway pipe and if that house has a basement chances are that gravel runs to the footer walls of that house. Every time the ditch gets to a certain level because of the lack of using clay dams in some of the older sections of the city, the water back-tracks up to the foundation walls of the house and goes down to their sump pump and pumps back out into the ditch and creates a circle that just continues and continues until our pump stations go into alarm. This is very prevalent in some of the older neighborhoods that were built in the 70's with basements when that time came in. There are neighborhoods such as Warwick which were built in the late 50's and they have basements but they don't have sump pumps unless someone dug one out and put it in but they got gutter drains. Their gutters and downspouts are connected. We have located currently issues that are common to all the same house designs on Warwick for instance which will be one of our targeting smoke streets that we will probably start with. There is a lot of things that contribute to the I&I, you guys have been dealing with this for years – those of you that have sat up here. The bills this year have been unbelievable. I checked with the National Weather Service to get the latest data on this years – this is the largest amount of rainfall ever experienced and they are predicting it not to change. They are predicting that the pattern in place tends to stay in place but they are predicting this to carry on through the year 2012 and possibly into 2013 before something happens. That is all the latest data that I looked at. In dealing with the funds of the individual sources and re-reviewing them on a constant checks and balance that Tammy does – we go back and forth and verify; we have done an analysis of where the funds have gone. As you know back in August I corrected the water bill breakdown and those are all different components of the water bill – where they were going, how much they were, what was current, what was correct and incorrect which we straightened out. It was straightened out then and now we are dealing with what the result is of the corrections. The upcoming Mayor elect and Council people are going to have a challenge on their hands along with you guys of deciding where and how the correct approach will be. I would like to at this meeting make a recommendation and it might be a shocker but it is based on facts and dollars and gallons. I would recommend the sewer base rate as defined in section 931.03 be raised from the current \$3.00 to \$5.00, of the collected \$5.00 in that ordinance - \$2.00 be directed into the sewer capital improvement fund and the remaining \$3.00 go into the sewer fund. This should off-set any but not all of it but it should off-set a large amount of fluctuation in the sewage increases. At the end of 2012 we will be entering into a renegotiating contract with the City of Lorain for newer sewer rates depending on whether or not their new sewer plant is on line or not is going to affect a lot of things, either way I would be looking for another sewer increase coming from them as the last one was in 2007. That said in the increase of the base rate of sewer, that is the base rate of sewer. I can give you some dollar amounts so that you understand how much, at \$3.00 X approximately 3000 water bills – there is actually 3400 but we use 3000 to be where we are at is \$9000.00 X 12 which is \$108,000.00 generated yearly income for that fund. If

Council chose to go above the \$5.00 and make it \$6.00 then you do your division. Let me give an example of \$4.00 plus \$2.00 that goes into capital improvement recommended and then \$4.00 going into the sewer fund X 3000 which is \$12,000.00 a month X 12 which is \$144,000.00 a year going into that fund. Likewise if they wanted to take on or try to get as close to the estimated of what we have done this year, remember this year we are \$225,000.00 over where we were and this amount of money - \$2.00 from the base rate and then you add \$5.00 to go into the sewer fund. If you were to go \$5.00 that would represent \$15,000.00 on the lean side X 12 which is \$180,000.00 of generated revenue into the sewer fund – that is not the sewer capital improvement fund because the sewer capital improvement fund of which \$2.00 is going into is needed to upgrade the system. We have to continue to upgrade that system, we have a large amount of money in there but that is for the purpose of putting in sewer lines. We have a motor go down at a pump station – it is \$20,000.00 right off the bat/\$25,000.00 if it is a 50-horse big one. Those types of issues are prevailing, that is going to be up to Council. My recommendation is a minimum of at least increasing it to \$5.00 in the sewer base rate. That is the sewer side of things. We have also done the same thing with the water base rate with the corrections that were made on the water bill breakdown with the water rates. Currently we are at a \$3.00 base rate, I would recommend that Council re-evaluate that and look at increasing that to \$5.00 base rate. Then you are going to have to deal with deciding what to do with the NC charge and that is something that will be coming down next year. There is a lot of what if's, I just wanted to bring this up to everyone's attention and hope it would be referred to Roads & Drains. I hope that you guys would choose to discuss this and act on this because forecasting down the road into the beginning of next year looks kind of – we are headed into trouble with these. It is not due to anybody doing anything wrong, it is due to excessive amount of rain water that is entering into the system and the amount of I&I. The other thing is you have to remember those sewer treatment facilities – they make their profit on stormwater yet they don't want to get involved with dealing with stormwater. As I sat in on the Regional Work Group over the last 8 months and ran through several models for dealing the sanitation situation of Lorain County, stormwater was voted not to be part of the discussions yet stormwater represents a majority of the profits that they make for their day-to-day operations. They depend on that rain, they depend on that inflow and I&I because that is just more money to charge everybody whose contributing into that system. So unfortunately the EPA and these local regional groups and these different companies involved with consulting for the waste treatment facilities basically leave it up to us to generate our cure/our own fix for these situations. Currently we have to deal I&I which I am going to need capital improvement money, I am going to need it with the reduction as Tammy says in the funding – we are down to minimum manning with employees. It is something that needs to be addressed and I wanted to bring it up and explain it. It needs to be discussed, here is the interesting thing – I believe we are talking about 240 million gallons more then 2010; 2010 was above average. That amount of rain

