

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL  
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO**

**November 24, 2015**

www.sheffieldlake.net

(all meetings are videotaped and available for viewing at <https://vimeo.com/41159935/videos>)

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

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

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

Present: Rosso, Mayor Bring, McCullough, Kovach, Erdei, Wtulich, Cizl, Stark, Finance Director Smith, Treasurer Zaborski, Law Director Graves, Superintendent Hastings

Absent: Smith (excused)

Attending: Concerned Citizens, Videographer; Eric McElheny, Council Elect Rosa Gee, Park Board Joe Gee, Tom & Sheila Kepic, Members of the Media

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

***Council – November 10, 2015*** - \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2015 Council meeting. Yeas All.

***Council Worksession*** - \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2015 Council Worksession meeting. Yeas All

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Monthly report of court receipts for month of October 2015 - \$6495.00.

**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 November 17, 2015 meeting. Councilman McCullough corrected minutes to say “Chairperson Stark called the meeting to order”. \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Wtulich to accept the minutes with so noted correction. Yeas All./***Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks Community Center:*** Representative Cizl reviewed the quarterly report dated November 16, 2015./***Council Representative to the Park Board:*** Member Kovach reviewed the minutes of the November 16, 2015 meeting./***Council Representative to the Planning Commission:*** Representative Erdei reviewed the minutes of the

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**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR/SAFETY/SERVICE REPORTS:** Mayor Bring reported the water meters are going quite well, they are going to work tomorrow and then they are going to be off the rest of the week. Just a reminder that City Hall is going to be closed Thursday and Friday All. So nobody will be here for that. A reminder also after the Safety meeting on Wednesday that the residents are welcome to talk about any safety issues they have concerning the city and if they have any ideas the Police and Fire Departments and I will be here to talk to them. That will be after the meeting, just very casual. Mr. Hastings and I did meet with the County Commissioner the other day, Matt Lundy and we had talked about taxes and how we can proceed to get some of these taken care of. They did give a list of all the delinquent taxes that we have in the City of Sheffield Lake which I have in my hand here and basically that comes to about \$950,759.09. So obviously we have been trying to address this, they are going to work with us a little bit to try to take care of some of these problems. So that is something Pat and I have been working on as it is a major problem with the city and it is a lot of funding for the schools and it also effects our city revenues too. That is something that we will be working on. We have also been sitting down and just talking in general about the infrastructure of the city and we will probably after the holidays sit down and write up a plan and give you some information that we think is imperative that somehow this has to be taken care of because I think the longer you delay this – it is just not going to go away but just getting worse. So somehow we are going to have to address this. Again we are going to have to ask the Federal government on how to proceed on this. Some of the other things that we have been talking about is with the snow coming up, we are prepared with our trucks as well as possible and we have our salt bin back here and we have been talking about the amount of salt that we dump on the roads and where it goes because it just doesn't go away. It goes right into our drinking water which is Lake Erie, not only us but everybody along Lake Erie does that. Pat and I are talking about an alternative to that and then also approaching the state to see what we can come up with and how we can protect the water and also get the streets clean. We are going to write a letter up and get that together too and see if we can get other cities to get into this too and also see if they are willing to change some of the processes that they do along the lake too. The last 2 years we have had tremendous amounts of snow and we dumped a lot less salt on there but again it is still a tremendous amount that is going into the lake. Somehow this has to stop, it is just my opinion but I think the more you dump into the lake the more it has to be taken care of. \*Motion by Erdei/Second by Wtulich to accept the report. Yeas All./**FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Finance Director Smith reported the last couple of weeks the Mayor and I have

