

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
May 14, 2013**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, May 14, 2013. Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

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

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

Present: Rosso, Smith, Kovach, McCullough, Erdei, Stark, Mayor Bring, Finance Director Smith, Service Director Smith, Law Director Graves

Absent: Councilman Elliott, Treasurer Woods (excused)

Attending: Concerned Citizens, Planning; Guenther, Members of the Media: Avon Lake Press

READING OF THE MINUTES:

A – Council – *Motion by McCullough/Second by Stark to accept the minutes of the Council of April 23, 2013 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A – Monthly report of Court receipts for month of April 2013 - \$8009.00.

PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Bring submitted Captain Anthony Campo for Police Chief of the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio. *Motion by McCullough/Second by Stark to approve the appointment of Anthony Campo for Police Chief. **ROLL CALL FOR APPROVAL:** Yeas All – Smith, McCullough, Kovach, Stark, Erdei.

*Mayor Bring swore in Captain Anthony Campo for Police Chief
for the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio.*

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse: None./Safety: Chairperson Stark reviewed the minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting. *Motion by McCullough/Second by Erdei to accept the report. Yeas All./**Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment:**

None./Ordinance: None./Finance & Audit: None./Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks 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: None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Bring reported we are all very disappointed and it is what it is, we are going to try to work through this and we have very limited funds. We have been talking about this since John was in office about 2-1/2 years ago saying that sometime in the future we were going to have to go after some type of a levy. We had discussions on how to go about it, we thought doing the income tax would be

the best thing because it would not have affected the elderly. We thought that was the best way to go. Obviously the turn-out for this election was very poor but again it is what it is. We put the ad in the Journal, the Chronicle and the Avon Lake Press and it was on the radio and at many Council meetings I had several people call me and said that we were uninformed, we didn't know what was going on. We also passed out 2500 flyers. I don't know how to get more informed with these people and it is very sad to say that it seems like when something happens everybody immediately knows what goes on. Heaven forbid we didn't pick up garbage for 5 days and we had uproar around here. But we had an election and nobody knows what is going on but everybody has a cell phone and most people have a computer and most of these papers are all online. I was very disappointed on some of the actions of people calling and saying we don't know, we don't know. One gentleman actually said to me Council meetings are a thing of the past and I said that is funny we still show up every time we have a Council meeting. If they are a thing of the past maybe we should cancel them so I don't know what to do, I really don't but ir-regardless I would like to thank Debbis Suarz for helping us write the flyer and stepped in and did a lot of work for us, Rose Zaborski helped us out, Tammy Smith, David Graves and son Matthew, Barb Miller, our Police and Fire Departments including both Chiefs passing out flyers. In case you don't know what the votes were; it was 368 nays and 220 yeas. Our Fire Chief made a comment to me it is really ashamed that 300 and some people made the effect on 9000 people for the safety of our city and it is very sad. If you take those 368 votes minus the 220 it basically comes down to 70 some votes. Programs effected will be; Pride Day was canceled – it costs \$2000.00 in wages and fuel costs/ free jet skis are sent back/summer help – none in any departments, boat launch which we have cleaned out as much as we can with our own manpower and we were going to have it professionally done by outside contractor and that has been canceled. If it does get filled up this year, we will do the best we can with our own guys to clean it out but it is what it is/cleaning in city hall and service department we are canceling that. We are looking into getting new phone systems because by getting a new phone system, right now we are paying about \$1400.00 a month which will go down to about \$700.00 a month. Again we have not had dumpsters this year and we will continue that practice, there will be no dumpsters available. People like to talk about waste that they feel the city does; our manpower includes Fran our Deputy Court Clerk, Wendy our accounts payable, Tammy our Finance Director, David our part-time Law Director and also our part-time Prosecutor and also our part-time Grant Administrator and me as a part-time Mayor. I try to be there as much as possible but I will tell you I am there probably 2 to 3 hours a day and I am here for all the meetings and everything else. I do come back at times but basically that is what runs this whole place, are those people right there. We have 1 Building Inspector Jon Wiblin for the whole city and we have 1 Service Director Len Smith. In the Water Department we have Lisa Rodriguez and Annie Amador and they take a tremendous amount of abuse with water bills, the dumpsters, the Allied Waste when they went on strike for that

