

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
March 24, 2015**

The regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, March 24, 2015. Council President Rick Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

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

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

Present: Rosso, Stark, Cizl, McCullough, Kovach, Erdei, Wtulich, Mayor Bring, Law Director Graves, Treasurer Woods
Absent: Councilman Smith and Finance Director Smith (excused)
Attending: Concerned Citizens, Civic Center Nicola, Members of the Media

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Council – March 10, 2015 - *Motion by McCullough/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2015 Council meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Bring submitted Thomas Kopic as a full-time employee in the Water/Sewer Departments. *Motion by McCullough/Second by Cizl to accept the appointment of Thomas Kopic for full-time employee in the Water/Sewer Departments.

ROLL CALL FOR APPROVAL: Yeas All – Stark, Wtulich, Erdei, Cizl, Kovach, McCullough.

Mayor Bring swore in Thomas Kopic as an employee in the Water/Sewer Departments.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse: None./Safety: None./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: Member Kovach reviewed the minutes of the March 16, 2015 and gave a report of how wonderful the Easter Egg Hunt at the direction of Julia Mohrbach with the assistance of the Sheffield Lake Fire Department and Pride Committee and Mrs. Kopic and her talent of creative balloon work. Mayor Bring advised he will be doing a Proclamation for her. Councilman Wtulich asked any updates on a skate park? Mayor Bring answered not right now. Councilman

Council March 24, 2015

Wtulich asked is there any plans to do upgrades to any of the basketball courts, like maybe the one at Gary Green Park that is in pretty bad shape. Mayor Bring advised I think right now, the biggest thing that we want to get up is those pavilions and then get some outside grills and do a few other things. I want to get that going first and we are also putting some handicap parking at Guenther Park. The city is going to dig it out and put the gravel in. I think that Jonathan Wright and the soccer board are getting together with Mike Griffith of Griffith Paving and I think that they are trying to get some of that donated over there. Councilman Erdei asked any decision on what nights you are going to have a movie. Councilman McCullough answered it is not going to be on the 20th, it is too late to have a movie as the sun does not go down on the 20th until almost 10 o'clock. It is not going to be at Guenther this year. We are going to move it to different parks, we are going to try to do one probably over here at Gary Green and then one over at Freedom. At least get wards 2 and 4 done this year. Councilperson Stark stated we were talking about designating parks; Guenther for soccer and Ferndale for baseball/softball, so are we going to put some money in over at Ferndale to make into a little nicer field. Mayor Bring answered actually that field is not too bad to be honest with you and it is pretty well kept up. We get traveling teams over there practicing and Jerry does a nice job of that; mowing it and keeping it cleaned. I have no problem doing that. Councilperson Stark stated I have teams that would be interested in maybe talking to the city as using that as their home field. Mayor Bring advised I will say that thing is pretty much rented out the whole season. Councilman Cizl advised I noticed that the Metro Parks are selling seedlings again, I guess they do that every year. I thought about that as we were scrambling to find a Christmas tree to light up. Is there any more development about what we are going to do this coming year? Mayor Bring answered no we have not had any discussion about that. Everything has to be planned out and that is a good idea, like Leanna is talking about we need to start planning for everything instead of at the last moment. That is why that Easter Egg Hunt went so well because she organized it and planned ahead so more of those things have to be done.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYORS/SERVICE/SAFETY REPORTS: Mayor Bring advised I gave each of you just a copy of an article here out of the Plain Dealer. It is "Cuyahoga County must reform tax lien sales program". The reason that I gave this to you is that, even though it says a home wrecker, Cuyahoga Falls has actually hired a collection agency to collect their taxes and they have had 50 million dollars since 2011. As you guys know around here right now it is about 42 million dollars for Lorain County. I do keep harping about that but somehow this money has to be collected and now they are being proactive in doing this. That collection agency is actually buying up slots of property and Cuyahoga is getting their money back and the only problem that they are having is this collection agency is going after the people with