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been talking to all of the departments and tweaking the 2016 Budget that we had the public hearing for this evening. During that process we had to identify some crucial weaknesses and needs of all the departments. In the 2016 Budget I feel we are going to gently replenish the safety forces, allow for some summer help for our Service Department and our Parks Department which we haven't had for many years. We have had 1 guy mowing all of our parks for many years. Also provide for some upgrades and maybe another gazebo in one of our parks, things that we have planned on doing. I came across something that was eye-opening for me, our software company wanted to know how many W2's we would be expecting to issue this year and I looked it up and we have 64 and that is including part-time, full-time, administrative, council – everybody. I thought I wonder what we did years ago, I couldn't remember exact numbers: 2001 – 118 W2's, 2004 – 92 W2's. So it is shocking, not that we can afford to go back to those numbers but that is how we are dealing with so much less. We have got 1 person doing a lot more jobs than we have in the past. Not that we are going to go screaming back to those numbers but we have got to find a happy medium I think to provide all the departments with a little relief for their other employees that I have to say have been holding their own for this huge stretch of 6 years of cuts from the state. Right now we are over 2 million dollars in accumulated cost revenue reductions and we will never see that money again. So I want to thank the citizens of Sheffield Lake for passing our income tax increase. Otherwise I really don't know what we would look at for 2016. Mayor Bring stated some of the things we are looking at is we had Captains in the Police Department and we don't have Captains anymore. We had a dog catcher and we don't have one now. We had 2 Dispatchers on at one time and we had a Park Superintendents, we had a couple of other people in the parks. A property maintenance program, in the Service Department we had quite a few more employees, we had part-time Fire Fighters and several other people that we had as far as working for us. By all means, just like Tammy said we are not back to that but that is why we have gotten to where we are right now and partly was because of the cuts. Partly was because if you look at the amount of people that we have in the city, we broke it down and there is about 9200 people so that is 140 some people per man or woman so to speak. You really don't want to get too many employees because that just cuts the hell out of your budget right off the bat. We have been maintaining pretty well with what we are and I know that in the Service Department we are looking to getting some more people over there with the fact that people are paying taxes and you want their services to go well. But some of the things that we have done is getting some equipment that is better and we have done some better things in the Police Department and better things in the Fire Department, we eliminated the part-time Fire Fighters but we are probably looking at one more person to fill all the shifts and that has reduced a lot of overtime and everything else. These are all things that we are looking at but I think the city overall is not doing too bad with what we have as employees but we will

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be kind of tweaking that but that will destroy your budget real quick if you start with overemphasizing too many employees. I think we tweaked it down a little bit so we may tweak it up just a hair. Just like Tammy said there has to be a happy medium but I don't want to overwork the people that we have. The new water meters will free up a lot of time for some of the guys to get more stuff done. Councilman Erdei stated I think you are doing a very good job especially with our manpower that we do have and most of all you are getting workers to work, you don't have extra people laying around that are just looking and goofing off or whatever. Every time I see a truck or worker they are doing something and that wasn't the case maybe 10 years ago. So I commend you on that, we are getting productivity with less and that is good really so I commend you both on that – good job. \*Motion by Erdei/Second by Wtulich to accept the report. Yeas All.

***TREASURERS REPORT:*** Treasurer Zaborski reported I will have a report next month and it will be my final report.***LAW DIRECTORS REPORT:*** Law Director Graves reviewed the legislation on the agenda. I would also request a brief executive session to discuss current litigation involving the city. \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to accept the report. Yeas All.

***CITIZENS COMMENTARY:***

***Debbie Suarez, 811 Harris*** advised I am here on behalf of Sheffield Lake Civic Pride Committee and I would like to thank the city for purchasing the lights that are now on the tree for the lighting ceremony that we will have on Saturday. I really appreciate that we have uniform lights instead of a bunch of different ones and thank you to Pat and his crew for putting those up, we greatly appreciate it.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.***

***NEW BUSINESS:*** Councilman McCullough stated I think this was about 4 years ago because I can remember having the discussion with Eric Elliott about this. You brought up a very good point before about all the paper that Council goes through on the reams and the time it takes to print it. Really ought to look and it would not be that expensive anymore for every Council desk area to have a tablet rather than what you have to go through, maybe sign that tablet out if you need to take it home to read your minutes although you get those in emails. I think it should be something that this Council should really consider for next year because right now you can get tablets I think for \$100.00 to do what you need them to do. If you use an open source document writer/reader, you have no money in software. It is something that I think Council should consider just to save the money on the paper, it might not be a lot but I think you will find that if all somebody has to do is hit upload and it uploads everything to everybody's tablet. It is a lot less time than printing out copies and stabling and coordinating, cuts down somebody's work load a little bit so they can work on something else maybe or not be so stressed. The second one I need to bring up, there is a little undercurrent and I don't know how many of you know about. In Sheffield Lake it is kind of sort of starting to snowball, it is just a bunch of private citizens who have gotten together and they

