

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL  
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO  
March 26, 2013**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Council President Richard 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, Elliott, Smith, Kovach, McCullough, Erdei, Stark,  
Mayor Bring, Finance Director Smith, Treasurer Woods, Law Director  
Graves

Absent: Belaska (unexcused)/Service Director Smith (excused)

Attending: Concerned Citizens, CHIPS Grant coordinator; Patty Lines, Members of  
the Media: Avon Lake Press

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

A – Council – \*Motion by Elliott/Second by McCullough to accept the minutes of the Council of March 12, 2013 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

B – Council Worksession - \*Motion by Elliott/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the Council Worksession of March 19, 2013 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

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**CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse: None./Safety: None./Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment: None./Ordinance: None./Finance & Audit:** Chairperson Stark reviewed the minutes of the Finance & Audit meeting of March 19, 2013.

\*Motion by Smith/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All./**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:** Member Kovach reviewed the minutes of the March 18, 2013 meeting.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYORS REPORT:** Mayor Bring reported I have a letter here from FEMA, basically they are going to do a Coastal Study along Lorain/Cuyahoga/Lake and Ashtabula Counties and they are going to be going on some private properties here. They are going to doing some mapping and if anybody does see them on their property there is an ID badge upon request. So if somebody along the lakefront is walking and if anybody has any questions all they have to do is ask and they will show their ID. They will be

there from April 8<sup>th</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup> so they are mapping along the whole coastal area. Also if you go by Speedway you will see the tanks sitting out there so they are moving quite rapidly along that. Also the gentleman from WOW was in the other day getting some permits from the Building Inspector so that process is moving along also. I went to the city council meeting in the Village yesterday too and they are talking about what the state is doing as far as the recent funds and I think Tammy and I are going to have to sit down sit down because they are seriously taking a lot more things away from us. They were also discussing the fact with the internet cafes, I think by June those are probably going to disappear. They are going to put all the regulations and everything on them enough that they are probably going to put everyone of them out of business. I don't know how much revenue that is, I know over there they said they are going to lose \$118,000 or \$119,000.00 over there. I think we are close to \$50,000 or so. That along with all the other things that they are taking away, I am going to have to sit down and go over the legislation and probably bring that to you.

\*Motion by McCullough/Second by Smith to accept the report. Yeas All./**FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT: None./TREASURER: None./SERVICE DIRECTORS REPORT: None./SAFETY DIRECTORS REPORT:** Councilperson Stark asked any information about the ambulance grant yet? Mayor Bring answered no we are still waiting on that, we haven't heard anything so there is sense in keeping bringing it up. Fire Chief Card is on vacation this week but he has been sitting by his computer and he told me if he hears anything he will let me know immediately. So we are still waiting for that. Councilman McCullough asked so we are going forward with the used ambulance? Mayor Bring answered yes but we are hoping we don't have to. \*Motion by McCullough/Second by Elliott to accept the report. Yeas All./**LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Law Director Graves reported we did have a successful demolition at 348 Mapleview using the County Utilization Program commonly known as the Land Bank. Hopefully this is the first in many successful demolitions of nuisance properties in the city in conjunction with Lorain County. He reviewed legislation on the agenda. Councilman McCullough asked if we repeal 944 and we only have a first reading on the other 944 are we operating without anything to protect ourselves on that? Law Director Graves answered it doesn't cover right now so it doesn't matter. \*Motion by McCullough/Second by Elliott to accept the report. Yeas All.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY:**

**Debbie Suarez, 811 Harris Rd.,** stated I have been a citizen of Sheffield Lake for a lot of years and I just want to take a more active role in the community. I am really feeling a frustration because I don't what the heck is going on around here. If you don't get the Journal and if you don't get the Avon Lake Press there is nowhere to find information on what is happening in the community. I was out of the state for 2 months and I came back and wanted to know what was going on if the gas station. I went on line and there is nowhere to find out that information unless you call and bug somebody everyday about those kinds of things. My question is is there some way that we can get information about the community out there. I know we have a website