Council March 24, 2015

delinquent taxes and they are charging them 18% and that is how this agency is making their money. Now some of the people are mad about that because they are getting charged for this. If you really read this – yes they do owe them money and Cuyahoga is not collecting any just like Lorain County is not collecting the money. So something has to be done so this is something that they were proactive about but I will at the next Mayor's meeting over at the college probably give them this too just to give them an idea of what somebody else is doing in collecting this money. I think the longer we let it go the worse it is going to get because it is like anything else once people find out about it they are going to do the same thing. I know right now we have people coming in here and buying up houses and turning them into a section 8. So they are getting money from the state and they are not paying their taxes on it and they take them for about 5 or 6 years and they walk away from them. They are taking their money and they are not doing anything except for getting it to the minimum as far as being up to code and then they are walking away without paying the taxes. That is not helping the City of Sheffield Lake and that is definitely not helping our schools and that is where most of that money goes is to the schools and that is why right now we are looking for a levy. So somehow this money has to be collected and like I said I know I keep harping about it and every time I look at something like this it is just one more avenue to see if we can't get that money collected somehow. Mayor Bring continued the Water/Sewer in the Service Department – we are extremely short-handed, we had 1 gentleman that is on medical leave and we have another medical leave and then one of the other guys which is our third is also talking about going out on medical. So that leaves Tom. So we are very thankful that Mr. Kepic wants to work for our city but again we are going to be very short-handed. We have started a number of projects; we are working on the drainage and have started to clear some of the debris away from some of the ditches. A lot of this is still on hold right now because they have been reading meters and doing a lot of other things. But we are actively trying to get as many projects done as we possibly can. Also Pat and I and Mr. Smith were also looking at the road projects to get those out for bid, so we will be doing that shortly. We have also got a number of other things that are coming up that I will probably talk to you at the next meeting. The mechanic is putting a new front end on the Triple Nickel and I learned why they call it a Triple Nickel and it makes common sense. It is because it is a 5 5 5 machine which I never knew that. As much as I go in that place I always ask questions and try to find out everything and I found out that that is why they call it a triple nickel, so we are putting a new front end on that and try to get that up to snuff. We have one of the plow trucks that all the leaf springs on the one side broke off so we got that going. We just fixed the skidsteer; the bracket on that broke and then the F350 – the white truck, the plow that has been pretty much severely damaged because of the heavy snow this year. Those are 4 things that the mechanic has been working on here lately. We are going to have another presentation about the water meters coming

Council March 24, 2015

up which I know you guys know about. I know these ladies, some of them missed the last one and I apologize but we did get that in to let everybody know about it. That was my fault, it was a conflict of scheduling for the next one. But we will get that done and then we will start deciding which way we are going to go with that. I think that is all I have for tonight. Councilman McCullough asked you have an open position in Roads still? Mayor Bring answered this was filled, out of all the other applications we are probably going to bring one more person in part-time. Right now we have 2 guys on medical leave and another guy is probably going to leave but I can't hire somebody full-time, we don't have the money for that but we are looking to bring another part-time person in here. Councilman McCullough asked so he is replacing Warren's position? Mayor Bring answered correct. Councilman McCullough asked what about Shannon? Mayor Bring answered Shannon was in the Water Department, Tom Erwin is in the Water Department so there are 3 guys missing. Councilman McCullough asked I thought Shannon was going ltd? Mayor Bring answered he is on medical leave and he is coming back. He got a lot better news then he thought he was going to get, he is still going to be out for a number of weeks. But he will be coming back as soon as possible but it is going to be some time. Mr. Erwin is going to be out for at least 2 more weeks and then the other gentleman who is going to leave will probably be out for a number of weeks too. There is nothing that we can do about it, this all attributed to the weather and what happened last year. We just have to deal with it. Councilman Erdei stated speaking of advance notices and that, are we going to have an open house for Fire and Police Departments like we did last year? Mayor Bring answered yes absolutely, we have been talking about that. I talked to Fire Chief Card about it and we are probably going to do a combination of Fire/Police and Service to include bringing out the city equipment. That was very well attended last time and that worked out very well and the kids really enjoyed that. We may do that twice this year. Councilman McCullough stated on this thing that you gave us – I have seen this and this is the second time I have read it. In the nicer areas it works and in the not so nicer areas it doesn't work. If we get proactive I think it would better. I think that is the problem as it says home-wrecker because it is killing depths and Cleveland is complaining about it. Councilman Erdei asked if we got a collection agency to do our city. Mayor Bring explained it wouldn't be our city, it would be Lorain County so that we will not be going through us. This is just something that I have been talking about to bring to them to talk about. That is all it is. Councilman Erdei asked do the Commissioner's attend the Mayor's meetings? Mayor Bring answered sometimes they do. It is a very difficult situation and there is no easy fix that why you just keep giving everybody ideas. It is just something that I am passionate about. I am not saying that I am going to be the one to correct the problem but something needs to be done. *Motion by Erdei/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All./**FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT: None./TREASURER REPORT: None./LAW DIRECTOR REPORT: Law**

