

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO  
April 21, 2015**

The regular meeting of the City Council Worksession was held Tuesday, April 21, 2015. Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

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

Absent: Treasurer Woods

Attending: Concerned Citizens, Demo Board Chair Gee, Members of the Media;  
Avon Lake Press, Chronicle

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

\*\*\*\*\***COMMITTEES**\*\*\*\*\*

**ROADS & DRAINS:** President Rosso stated here is a good time since Kerry brought up in the Roads & Drains meeting about the base rate for water. So I asked Tammy to go back and give us an informational on the revenue in the Water funds. Kay had sent out a document that broke down what was the base rate/what was the rate per unit – things like that. Councilman McCullough stated I didn't get that. President Rosso advised it was emailed last week and then you emailed me and I said we will talk about it in Worksession. Councilman McCullough stated oh okay. President Rosso continued what Kerry brought up was a couple of years ago when we had the \$2.00 credit on the water base rate we were losing significant amounts of money and we had to adjust. So we increased it to \$6.00 as a base rate. Then we said when the credit was done we would go back and re-review it which we never really did. So the question then came, at \$6.00 how are we looking and what is going on. I think you put this chart together Tammy? Finance Director Smith answered yes. She continued in 2006 we hit an all-time low of a carry-over of only \$17,000.00 and that is so dangerously low for a fund of this type considering this includes repairs and things to our water system. Last year – 2014 we carried over \$131,000.00 which brings us back to a safe level that we had in 2002 of \$120,000.00. This year's budget, we are budgeting \$793,000.00 and our revenue is expected in at about \$800,000.00. So right now we are in a very good position but 1 major water main break could costs \$30,000 or \$40,000.00 and if we don't have any kind of buffer against that I think we are asking for trouble. President Rosso stated this chart just reflects the revenue. Finance Director Smith answered correct. Councilman McCullough stated carry-over. President Rosso stated based on what

you said there is probably a projection of a \$7,000.00 addition for the carry-over. Councilman McCullough stated the question I asked and I think Dennis kind of motioned and answered it so we need to keep the water base rate where it is at was the question. President Rosso stated right – that is where we are trying to get to, you asked and this is the answer. Councilman McCullough asked water base rate where it is at? Mayor Bring answered I suppose if that is what you guys to do. President Rosso stated it is Council’s decision so your question was how are we doing in the water, can we reduce the base rate and here is the information. So it is up to Council now to decide if we want to change it. Not like we have to have an answer tonight but I am just saying. Councilman McCullough asked in this carry-over this last year, what was it in 2013 – just a little less? Do you have historical carry-overs or no? Finance Director Smith answered I did not provide that and I can get you that. It steadily increased but again for a fund of this type you want to have 18 to 20% carry-over a year. We are almost there and if you cut the rate it will start dropping again. President Rosso stated we don’t have to make a decision tonight but I just want to get informed or any questions answered. So if you come up with a question sometime bring it up next meeting or whenever – call Tammy during the day./**SAFETY: None./BUILDINGS, LANDS, VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT: None./ORDINANCE: None./FINANCE: None./PARK BOARD:** Member Kovach advised we met last night and it was a very good meeting, very productive. The Soccer Board or members of the Soccer Board attended the meeting and have adopted Guenther Park and intend to bring a master plan as to what – a list of improvements that they would like to – that they are going to be doing and providing. We authorized a couple last night and I will get more into that when I have got the minutes in front of me at the Council meeting. Our city’s newest committee calling themselves the Pride Committee, they attended last night’s meeting and they came in with – they have gone through a couple of parks and they are just kind of putting together a list of what they see that they think needs done/needs improved. What they are going to be able to do that they are planning on taking a park a weekend starting Pride Day weekend and they are going to be going through and removing trash and sprucing up. Again also they are going to be bringing a list of stuff. They brought a couple of pictures last night of certain things that they needed, felt needed replaced and repaired and I will fill you in more on that too when I have got the minutes in front of me. Councilman McCullough asked Memorial Park, what are they doing about that fence – did you guys discuss that? Member Kovach answered no there wasn’t any discussion on that last night. Councilman McCullough stated it is getting weathered. Member Kovach stated right I took a look and I have got a couple of things that I am working on right now and I haven’t brought it to their attention. The only thing right now that I know that anybody is working on is the Mayor has got. I don’t