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are taking donations for families for Christmas and the number that they have collected is pretty astronomical. So if there is any family who you may feel in need out there, contact Bill Wtulich or myself and the person actually putting it on and started this this last year and this year it has really grown. It is Justin Schill who lives across the street from you on Hollyview, it is really gaining some ground and it is a nice thing and it is nice that the people of the community have banded together. Like I said if there is a name or a family who you may think, I am sure he will do his best to accommodate to move the funds where he needs to move them to make sure that everybody has a Christmas. Just another example of how people in the community actually do come together. It is nice to see the pride. Councilman Wtulich stated I think of that is Santa's Little Helpers. I think you can look it up though on Facebook.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Council#062 – THIRD READING – an ordinance by the Council of the City of Sheffield Lake amending the zoning classification of permanent parcel no. 03-00-033-118-023 located east of 509 Cove Beach Ave. from Industrial to R-1 single family residential.

\*Motion by Stark/Second Erdei for ADOPTION:

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

**Ordinance Passes#65-15**

Council#066 – EMERGENCY – an ordinance of the Council of the City of Sheffield Lake declaring it necessary to levy a renewal with an increase tax in excess of the ten mill limitation on behalf of the Lorain Public Library for current operating expenses of the Domonkas Branch of the Lorain Public Library and authorizing the execution of an agreement relating to the Domonkas Branch of the Lorain Public Library, and the declaring of an emergency.

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

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

There was a brief discussion on the increase.

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

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

**Ordinance Passes#66-15**

Council#067 – 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 Kovach/Second by Erdei for SUSPENSION OF RULES:

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

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

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

**Ordinance Passes#67-15**

Council#068 – FIRST READING – an ordinance amending Chapter 191 of the codified ordinances of the City of Sheffield Lake regarding earned income tax and the declaring of an emergency.

There was a brief discussion on the immediate need for legislation which Finance Director Smith advised as long as it is done before the end of the year.

Council#069 – FIRST READING – an ordinance amending section 149.01 of the codified ordinances of Sheffield Lake regarding the Tax Administrator and the declaring of an emergency.

Council#070 – EMERGENCY – a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a second lease agreement with North Coast Community Woodshop, LLC (NCCW) for the rental of 4214 Ivanhoe Ave located in the Shoreway Shopping Center and the declaring of an emergency.

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

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

\*Motion by Stark/Second by Wtulich for ADOPTION: Yeas All – McCullough, Erdei, Cizl, Stark, Wtulich, Kovach.

**Resolution Passes#68-15**

Council#071 – EMERGENCY – a resolution authorizing the Mayor to file an application with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Assistance Grants Program and the declaring of an emergency.

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Wtulich for SUSPENSION OF RULES:

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

Councilman McCullough asked Mayor Bring what is this for? Mayor Bring answered Shell Cove Park and we have the deck there now and we want to make a better one and have it accessible for handicap and make it a little bit nicer over there. It is kind of in conjunction with the alumni memorial going up now. The deck there right now should be re-built so this is just part of it and we would re-slope everything from the parking lot all the way down there to make it a little bit nicer to get down there.

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

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

**Resolution Passes#69-15**

\*Motion by McCullough/Second by Erdei for the discussion of current litigation.

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

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

Law Director Graves advised let the record reflect that the City Council of Sheffield Lake did adjourn into executive session for the discussion of current litigation with the city attorney pursuant to the Ohio Public meeting laws.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** President Rosso advised on Saturday November 28, 2015 is the Tree Lighting at 4:30 pm at Shell Cove Park. There will be a new business in the city opening up on December 4, 2015 and they will have their grand opening on the 4, 5 and 6 which is Flowers and Gifts by Jessica which is located on Cove Beach and Lake Road on the corner. Everyone have a great Thanksgiving – Enjoy!

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this council, \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 7:29 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*

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 November 24, 2015.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Rick Rosso*

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MAYOR

*Dennis Bring*