water just will triple our normal bill, just looking at our normal sewage bill – to get a rainstorm that dumps 3-1/2 inches of rain in one month our bill skyrockets anywhere between 60 and 80 thousand dollars for sewage going to Lorain as compared to 23 to 30. So that gives you a normal month that gives you an idea of what we are talking about. I have done a regression over the course of years and I am actually still continuing it back to 1976, through the different plans that K&S has supplied me and the data that Mark dug up from over there. I have been going back on the sewer analysis which evaluated back in the 70's where our sewers were and we are about the same capacity as we were then. The population is about the same, system is about the same – we are real close, the difference is I&I and solving that. I really wanted to bring that up tonight and go from there. Likewise the water base rate, I touched on that and that is something is going to have to be addressed sometime next spring. The binoculars in memory of Jack Piskura so generously donated by Monica Piskura and her family will be installed tomorrow morning at the boat launch. The pedestals are done and formed and poured/finished. Everything is made for early morning installation so they should be functional by noon tomorrow. Pro Tem Rosso asked have you had any discussions with the Mayor's family if they are having some sort of dedication ceremony? Service Director Smith advised I spoke with Mrs. Piskura today and she said maybe in the spring would be good to have a date. They have to think about it, they haven't had much time but they might think about that. Pro Tem Rosso stated does it make sense to put them up in the winter time then? Service Director Smith answered that was their suggestion. Pro Tem Rosso stated that is fine. Finance Director Smith advised they are all-weather, they came from Niagra Falls. Service Director Smith advised the other thing that was brought up at one of the previous meetings, do we unbolt and put them away for the winter? No – they are all-weather and the optics are made all-weather and they have had the coin mechanisms removed – they are plated over/they are beautiful and look really, really nice. The placement is directly underneath the cameras in plain view/they are centered and I think they will look real nice. Mrs. Piskura advised me that she was very happy with how they looked and placement. Service Director Smith requested Avon Lake Press John Edwards if he would mind putting some type of reminder or public information in the Avon Lake Press about leaves and leaf removal out of people's ditches and along their driveway pipes because it is causing a problem. I know we don't have leaf pickup but it is really bad and it would be a big help if we could get the word out again. I would like to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving. Councilwoman Stark asked did we look at possibly changing the rate for late payments because we are assuming the numbers that you are giving is that everybody is paying their bill every month? Service Director Smith answered I have everything broken down. Finance Director Smith advised keep in mind their sewer bill goes along with their water bill, so if they don't pay their water bill they get shut off. Service Director Smith advised all the fees, all the penalties are written separately on here and I will get you a copy of this. Councilman Bring advised we are going to get the credit card thing for that, we are working on

that. Finance Director Smith stated soon. Mr. McCullough stated so then you are going to have that expense. Councilman Bring advised when you can't collect the money, what is nothing from nothing/we are getting nothing. Finance Director Smith advised Kerry keep in mind that is for an on-site card swiper, I have a company that I am talking to that will put a link on our website that they can go and pay and there is no fee to us. Councilman Bring advised that is also going to go for court fines because we aren't getting the money for that – it is taking people 6 to 8 months. So we are giving them the opportunity because every other city does this. Service Director Smith concurred I do get a lot of requests. Pro Tem Rosso stated to the point you are going to lose 2 – 2-1/2 percent on every transaction. Mr. McCullough stated we are talking about raising a water bill right now that is all I am saying. Finance Director Smith advised I have talked to several city's and everybody that I have talked to – everybody has said it is a costs of doing business. We were talking originally about end-user fees – there is a lot of complications to that and every, every single city that I talked to said it is a costs of doing business. There was a brief discussion. Councilwoman Huska asked have you heard from that cable company? Service Director Smith stated yes I have and David is preparing an information packet for you. There is nothing official from them yet, it is forthcoming but I did get an unofficial that they are coming to Sheffield Lake. Service Director Smith advised I want to thank Mayor elect Dennis Bring for having me get in contact with Tom Butts who has offered to contribute in a way – we don't know as to how much but to at least the construction I believe and the plumbing and possibly funding the whole thing for putting in handicap accessible restrooms up at Guenther Park. I talked to Mr. Butts in the last week and he is going to be getting back with me as to the extent of what he can do and we are going to be moving forward with that hopefully. Thank You Dennis very much, it turned out to be a real good contact. Councilman Smith advised Community Center – the rededication, any news on that? Service Director Smith answered yes, we didn't make the November 15th as everyone is aware. We have prepped the sign and it is ready for installation – I am waiting for Ohio Edison to get that dum pole off of the front sign and out of the front which they were supposed to have done. Councilman Smith stated please take a note, that before we do it would at least somebody give Donna a call so that she could at least be there once they do it. They have asked me 3 times about it so if you would make sure you let them know. Service Director Smith advised I spoke with Charity and she said she was going to communicate that with them because I don't have any of their numbers. Engineer Mark Skellenger advised I would like to commend the contractor that worked on the phase for the shopping center. They did a nice job and they were very responsive and worked with us throughout the project. Councilman Bring cautioned conversations in the back of chambers due to interference for transcription of this meeting./**LAW DIRECTOR: None./COMMUNICATIONS: None./OLD BUSINESS: None./NEW BUSINESS:** Councilman Rosso stated we have 3 Council meetings before the end of the year. *Motion by Bring/Second by Stark to add Council#059 to next Tuesday's Council

agenda. Yeas All. Councilman Rosso asked for consideration for readings instead of passing by emergency on Tuesday. Councilman Smith concurred.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Councils Agenda –

- 1) Coucil#057 – SECOND READING – an ordinance establishing Chapter 910 of the codified ordinances of the City of Sheffield Lake regarding streetlawns and treelawns.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Council#059 – EMERGENCY – an ordinance amending Chapter 105 of the codified ordinances of the City of Sheffield Lake regarding wards and boundaries and the declaring of an emergency.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Stark to adjourn at 7:48 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/COMMITTEES

Kay Fantauzzi

COUNCILPRESIDENT

Edward R Podmanik

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Richard Rosso

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 WORKSESSION of November 22, 2011.

MAYOR

John J Piskura