know what you have got on your plate for that one. Law Director Graves asked Steve, did you want to touch on the approvals for the kayak rentals at the Boat Launch? Member Kovach answered yes, yes, yes, my mistake. We had a presentation by the. Law Director Graves inserted the Yak Shak. Clerk advised Loco. Member Kovach continued the Loco Yak Shak I believe and they – the Park Board is permitting them for the function of renting kayak’s – it wasn’t going to be every weekend was it? Law Director Graves answered weather permitting. Member Kovach continued weather permitting but they are getting started here, they are affiliated with the Backpack Shop? Law Director Graves advised they are an independent, she also works there – it is an independent organization. Member Kovach stated well she works with them and I believe they are also the ones that are doing the program over on the Black River. This will be a good start for us this year and I can see nothing but positive things. Councilman McCullough quipped I am not renting one. Finance Director Smith asked are they going to provide some information because I guarantee you as soon as somebody sees one kayak over there they are going to be calling here? So if you could ask her if she contacts you if she could send us information to city hall so that we can direct our residents. Law Director Graves answered yes we have all the contact information and I will be drawing up a park permit for the Park Board to sign off on. The ordinance requires Park Board to issue a permit. We have – the permits have already been issued by the Lorain Port Authority and the City of Lorain. They will be setting up on the east side of the Boat Launch on the beach area behind the Library so as not to interfere with any boat traffic. We will make sure that the agreement, that the permit requires the city be named as an additional insured. Member Kovach stated really to answer your question I cannot see them not having the flyers and paperwork, like the little folders and that ready to go probably to be dropped off at the same time they are picking up they’re permit. That is not in stone but that is what I would presume. Councilman Erdei asked any news on the cleaning out of the channel in the dock area and when the ramps are going to go in? Mayor Bring answered the gentleman was contacted and he said that he would do that in the near future here so I have not heard anything other than that.

\*\*\*\*\***ADMINISTRATIVE**\*\*\*\*\*

**MAYOR:** Mayor Bring advised I really don’t have anything, the only thing I will say is that we have had 2 meetings on the water meters and I will not proceed with anything until you guys make your mind what you want to do and start talking about it. So as of right now I will not continue on with that program until you guys decide what to do./**FINANCE DIRECTOR:** **None.**/**LAW DIRECTOR:** Law Director Graves stated I have a couple of things first. Pursuant to the temporary contract that Council approved at the last Council meeting, Safebuilt has begun operating providing the plan review inspection services. That transition has gone

very nicely and we will keep you apprised as that moves forward and if there is any recommendations on reviewing our ordinances or permit fees, etc. The other thing I would request an executive session tonight to discuss collective bargaining negotiations. Councilman McCullough asked is that a brief session. Law Director Graves answered as brief as you guys want to make it. My presentation can go quickly but if there is questions./**COMMUNICATIONS: None./OLD**

**BUSINESS:** President Rosso stated I have just a brief update on Kerry's second favorite topic – Charter Review. We are up to 7 maybe 8 names and I am expecting a couple of them to drop off but I have contacted – not all of them but probably half and said the plan will be to start meeting in May and they have to be done by the end of July. That gives us a little over 90 days to approve it to get it on the ballot in November which is our cutoff right? 90 days prior to the general election? Law Director Graves answered yes. President Rosso stated I think July 28<sup>th</sup> is Council so if we can get it done by then. I told them to anticipate 2 meetings a month and I can't imagine it being more than that. I have asked, last night I stopped up here and asked Jim Lewis who is the Chairman of Park Board to sit on the Committee and he has agreed. We have a couple of other that we want to get to but we should be well passed at least the minimum of 5 that David thinks we have to have on it. So we are making progress. Joe was here and I am sure he is ready to go. I talked to Karl Guenther at opening day. I will contact Matt Harper this evening and try to get a hold of Skip Scarpelli to make sure he is still in. So if anybody else has anybody else they want, speak up. That is my goal and that is what I am shooting for and I think we will make it. I think we will at least 5 out of these 7 commit to yes. Law Director Graves advised the only criteria is they have to qualified electors of the city holding no elected office, they can be appointed offices./**NEW BUSINESS:** \*Motion by McCullough/Second by to adjourn to executive session for the discussion of collective bargaining negotiations.

Councilman McCullough asked did I do it right? Law Director Graves answered yes. President Rosso stated yes you did it right but I was hoping we would do it after New Business. **ROLL CALL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS:** Yeas All – Cizl, Erdei, McCullough, Kovach, Smith, Wtulich, Stark.

\*Motion by McCullough/Second by Kovach to return to regular session.