Council March 24, 2015

Director Graves reviewed the legislation on agenda. Councilman McCullough stated I just wanted to get it on record that this memorandum of the new world management records system or whatever we are doing here, that this is replacing one that we are already paying for because that was lost in the minutes of the Worksession. *Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to accept the report. Yeas All.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY:

John Edwards, The Press advised the entrance way of the Community Center was repaved and it looks very nice. Mayor Bring advised Modern Poured Walls did that and that was what Leanna talked about with the Board of Elections so they did finally do that.

Gloria Dozza, 767 Grantwood stated whoever is fixing the pot holes around here is doing a darn good job because I have been in Lakewood and a few parts of Cleveland and also Westlake and I am telling you they are a mess. So we should be thankful that you guys are on top of it. I appreciate it. Mayor Bring advised well we do have 2 guys in that department and that is what they have been doing twice a week for the last couple of weeks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilman Kovach advised 2 things; just another reminder that we are proceeding with the operation of getting the Liberty tree and the intent is to plant it over at Memorial Park when that goes through which is part of the Bicentennial and also as I understand it the dedication of the new High School is going to be the afternoon of the start of Community Days. There is supposed to a ribbon cutting a little bit earlier in the afternoon. Councilman McCullough advised July 8th.

Councilman McCullough stated I don't know if we have enough names to start a Charter Review but if we have a Charter Review committee, in order to get on the November ballot anything that they would like to see changed or have the residents vote on we would have to get them started here pretty soon because I think it is 90 days out and we have to approve to go on. Also the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake Youth Baseball is having their night at the races April 18th at the VFW and see Brad Delucca or anyone of the Board members if you wish to sponsor a horse or race or just tickets to attend. Also this Saturday is Venom Group at Breezewood. President Rosso advised there is a flyer for that here in the hallway of city hall.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Bring advised I think you guys all got this but Lake Erie Crushers are looking for host families needed for this summer. So if anybody has any extra room and wants to see a young man in your house running around. I know you elderly ladies would probably like that. They are looking to have somebody stay for the summer time. So if anybody is interested.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Council#011 – SECOND READING – an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the purchase of a 2016 municipal Plow Truck and the declaring of an emergency.

Council March 24, 2015

President Rosso advised I talked to the Finance Director this past week, one of the questions that I raised originally was funding and right now the plan is to take the funding for this truck out of the 207 account so it will not impact the money that we have collected for the road tax. So the ¼% income tax will not be used to pay for this truck, it will all come out of the 207 account which is the permissive tax line. Just so everyone knows as that was a question that I raised. Mayor Bring advised that line item raises about \$88,000.00 a year. President Rosso advised ballpark numbers, this is not exact – it is roughly \$150,000.00 for the truck and \$30,000 a year for 5 years is the plan.

Council#012 – SECOND READING – an ordinance amending section 1395.99 of the codified ordinances of the City of Sheffield Lake regarding penalty and equitable remedies.

Councilman McCullough asked David, we also talked about and I think this has to go back to something else over and above this was the requirement for an occupancy permit for them to have their property taxes current. That is not in here right, that is not part of this? Law Director Graves answered it is not the occupancy permit – it is your annual or bi-annual rental license and you already passed that amendment adding that current taxes as an additional requirement to obtain that license. If the city were to revoke a license due to their not having current taxes then if they continue to rent the new penalties in this legislation would kick in.

Council#015 – EMERGENCY – a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding between the Lorain County Commissioners and the City of Sheffield Lake for the implementation of New World Computer Aided Dispatch, Record Management System and Mobile Computing Platform and the declaring of an emergency.

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

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

Ordinance Passes#14-15

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to 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.

Council March 24, 2015

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 COUNCIL of March 24, 2015.

MAYOR

Dennis Bring