

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
January 21, 2014**

The regular meeting of the City Council Worksession was held Tuesday, January 21, 2014. Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

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

Attending: Concerned Citizens, Demolition Board Chairperson Gee, Members of the Media

PRESENTATIONS:None.

*****COMMITTEES*****

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

/FINANCE:None./PARK BOARD:None.

*****ADMINISTRATIVE*****

MAYOR: Mayor Bring reported everybody knows we had the bank robbery here recently, just to let everybody know that that bank robbery was actually solved within 6 days of the robbery. We have been waiting to pick up the last suspect which we did yesterday and put him in jail. So he has been transported over to county – one of them. Although the FBI was involved, our Department actually solved the bank robbery and I just want to give them credit. We got many tips that came in through our dispatch and some other things and they followed up on that and they were able to catch the gentleman that robbed the bank. If you have looked, Sheffield Village has had a bank robbery and Lorain has had two of them recently and none of those are solved. Although we are very short-handed, we still were able to solve this. I just wanted to give them credit and just so everyone knows that our Department is doing their job. We also had a break-in at a local business and that was also solved and that juvenile is in the Detention Home. Again our Department that everybody thinks that they just sit around and do traffic and everything else but that is not true, those guys do their jobs and they do it very well. So I just wanted to give them thanks and just to let the residents know that they complain about a lot of things that the Police Department but the first thing they do is call when something happens but these guys are very good at what they do and I am just very proud of that.

FINANCEDIRECTOR:None./SERVICE DIRECTOR: None./SAFETY

DIRECTOR: Mayor Bring advised we did lose one of our part-time Officers, he is going to go to a different Department. We have lost a couple of them here recently. So we probably will be actively looking for some other part-time people here shortly.

We are sitting down and kind of having discussions right now. We had one of our full-time Officers come back from a surgery so that has helped out but we are probably going to get at least one more person. It will probably be in the next month or so or sooner. If we get somebody young we will have to do training, if we get somebody retired we are still going to have to do training just not as much. I don't know if we are going to have a bunch of old guys running around in that Department./**LAWDIRECTOR:None./COMMUNICATIONS:None./OLD BUSINESS:None./NEW BUSINESS:**Councilman McCullough advised I have really been thinking about this a lot, just some food for thought and we have to do something so this might be a little too late in the game but as we found out in the paper by the news Ford is going to go on an extended shutdown. They are not calling back all of their employees, the employees that actually work in Sheffield Lake part of that plant – do we know if those are the ones not being called back at all? Mayor Bring answered at this point I absolutely have no clue. Law Director Graves advised from what I understand it is going to be a certain number of employees and then whoever is left over will be reapportioned throughout the plant. They are not going to be taken from this section or that section. Councilman McCullough stated my understanding was is they can actually make that plant half the size it is, that is what I was told and that is the reason for the retooling is they are going to shrink that plant and that is what my understanding is and that is my concern. Another concern, something we need to look into is we are going to be losing 40 school employees because they are taking all that over to the Village and we have to start getting some relief from the money we as taxpayers spend to pay those people. Every other community in Ohio, they pay taxes to employ people who pay them income tax back to work in their school district. I think we are the only one in Ohio that do not collect income tax from our Superintendent, from all the people who work in the bus garages and from our High School and Junior High. Now I may be wrong but I don't think we have any income tax coming back into this city from people who do not live here that work for the schools. I could be totally wrong on that but I am pretty sure I am right. President Rosso stated I thought the teachers that worked in Knollwood, Tennyson and Forestlawn paid. Mayor Bring answered they do. Councilman McCullough stated but we are going to be losing them but my point is those people who make the most money are sitting over there in that white house on Harris Road. Law Director Graves advised there are many consolidated school districts throughout Ohio just so you know. We are not the only community in Ohio that doesn't have the administrative offices in their jurisdiction. Councilman McCullough stated but most of those consolidated school districts, the big unit is where the school sits and then little feeders coming into it. We are paying most of the taxes for those people to be paid and then they walk away with our income tax money. That is my point that is just a concern. I am just putting all this out here and I will tell you where I am going with this in a minute. Then we have a lot of rental unit properties in Sheffield Lake and it seems like more and more people are flipping houses. They are buying \$25,000.00 homes and sinking