week. Those girls were actually sitting in there crying from some phone calls we had and I also took some of those, we are very indignant to say the least. In the Service Department; we have Pat Hastings, Ed Stottlemire and Frank Knautz. In the Water Department; we have Tom Erwin, Shannon Plumb, Warren Hodges and Jason Kovach. We have 1 mechanic Rob DeChant and right now in our Parks Department we have 1 part-time person Jerry Gillespie and he will be getting no help this year. Police Department; full-time – we are down 5 people and Fire Department; full-time – we are down 2 people. On top of all of this we got notification from our part-time Police and Dispatch that they want to file for union contracts. So far that has costs us several thousands of dollars and looking to costs us extremely more. In looking at cutting things to survive; we looked at cutting dispatch completely and going to 911, cutting our Fire Department completely out and going to volunteer, cutting EMS out and going to Life Care. Also the Service Department – cutting those 3 people and moving them over to the Water Department, laying off and hiring out to outside contractors to do some of their work. The other thing that was mentioned was actually selling off some of our parks and access right of ways to certain areas to get money. Obviously everything I just mentioned is all union related, they are going to fight for everything that they can and I don't blame them one bit. They are not the problem, that is not why we are here. I feel bad for everybody but we are in survival mode right now and I am going to do everything I can to get to this point and if this is what it takes then that is just the way it is. I don't care if people like me, I am here for a job and that is what I am going to do. How did we get to this point, we had cuts from the state/reduction in property values/overall costs in material have escalated/health care/EPA mandates/foreclosures/population decreases and several other things. All these are not getting any better, they are getting worse. We have had notices from the state that they want to take our income tax and give it to us when they feel it is necessary and right now Tammy can call up and get that income tax to us at certain times and that actually pays our wages. Most of this has affected our general fund which directly affects our safety forces and you wonder why I said some of the stuff in the Service Department is because if we are going to affect these 2 entities we are going to affect the whole city and that is just the way it is I think we should be fair across the board. The other thing is we have a new school being built right now and please don't quote me on this but 75% of the money that is being collected for that particular bond issue that was out which is 31 million dollars comes from our city to pay for that school and I think 85% of the kids that go to Brookside come from our city. Right now we are reaping 0 benefits from the contractors that are in Sheffield Village. That is something that we are looking into and that is going to go over like a lead balloon. We are already down \$80,000.00 this quarter from the last quarter of last year already. The internet cafes has afforded us to purchase a new/used ambulance because we got this with 22,000 miles on it. It costs us \$62,000.00 so that basically almost depleted that line item (internet café line). Chief Card wrote a grant and received a new ambulance for that for \$213,000.00 and that is including a cot which

is remote. Unfortunately we did get notification from one of the gentlemen of our internet cafes that they are probably only going to be in business for another 3 months. We collect a little over \$30,000.00 a year from that and I was hoping to get more money for that to take care of the police cars because we are not going to be able to get police cars now. We have cruisers that have 170,000 miles on it and have been nickel and diming us to death. People keep saying we waste; our Fire Chief and Building Inspector are driving old 1999 Police Jeeps. We are going to have to go to 1-man shifts in our Police Department and this is going to become a safety issue. We are forced to do that because we don't the manpower or the money to do that so there will be times when we will only have one person. That will mostly occur only during the day when our Chief of Police is here but again we are regressing instead of moving forward. We have grants that our Grant Writer has written and most of those are matching funds, most of those grants we will not be able to incur because we will not be able to match the funds. When we say no to these grants which we have already applied for, you are penalized for years for that. If you have any questions, I am usually there every morning if you would like to stop in personally and talk to me. This is not punishment, this is not a slap in somebody's face – this is reality and has been going on for quite some time. We have all talked about it but unfortunately we are here and we are going to have to deal with it. Councilman Erdei asked are we going to put this on November's ballot? Mayor answered the last time it costs us over \$5000 or \$6000.00 and myself, Tammy, David and a few other people paid for the flyers out of our pocket and when it comes to November we are going to have to sit down and have discussions about that because I am not taking any more money out of my pocket. *Motion by Stark/Second by Kovach to accept the report. All./**FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Finance Director Smith advised I keep an excel spread sheet that I developed years ago that I put in all the revenue per quarter to give us an idea of how we are doing. I put the numbers in for the first quarter of 2013 and we are actually shy by almost \$15,000.00 of the same figures of the same quarter in 2007. We are \$82,379.00 short from where we were this time last year. The property taxes are down by \$11,300.00/income tax is down by \$27,600.00/ambulance billing is down by \$13,300.00/local government which we have known we are getting cuts on is down by \$27,500.00. So for the first quarter of this year we have collected just for general funds \$692,000.00 and that is less than what we collected in 2007. We have had pay freezes and hiring freezes since 2009. Other than replacing 1 Police Officer and she is leaving and we don't have the money to replace her. There was a brief discussion on Shoreway Shopping Center – no money from the general fund goes to maintaining that area. *Motion by Stark/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All./**TREASURER:** report attached./**SERVICE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Service Director Smith stated government is here for the people to establish city services and maintain city services and way too often and especially recently and I think this tax issue was a victim of this is a small group people expect the city to govern by what is on a blog – we can't govern by what is on a blog or what is being discussed while a