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

Law Director Graves advised let the record reflect that the City Council of Sheffield Lake did adjourn to executive session for the discussion of ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

President Rosso stated I have one more thing that I wanted to bring out tonight and throw out there and we can discuss or not – it doesn't really matter. I was hoping to do this when Jon was still here (I cannot pronounce his last name) but the gentleman that is the recorder for the Chronicle. I talked to him about this too. When I read his article after last Council meeting, it ended with a comment that said – talking about the snow plow and that it said Council members said they couldn't vote for or refused to purchase and saying that they couldn't approve such a costs for a city that constantly gripes about not having enough money. I think that is a total mis-statement because I challenge anyone to tell me where anybody is griping about not having enough money. Second of all, the only thing you can come even remotely to that is last year before the income tax passed and the ½% - so it has been a year and none of this money that was going to be used for this snow plow came out of the general fund and had no effect. But I am already seeing comments out there about hey, how can they be out of money already I just paid my income tax and it is even more. Councilman Smith asked where did he get that from? President Rosso answered he said it was a direct quote off the record by one of the four that voted against it. That is all I can tell you. I did not ask him for a name, I just asked him to tell me if it was somebody on Council and he said it was and he said the quote was accurate. So guys if that is the reason we voted no, I am really disappointed but I wanted to just make that statement in front of everyone so there is no thinking I said something different to anybody else. That is all I had on that. Councilman Cizl asked can I expound on that? President Rosso answered you can expound away sir. Councilman Cizl continued being a rookie on this Council, I was shocked, I was surprised and this is a great time to talk. So I need Council's understanding of when something like that happens. First of all as a Councilman I don't mind having split votes ever, we almost all go 7/0 but I was surprised unless I forgot something I was surprised at the fact that we went through 3 readings and I don't remember any discussion or any controversy or any questions and we got to the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and the motion was made. At first there was nobody making a motion and without anybody saying anything. That is why I made the motion because I am thinking if it is going to die, I am not sure what will happen next. So my point was I am going to put it up and I appreciate Leanne seconding it just so that we could vote on it. But after the meeting I was thinking in terms of where is the opportunity for us as Council to hear those questions because there is a very good chance that people on this Council who have a lot more experience then I do that I would like to hear what those thoughts were because I was thinking that we heard a report from the Superintendent and we have been hearing about snow plows and I think it went through and I may be wrong, it maybe went through a committee – Buildings, Lands and Vehicles and maybe not. But there was no discussion and all of a sudden it went down. Again I don't mind anybody voting

no, I just want to understand why they are voting no so that I can my vote based on my own judgement in regard to the opposing view. I had no opposed view, I am shocked. I was like why did vote no and I think as a Council aren't we a team even though we may disagree. Where is the opportunity for me as a Councilman, especially as a newbie to get that feedback. So that was the first time it ever happened and I was shocked and I didn't know that this had been going on. I did talk to Rick and there was like 4 votes, can someone offer me an opportunity to understand. Again it is not about the snow plow, it is about the process.

Councilman Wtulich stated well I asked, not on record but I did ask for a breakdown of all the costs that were spent on repairs this year. Mayor Bring asked who did you ask for? President Rosso advised hold on one second, hold on one second – my intent was not to get into a debate. That legislation is gone.

Councilman Smith stated it is gone and it is over. Councilman Cizl stated all comments to the chair. Mayor Bring stated hold on one second though because that is not who you go to. That is why you have him (President Rosso) sitting up there, he is your Boss and you ask him who to go to. That is where you guys have got to get together and figure this out, start talking and start learning. Don't depend on me, I am not your brother, I am not your father – figure it out. President Rosso stated again I did not mean to say this and I don't want to get into a big argument over this legislation because it is done. My concern was a comment made that made the paper that I didn't feel reflected the position of this city right now and I thought it was wrong. If you want to sit here and talk about me and say that opinion is wrong – I have no problem with that. But I don't want to get into a debate and when Mark called me I told him – we had Worksession's, we had Council meetings and you can bring up a question anytime. You can call during the day, you can call me – Mark called me at work and Mark has emailed me and I try to respond when I can. Councilman Smith advised I can tell you why I voted no and I can tell you exactly why I didn't bring up anything at any of the meetings in between. President Rosso stated that is your own personal. Councilman Smith stated there is no process you following us, everybody has to make their own decisions and do their own facts. My mind was made up day 1. Councilman Cizl asked how would I get that feedback, you have a view – I am young, how would I get that feedback. Wow – I never thought about that. Chairperson Stark stated call us, if I have a question I call. Councilman Smith advised you bring it up at Worksession's and talk about it. President Rosso stated you don't want a sub-culture of people calling each other. Councilman Smith stated that is against Sunshine Laws. That is when you bring it up at Worksession's. Law Director Graves advised things need to be discussed in open meetings. Councilman Smith stated right exactly. President Rosso stated again I am not trying to or beating on that – I am talking about this particular line that got quoted. Councilman Smith