\$10,000.00 into them and charging \$700.00 to \$800.00 a month rent or that pig sty that is across the street from my house that the guy spent \$25,000.00 on and he only does just enough to get the city off his back for a couple of months and he is getting \$800.00 a month from and I don't know how he gets it. However it is so transient that we don't have any records of whose living in those homes to make sure that their income tax is being paid and my point that I am getting to in a roundabout way is I do not know if the income tax is the way to go only because the land tax and I know I am going to get hit with well we got 1100 people who are going to vote no on it. I don't know about that however if it was put in as mileage rather than income tax and put in one for the Fire Department and one for the Police Department and we make them both operating levies for both of those departments and down the road we should be able to ease the income tax and still return all of our services. In the long run yes it is going to cost people more money and in order to maintain the services we have it is going to cost more money anyways. So I think it might be too late in the game to consider this because we have to do something but those are the things that I have been thinking about for the last couple of days I have been racking my brain and just my feelings on it. It doesn't mean that it is right or wrong, just my thoughts. Councilman Cizl stated regarding income tax, if it is an income tax – is it \$500,000? Finance Director Smith answered approximately. Councilman Cizl continued assuming it is an income tax and assuming it passes and the majority of it is going to the Safety Departments and since we are only looking at \$500,000.00 of the budget would it be possible to commit or guarantee all of it or a good portion of it would go to the Fire and Police? I am hearing people say I want guarantees that it is not going to be going to the General Fund or that slush fund. It is only \$500,000.00 and I am thinking that would be pretty easy. Finance Director Smith advised first of all we are down to 5 full-time Police Officers, we are down tremendously. Those are the first things that are going to come back, I mean really other than Police and Fire there is not really a lot that the General Fund pays for. You know and another small portion to Parks which I think deserves a boost as well because that is the only place we can give back to our residents for them to enjoy. We have 10 parks and there is nothing to do at any of them except maybe Gary Green with the small playground. But then again most of that money is going to Police and Fire anyway, it is not like we have any other place to spend it. That has where the big cuts have gone along the way. Councilman Cizl stated so from a PR standpoint we could say that, it is all going to that. Mayor Bring stated there are some building repairs we need to do but most of the building repair is going to the Fire Department, we have some stuff over here that we have to do. Finance Director Smith stated we have other things that we have to do, we still have to take care of our city. But again that is only a very small portion of the general fund. Councilman McCullough stated I think that where some of the people get hung up too Mark is they actually blamed it on this Council and the prior Administration and the fact is I think Dennis didn't we figure out that it was 2 Administrations ago. Mayor Bring answered correct. Councilman McCullough stated it was 2

Administrations ago that they took away this has to be spent. I don't think anybody on this Council was there at that time. President Rosso advised I was there and Alan was there and that wasn't the Administration that pushed that through – that was Council. Finance Director Smith advised that was a good thing because I will tell you what those were percentages that we never adhered to anyway, we were over those – they were 25 and 42 percent's; 25% to Police and 42% to Fire and we were over those percentages all the time. So we weren't even adhering to our own ordinances which is why we got rid of it in the first place. It was worthless, so we spend almost all our general fund money on Police and Fire to protect the citizens. The small portion that doesn't go to Police and Fire; small portion is for Parks and then a small portion is for administrating such as utilities for the buildings, small repairs, office supplies. Councilman Cizl stated I fully understand and what I am thinking is this isn't a mammoth thing – it is only ½%. From a PR standpoint to get those people who are saying, if you would even want to address those people I would think it would be easy to say you know what no problem; you know like .05 is going to go to 100% to Police, Fire and Parks. Councilman McCullough stated but then you are lying to them. Several voices stated no we are not. Councilman McCullough stated well we are not but we are. Councilman Cizl stated this ½% is all going for this. President Rosso stated but that is why there is no such thing as guarantees. Councilman Smith stated you are just tying his hands, you got an emergency that comes up and you got to spend money you can't touch. President Rosso stated if we are going to say we are going to give this whole portion, what we are going to do is take other general fund money out and put it over and to Kerry's point – I don't know if you want it lying but you are definitely misrepresenting. Councilman McCullough stated yes, misrepresenting. President Rosso continued you know what their guarantee is, get off their ass and get involved and elect to run the city that they trust. That is their guarantee – it is called the right to vote. Finance Director Smith stated honestly you can plant your butt right next to me all day long and you can see what I do and I will show you step by step but nobody is that interested. President Rosso stated it is just an excuse to vote no. That is all it is and you can, as Tammy said they had it on their back how many administrations and we met those and technically we were violation of our own ordinance the minute we gave them more money to help them out. Councilman McCullough stated I know why you did it. Councilman Smith stated I think the ½% increase is the way to go because you get more bang for the buck, you get more money and you got a better chance because it has already gone through once. You leave everything the same and you run it back through again and you do a little bit more and half the work is already done. Finance Director Smith stated the other thing too is we are losing half of the Ford employees and depending on how the schools go – those are all General Fund revenues. Those are other things to consider. However as the whole economy gets back on track as we go here, that will just increase as well as our expenses so it is a natural perfect way to go in income tax because as those income tax increases as costs increase. They should stay as long as we are smart about