with a home page but that is all that is there. Is there any way that we can get that going, if you can't afford to do it is there a way to have the Brookside kids could do that. It just seems like there is nothing out there for what is going on in our community and I think that is important that people know that. I think that it needs to be out there, there is transparency. I come to the meeting and I hear a lot of things being talked about but I don't know what 944 is. Maybe a little explanation, I know there aren't a lot of people here tonight. I don't know if this is broadcast on TV or not but somehow we need to know these things. I would like to know what is going on in my community. I don't know what CHIP is, you talk about CHIP – I don't what that is. I guess that is my basic question because all my other questions would be answered if that one could be answered. Mayor Bring answered the website, we started that and due to the decrease in funding and everything our staff is very, very small. We do have a gentleman that is going to start working on that and getting that updated. As far as getting the communication out there as far as the meetings here, when we had Time Warner they took that away from us as it is very expensive and we can't afford to do that anymore. We are working with WOW and they were talking about they are going to re-cable our whole area here – all the buildings for free and then possibly if everything works out we are going to put those meetings back on TV but there still maybe a costs in that. So we have to look at that too. We do have a new water bill going out and we are able to put notes and information on that. So that is going to out here in the next water bill, before all we had was post card style. So information will be on the new one going out. The Speedway has been going on for probably 6 or 7 months which we have been talking about throughout the city and it has been in the papers – John Edwards has been good about it too. We do not have a staff large enough to keep putting things on there. Mrs. Suarez stated what about the Plain Dealer, that is what I get. Mayor Bring answered they are involved in what happens in Cleveland. Mrs. Suarez stated I am guessing there are a lot of people here who get the Cleveland Plain Dealer and I think that that is important. That somewhere that can be put. I just feel like I need to know what is going on. I know I am taking my blame, I haven't been here. Mayor Bring advised part of the problem is that as you see right now, we get about the same amount of people that are here right – this is probably twice as many as we have had in the last 6 weeks. In one retrospect it is good because if something is really going wrong and you have a crowd and everybody starts screaming and yelling but we haven't had that in a long time and that is good. Mrs. Suarez asked what about the cell phone now, is that just for emergencies or is there any way you can disseminate information on the cell phone? President Rosso advised if you go to website it is under Council. Mrs. Suarez answered when I went to Council there was nothing and the calendar was empty – there was nothing there. Clerk Fantauzzi stated there is a problem with the calendar but everything for Council is under there. President Rosso stated the minutes are there because I have seen them there in the past and the city charter and everything else is on line. Mrs. Suarez stated I haven't seen any of that. President Rosso commented because I have actually

looked up code on line. The minutes are given upon request due to costs which we are all working on. I will get you a complete set. We used to make multiple copies and every week throw them away, so now we make them upon request only. Mrs. Suarez stated I have a question on sidewalks, I live at 811 Harris and yet I have to cross the road 3 times to get here using the sidewalk and I still have to walk on the street. I know in the past that the sidewalk deal was if you move you get a new sidewalk put in but you know what there are churches, there are public buildings, there are apartment buildings and I know that whole deal with somebody has got to pay for it. But I think that says a lot about our community, we put those sidewalks in and I see people out walking on the sidewalks all the time on Ferndale. Now on Oster, even if it is just one side of the street. So I don't know what the policy is now on that, is it still if somebody moves out then they have to have a sidewalk. President Rosso advised you can't get an occupancy permit without that. Mrs. Suarez stated is there any way we can speed that up a little bit and what about the places that are not going to be sold; the churches aren't going to be sold. I think that some kind of – we need to be proactive on this. I think that that promotes a healthier community, not only physically but people get out and they meet their neighbors and they start talking and they get more involved in what is going on. I think all of that is important and I think that is really lacking in our community and it has been since I have lived here which has been 30 years. President Rosso stated the final thing I will say is I would definitely talk to the Mayor and ask him what committees need people and you can get involved in that regards too. It is really hard to keep up on everything if you are not attending meetings on a regular basis. Mayor Bring advised I am usually in the office every morning first thing, if you want to come down and we can sit down and talk and I can tell you what is going on. Finance Director Smith stated you can call us anytime, we can direct you to the right department, the right person. We have a very friendly staff and we are here for your needs so please call us anytime here at city hall. There was continued brief discussion on Mrs. Suarez interpretation of what the city needs to do. Councilman Smith advised one of the biggest things in the city right now is that we have been cut \$400,000.00 in revenue that we are trying to figure out what we are going to do. Right now that is dictating everything, trying to keep the Police and Fire. Mrs. Suarez stated I think the community needs to know that. Councilman Smith stated the biggest thing in the city right now is we are trying to figure out what we are going to do for revenue. It was taken right out of the budget. Mayor Bring advised it is more than that. This will not touch our senior citizens who are limited income. Avon Lake Press John Edwards advised if you go to [www.2Presspapers.com](http://www.2Presspapers.com) and press on Sheffield Lake news you can find out what is going on in Sheffield Lake. Only the Press covers Sheffield Lake and Sheffield Village any more, you won't find it in the Journal unless there is an horrendous crash or something and you won't find it in the Plain Dealer either. Recently they have cut 60 editorial staff because everybody goes to the internet now. The Press only costs 75 cents.

***/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None./NEW BUSINESS:*** President Rosso advised I have called a special Council meeting for next Monday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm which will be right in front of Roads & Drains and the purpose of that is to vacate the Council-at-Large seat that Mrs. Belaska has resigned. I am doing that as opposed to waiting until the 9<sup>th</sup> to vacate it because with 5 Mondays in April all of a sudden it is May 14<sup>th</sup> before we are really going to take any actions. All that is going to happen on that meeting is we are going to vacate that seat. The rest of Council I would like for you to think about this, my thought right now is we would vacate on the first and open it up for applications through Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and then any applications we get will be distributed and we have some discussions on Worksession the 16<sup>th</sup> and just see how it progresses. I am sure I am off a day or two but that should give us until roughly May 30<sup>th</sup> our 60 days to make a decision or it turns over to the Mayor. Let me know on Monday if you think that 2 weeks is not long enough for applications. Councilwoman Stark stated I am just going to put it out there that I believe opening for the softball and baseball home teams will be May 18<sup>th</sup> and it would be nice if we could all show up. They are going to do some festivities and I will get more information. They start a new top league and they are going to have a bunch of games and we are trying to do stuff. Councilman Erdei stated I just want to wish everybody a Happy Easter.