bunch of people are sitting in a bar drinking. I might take some abuse for that but that is the bottom line and that is the truth. This is a city of a little over 9000 people of church going parents, school involved parents, children of all ages going to a school system and their lives are tough enough then to have to worry about the negative name sayers and we have been battling this for 10 years. I myself took the brunt of it for the first 5 years on loraincounty.com before anybody else did as one of the people that was involved in early issues of 2000. I will stand up and say that maybe Dennis is right, maybe at some point people need to start naming names because it is easy to make a false accusation about people, a false claim and then let it run and then all it does it hurt. This tax issue to me with no blame on any party, the people just didn't get out to vote and what happened was 75 people decided the fate of this town for the next several years or at least until the next election and that is what we have to work against. We have to get the word and we got to work together. It is just understanding how bad of a situation we are in and how much the negativity contributes to that. We are losing newspapers to becoming blogs. He referenced The Morning Journal's Click it/Fix it where people email pot holes/bad places, etc. which is negativity which stays on it. Mayor Bring advised the overwhelming good people in this community are being affected by a few but we do have some extremely good people. *Motion by Kovach/Second by Stark to accept the report. Yeas All./**SAFETY DIRECTORS REPORT: None.**/LAW DIRECTOR REPORT: Law Director Graves advised one thing that we are going to do is trying to develop some economic incentives to try and attract new business to the community and this is the thing that we hear over and over again why aren't there more businesses in Sheffield Lake so we are going to be preparing legislation in housing survey to declare at least portions of the city if not the entire city as a community reinvestment area and be able to offer tax abatements to businesses willing to construct new facilities or expand here in the city. He reviewed the attached legislation. I would ask for an executive session tonight following ordinances and resolutions for the discussion of the sale of city property. *Motion by McCullough/Second by Stark to accept the report. Yeas All.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.

/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None./NEW BUSINESS: President Rosso advised I am not going to be at Worksession next Tuesday, May 21st so Mr. Elliott will be running that one. I will be at the High School awarding the Bobby Rosso Athletic Scholarship.

Law Director Graves advised we did receive authorization from Allied Waste that we will be offering a \$2.50 refund per trash account in the city because of the week of delay.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Council#021 – EMERGENCY – a resolution continuing the procedure of picking up the ten percent mandatory contribution by employees of the Police Department who are members of the Ohio Police and Fire pension fund through payroll deduction and the declaring of an emergency.

*Motion by McCullough/Second by Stark for SUSPENSION OF RULES:
ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES: Yeas All – Smith, McCullough, Kovach, Stark, Erdei.

*Motion by Stark/Second by McCullough for ADOPTION:
ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Yeas All – Erdei, Kovach, McCullough, Smith, Stark.

Resolution Passes#20-13

Council#022 – EMERGENCY – a resolution continuing the procedure of picking up the ten percent mandatory contribution by employees of the Fire Department who are members of the Ohio Police and Fire pension fund through payroll deduction and the declaring of an emergency.

*Motion by McCullough/Second Stark for SUSPENSION OF RULES:
ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES: Yeas All – Smith, Kovach, Stark, Erdei, McCullough.

*Motion by Stark/Second by McCullough for ADOPTION:
ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Yeas All – Stark, McCullough, Smith, Kovach, Erdei.

Resolution Passes#21-13

Council#023 – EMERGENCY – an resolution authorizing the sale of five vehicles which are obsolete, not needed or unfit for public use and having a value in excess of one-thousand dollars each and the declaring of an emergency.

*Motion by McCullough/Second by Stark for SUSPENSION OF RULES:
ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES: Yeas All – Erdei, Stark, Kovach, McCullough, Smith.

*Motion by Stark/Second by Erdei for ADOPTION:
ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Yeas All – Smith, Kovach, Stark, McCullough, Erdei.

Resolution Passes#22-13

Council#024 – EMERGENCY – an ordinance authorizing the sale of five vehicles which are obsolete, not needed or unfit for public use and having a value in excess of one-thousand dollars each and the declaring of an emergency.

*Motion by McCullough/Second by Stark for SUSPENSION OF RULES:
ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES: Yeas All – Smith, McCullough, Kovach, Stark, Erdei.

*Motion by Stark/Second by Erdei for ADOPTION:
ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Yeas All – Kovach, Smith, McCullough, Erdei, Stark.

Ordinance Passes#23-13

*Motion by Stark/Second by McCullough to go into executive session for the consideration of sale of public property.

ROLL CALL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING THE SALE OF CITY PROPERTY: Yeas All – Smith, Erdei, Kovach, McCullough, Stark.

*Motion by McCullough/Second by Erdei to return to regular session. ROLL CALL TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: Yeas All – Stark, Erdei, Smith, Kovach, McCullough.

Law Director Graves advised let the record reflect the City Council of Sheffield Lake did adjourn to executive session for the consideration of the sale of public property pursuant to the Sunshine Laws.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 8:28 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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Rick Rosso

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Eric S Elliott

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 May 14, 2013.

MAYOR

Dennis Bring