stated I don't know where that came from. Councilman McCullough stated I have never heard that line. Councilman Wtulich stated it wasn't me. President Rosso stated I was hoping that Jon will still be here. I just called him yesterday and he assured me that it was an accurate quote by one of the four that voted no. But we went to executive session and he left before I could get to it, that is why when you made that motion I was trying to stop the second but I didn't get there quick enough. Law Director Graves stated just because that legislation is done, does not mean that this issue could not be brought up in committee if committee chairman so chooses – that could be brought up in committee and that is where a lot of more detailed discussion could take place. It is actually more appropriate to have more in-depth conversation and debate and discussion in committee then at a Council meeting. President Rosso stated again I am not trying to resurrect the legislation, I am just – that comment bothered me. Councilman McCullough stated alright I am going to say it right now and it should be in meeting minutes, during Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment I asked Dennis specifically – I said did we look at maybe somebody's good, used stuff. I am not buying anything used and that was my answer. I was not going to get into a long debate over then, it was done. To me it was done, it was either new or nothing. That is when I made my decision, for me it was to go no further. President Rosso stated again I don't want to discuss why you voted, I am not trying to beat that dead horse or to chastise anybody. I am mad or disappointed in that quote from somebody on Council. Councilman Smith stated I would be too. President Rosso stated I might not agree with the way you guys voted but you voted and that is your job and I can't argue with it. Councilman Cizl stated that doesn't answer my question? President Rosso answered Worksession's, committee meetings and even Council meetings. You can ask whatever you want but if you say hey I am all for this, anybody got another opinion and they don't share it – there is nothing you can do about it. I can't make them talk. Mayor Bring advised the reason I took this job is because I got sick and tired of everybody talking about the City of Sheffield Lake. Every time I played sports and somebody asked me where I was from and I said the City of Sheffield Lake and they said oh. That disgusted me and that is why I am here right now for this job. That is the only reason I am here for this job. I don't make anything, I lose money by coming here and I don't care. I am here for a purpose and if you guys don't understand that I am trying to move this forward. You guys need to talk to each other and figure this out and figure out what direction this city is going to go because we are a joke. I am telling you right now and stuff like that that Rick is talking about infuriates me because that just makes the people around us and especially that little butt head right over the railroad tracks there because he revels in that stuff and he talks about us and I am sick and tired of us getting talked about all the time. I am just telling you that. I really don't care about the vote with truck that is the point that Rick just

made. Mr. Wtulich – you have got to understand what the procedure are and who you talk to. I get very angry and somebody else also asked a question at 3 o'clock in the afternoon demanding we find out something about the meeting that was coming up at 7 o'clock. You guys don't know, how many people do you see in this building over. There is hardly anybody here and give me one second because I am sick and tired of this because these people are over worked and there is hardly anything going on and then we have a building inspector for which I told you what happened over there and yet you vote no on that because you think there is something going on fishy. Councilman Wtulich stated you told me that I can probably get that for you. President Rosso brought it back to order – guys let's not get to off track. Mayor Bring continued we have a part-time girl over there doing this plus her full-time job. We are all overwhelmed over here, I am trying to do this as a part-time Mayor, David Graves is a part-time Law Director – we don't have people here. We have to rely on you guys to do your job but you have to do your job. So that is all I am asking you and start talking about things and discussing things. When you go to Ordinance Committee and they sit there and they look at us, at me and David – David what do you got, Mr. Bring what you got – it is not my committee. Start figuring it out, you go in those ordinances and figure this stuff out. There is a lot that needs to go on with these committees and you guys are in charge of your own committees. You have got a President of Council up there, if you have any questions you go to him. Rick has been here forever, talk to him and he will help you. Don't come to me all the time, I don't have any time. I am done, you understand. So that is all I have got to say but start communicating. President Rosso stated again I didn't want to start a big argument.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:** **Councils Agenda** – President Rosso stated we have no ordinances and resolutions for Tuesday unless we add the FOP part-time contract which we talked about.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 7:50 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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MAYOR  
*Dennis Bring*



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 April 21, 2015.

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Richard Rosso*

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Alan Smith*