what we do in line. Councilman McCullough stated I can tell you this and I am going to bring it up in Ordinance so you guys know it is coming. I want a way that we start tracking our renters, not just which houses are rental. Finance Director Smith stated when we had a tax department here; we had 2 people and those 2 people spent all year long going and getting water records and finding out who lived in those homes and getting those income tax records and getting to those people and making them pay taxes. We don't have anybody to do that, we need somebody in the Building Department that can track that and relate to somebody in city hall. However we don't have anybody in the Building Department that can do and we don't have anybody in city hall that can do that. Councilman McCullough stated when they rent a house they let us who the occupants' are that is all. President Rosso stated if they are filing state and federal taxes – RITA is matching up against their returns anyways. There is not a whole lot of them that we are catching, in and out in a given year maybe. Councilman Smith asked why do we need to know exactly who lives in the house? Councilman McCullough answered so we know that they are filing their income tax. President Rosso stated to my point I think RITA is doing that for us. Councilman Smith stated yes I would think they are doing that. Service Director Smith stated my point is as long as you get the people out to vote that are for us and then you go after the ones that didn't vote I think that the reaction is going to be the same and my experience in previous elections have shown that there was not that many people that voted that were registered that voted on an off election. A lot of people that I have talked to have all said that they just didn't vote. Now then they tried to blame everybody of course; the city never told us, the city this and the city that. The bottom line is they didn't go out and vote, they didn't actually get up and go and vote. I think if you look at the numbers from previous elections from off election years you will see that and that is how we should plan this. President Rosso asked was it 30% of the registered voters in the last election for the city? Councilperson Stark answered between 20 and 25%. Councilman McCullough stated my other thought was with Ford laying off how many of those people live in Sheffield Lake. Mayor Bring advised they aren't going to get laid off until June and there is still uncertainty until they settle all this stuff. I got a phone call but we are going to have to just wait and see what happens here. One other thing is even though you have a rental properties and one person goes in there and makes the lease, Fire Chief Card and I were talking about this the other day there are a number of people are living in a residence that probably shouldn't be there. Even though you got 1 or 2 people renting, we are finding out like the other day there was 8 people in a house with multiple beds laying around and everything else. That is going on too and I would imagine that is going on in every city but to go in there and start counting beds and doing this kind of stuff is impossible. We don't have the manpower for it and I don't know how you could combat that. The only time you find that out is if we have a fire or some kind of a storm or something like that and even in inspections the Building Inspector notifies that he is coming over, those people aren't going to hang around there. President Rosso stated so don't forget we have to pass

something at the next Council meeting to get it on the May ballot. I would like to come out of this Worksession with some direction for the Law Director to have the legislation prepared for Tuesday.

Rosa Gee stated it needs to get on the ballot, it is an important issue. There is still haters out there but there is always going to be haters, there is always going to those with an excuse. This time let's just hope they don't go and vote because not that many of them voted last time. If everybody in this room has their friends and the people that voted you in office go vote yes for it. The odds are it has to be better than last time, we came close last time and the union has promised to help this time. President Rosso stated yes it would be one thing if we got crushed the last two but it was so darn close. Councilman Erdei asked have you heard anything from the union yet? Mayor Bring answered they are waiting for you guys. Finance Director Smith stated they are anxious to start and getting going.

*Motion by Smith/Second by Cizl to have the Law Director draw up legislation for ½% income tax increase on the May ballot. Yeas All. Law Director Graves confirmed the same language as previous. President Rosso answered yes exact same language. There was a brief discussion on Board of Elections numbering and what they may be willing to do and always the confusion of some people of where to vote. President Rosso asked Finance Director Smith when you find out the costs would you let me know please, it is supposed to be minimal or lower. President Rosso asked Finance Director Smith also for record of which district pays the most for the schools because if you read the paper John Hunter swears the Village pays 60% and they pay their fair share in Sheffield Lake. Brief discussion on the amount paid out depending on which article you read.

*Motion by McCullough/Second by Kovach to go into an executive session for the discussion of consideration of employment of a public official.

ROLL CALL TO GO INTO AN EXECUTIVE SESSION: Yeas All – Stark, Cizl, Kovach, McCullough, Erdei.

*Motion by Stark/Second by Kovach to return to regular session.

ROLL CALL TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: Yeas All – Erdei, McCullough, Kovach, Cizl, Stark.

Councilman McCullough advised I will bring you about a 16 X 20 print when I get on canvas of the bridge lit up with the snow, it actually looks pretty good. Several people stated how beautiful the picture is.

Councilman Erdei asked any of you thinking about adding a deposit on the water bills for incoming residents? Councilman McCullough answered that is kind of like in Ordinance right now.

Councilperson Stark stated I missed a meeting and wanted to put it on the record that I would have voted for David as Law Director.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Councils Agenda –

Council#004 – 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.

Council#005 – EMERGENCY – an ordinance amending sections 191.01, 191.02(1) and 191.03 of the codified ordinances of the City of Sheffield Lake to provide for an increase in the earned income tax rate by one-half of one percent, for the purpose of providing funds for any and all purposes deemed necessary by City Council to become effective July 1, 2014 and the declaring of an emergency.

Council#006 – EMERGENCY – a resolution directing the Lorain County Board of Elections to conduct an election on May 6, 2014 and the declaring of an emergency.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Smith adjourn at 7:40 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

Alan Smith

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 January 21, 2014.

MAYOR

Dennis Bring