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Council#009 – EMERGENCY – an ordinance repealing Chapter 944 of the codified ordinances of the City of Sheffield Lake regarding regulation of pollutants into the municipal storm sewer system 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, Elliott, McCullough, Kovach, Stark, Smith.

\*Motion by Elliott/Second by Stark for ADOPTION:

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Yeas All – Erdei, Kovach, Smith, McCullough, Stark, Elliott.

### **Resolution Passes#9-13**

Council#010 – EMERGENCY – an ordinance establishing Chapter 944 of the codified ordinances of the City of Sheffield Lake regarding regulation of pollutants into the municipal storm sewer system and the declaring of an emergency.

Failed to a first reading.

Council#011 – EMERGENCY – a resolution for the purpose of authorizing the Mayor to file a FY2013 Community Housing Improvement Program Grant (CHIP) application with the Ohio Development Services Agency, and the declaring of an emergency.

\*Motion by McCullough/Second by Stark for SUSPENSION OF RULES:

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES: Yeas All – McCullough, Smith, Kovach, Stark, Erdei, Elliott.

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Stark for ADOPTION:

CHIPS Grant Administrator explained Community Housing Improvement Program has been a grant that I have worked with the city since 2005 I think. We have a few and I think this is our third one and this will be the 4<sup>th</sup> one that we are applying for. We applied last year and did not get funded. CHIP stands for Community Housing Improvement Program and it is a program that the city applies for to the Ohio Department of Development which is now something different. We assist people with different improvements to their houses, we put on roofs, furnaces, hot water tanks, rehabilitation. We have helped a lot of people with keeping them out of foreclosure, their utilities. We do hold 2 public hearings before each grant application, we had last week and one a few weeks prior to that. If we get funded we hold a public meeting where we invite the residents and we go over each different activity that we have and we provide those funds for them. This is a \$400,000.00 grant that we are applying for and it is generally \$500,000.00 but this year the state lowered that to \$400,000.00 due to the funds that they have received from Feds. The last I heard was it is a little over 20 million dollars that they have received and in the past it has always been 30 million or 35 million so it has been cut. President Rosso stated there are guidelines to be able to apply for those if you are a resident. Grant Administrator Lines continued there is another grant that is covering over Sheffield Lake and I also work with – the City of Lorain; has one primarily for LEAD Housing Controls and for a homeowner it is free. We come in and we do LEAD Risk Assessments and we take care of any of the LEAD hazards in the house and like I said that is free. Licensed abatement contractors work on that. It also has a component that is for healthy homes; air conditioning if a person has asthma, ventilation fans, some things for trips and fall hazards, handrails up and down the stairs. So there is different things like that. That grant is for owner/occupied and preventer of occupied housing, it is provided as a loan; it is a 5 year/100% forgiven over the 5 year period as long as the tenants are low to moderate income. Applications can be found on the City of Lorain and the City of Elyria's community development departments website. You can also use the CHIP grant applications which Tammy still has some of those. Finance Director Smith advised we are going to try to get those on our site as well. Mrs. Suarez asked how do people find out about those? Grant Administrator Lines explained we do advertise the public meetings and we do advertise the public hearings. Now the public hearings, those are set up about 5 places within the city. Law Director Graves stated we do advertise these public hearings in the local papers and we do post them throughout the community; Library, Community Center, Shell Cove park kiosk, Water Department and here at City Hall. One of things and I have attended some of these meetings, the concern you are voicing is not unique to Sheffield Lake. I have heard residents in Vermilion, Oberlin, Elyria – say the same things and one of the things that we have done that has been successful is advertising these in local churches. That sometimes helps people find about the availability of funds that way – for people that qualify. Finance Director Smith advised the nice thing about it is it gives us the ability to help our residents but it doesn't cost the city anything.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Yeas All – Erdei, McCullough, Smith, Kovach, Elliott, Stark.

**Resolution Passes#10-13**

Council#012 – 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 McCullough/Second by Stark for SUSPENSION OF RULES:

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF RULES: Yeas All – Smith, Elliott, Kovach, McCullough, Erdei, Stark.

\*Motion by Elliott/Second by Stark for ADOPTION:

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Yeas All – Kovach, Stark, Erdei, Smith, McCullough, Elliott.

**Ordinance Passes#11-13**

**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Belaska to adjourn at 7:43 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.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEES

*Kay Fantauzzi*

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COUNCILPRESIDENT

*Rick Rosso*

*and/or*

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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 March 26, 2013.

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MAYOR

*Dennis Bring*