

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO  
May 19, 2015**

The regular meeting of the City Council Worksession was held Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Council Pro Tem Alan Smith called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

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

Absent: President Rosso, Councilmen Wtulich and McCullough, Treasurer Woods (excused)

Attending: Demo Board Chair Gee, Charter Review Petrucci, Members of the Media; Avon Lake Press, Journal

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

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

**ROADS & DRAINS: None./SAFETY: None./BUILDINGS, LANDS,**

**VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT: None./ORDINANCE:** Chairman Kovach stated in regards to the sign ordinance and I don't if necessarily that it is for repeal or updating and that is why it is here for discussion this evening. Law Director Graves advised I took a quick look at that and I am not really clear the extent to what you are asking. We require permit numbers for all temporary signs. I didn't know if you were only talking about the political signs or all temporary signs or if you want to exclude the garage sale signs. That is something that is of importance as well. I am not sure exactly what you are asking for. Mrs. Gee stated ordinance#81-84 has July 24, 1984 that already has the garage sale ordinance in it for the signs and having them numbered. Then we have the temporary sign ordinance 137.18, it was passed August 15, 2006 ordinance#56-06. It has that you have to get the permit# and the permit# must be on all temporary signs. Any other words everyone that has got a sign saying Proud Brookside High School Senior, everyone that puts up a sign saying Happy Birthday – it is ridiculous. Technically every single time someone puts up a sign or the school levy signs – those were being passed out in Sheffield Village at the school and there were no permit numbers on them. No one knows about the permit numbers being needed. Unless you are a politician in Sheffield Lake and have gotten them, otherwise no one knows about it. Pro Tem Smith stated for those people who put up signs like Proud Parent of Brookside Senior that technically needs a permit number – those sort of things. So that I think is the jest of it, those signs. Councilman Kovach stated I think one of the bigger

considerations is the political signs because I guess the biggest example is when we had our Presidential election – they didn't have the permit numbers on those as far as I know. Mrs. Gee stated all the democratic ones did, I did those for the whole city. Councilman Kovach stated okay I am going to guess that those running for state office, probably from the GOP that did not have any or independents. Law Director Graves stated we can't treat political signs differently than other temporary signs. The regulation on the signs has to be content and neutral. We can't pass something that you have to get permits for political signs but not for other temporary signs. Councilman Cizl stated fill me in here, first of all I think it is kind of ridiculous when you have to get a permit to get a birthday sign and a senior sign. So give me the history of it. Pro Tem Smith stated correct me if I am wrong but the main purpose for getting – you would know Tammy, the numbers on the signs is so when you got a thousand signs sitting on there and nobody is picking them up. You can down the list and say you got 30 days to go pick your signs up and get them off. That was the purpose so we knew whose signs they were – is that sort of the main reason why. Law Director Graves stated perhaps but I don't know that is really a strong argument because first of all, you are not supposed to put signs in the public property or right of way anyway. If there is signs there they can be taken down. Secondly if someone has a sign in their own yard, well then obviously you are responsible for what is in your yard. So we know who needs to take that sign down. Pro Tem Smith stated earlier, I just know that that was one of the things why. Finance Director Smith stated the other big thing is the garage sales and that was to stop the perpetual garage sales and to tell people not to put them on telephone poles. Not that that still doesn't happen but it is not as much. Mrs. Gee stated that is 2 separate ordinances. Pro Tem Smith stated like he said you can't specify. Law Director Graves stated you can still require the permits for the garage sales and you can limit the number of permits per year. Councilman Stark stated didn't we also make a change with the Election Board that you have to have certain things on signs now anyways; committee and name. So we just started that a couple of years ago if I remember correctly so when you passed this ordinance that law wasn't there. That got passed probably within the last 6 or 7 years maybe if that long. So now you have to have that information on the sign anyways. So if you were going to take a sign down, it already has who the committee person is on it or it is supposed to. Finance Director Smith corrected no the Treasurer has to be on there, their name, address – that has actually been around for a long, long time, at least 20 years. Pro Tem Smith stated so is that the question in ordinance is whether or not we want to require people to keep getting permits and numbers put on them or eliminate it altogether. Councilman Kovach stated the question is I believe what Mrs. Gee brought to me and the ordinance committee was the requiring of permits. That is the long and short of what I got.

Mrs. Gee stated why do we have the law, it is not being enforced and it is not fair for example; if you live next door to a High School Senior and you don't like that family. Technically you can call the city and turn them in for having a sign in their yard because they don't have a permit number. Pro Tem Smith advised if you are going to comment you need to come up and state your name and address for the record even though it is still a Worksession.

**Rosa Gee, 272 Gayle Drive** stated you already have a separate ordinance on the garage sales and that covers the signs for garage sales on that ordinance. This other ordinance to me it sounds like a law that is not being enforced anyhow. People in my neighborhood complained when we had the school levy signs up and nobody had permit numbers on them. Technically those signs, according to the law they weren't supposed to be put up. You have got to look at the birthday signs, if you read the law none of those signs can go up in people's yards even.

Councilman Erdei stated myself, birthday signs and like senior signs or whatever I think that is a waste myself. Like David said though discrimination really if you just enforce on political signs but I mean no other city around us has these permit numbers. My opinion, I know it is keeping track of them but how many garage sales signs to you see telephone poles and there is no little number – it is just a magic marker sign so high and so big. Councilman Cizl stated lost dog sign.

Councilman Erdei stated to have Police try to enforce that let alone enforce the law in our city and what that does. I mean the manpower, I would rather have them patrolling our streets instead of worrying about signs. Councilman Stark stated could you do something with the time line, like a garage sale is only going to be up for so long and a birthday is only going to be up for so long. Other things could be up for like 30, 60, 90 days. Instead of discriminating against type of sign but how long the sign is going to be up. If you are going to have something up for more than 30 days then you have to get the permit. If it is going to be for like a yard sale or a lost dog, maybe you don't have to get a permit on those. Mayor Bring stated if you look around right now we have got some signs out there that say we buy cars, we buy houses and stuff like that and they stick them on telephone poles and that is absolutely something we won't tolerate and I have had the Police take those down. You see some signs up now that are in the ground that say we buy houses and stuff. I would think as long as it doesn't get out of hand, I don't have a problem with that. But if they start sticking a sign up on every corner, I have a problem with that. Signs like My Son is a Senior or My Daughter is a Senior – I don't even have the Police even blink an eye at that stuff. If they put a garage sale sign up I don't have the Police look at that. Basically I am trying to keep the signs off the telephone poles. If you look at the “we buy junk vehicles” most of those are not from around here and some not even in Ohio. We have called those numbers, Akron, Pennsylvania, stuff like that. That is the kind of stuff I think we should

eliminate. The other ones with the numbers, personally I never saw a purpose for that. I don't see why we should require a number. I think that we have controlled it well enough in the last probably 10 years that we have stopped a lot of the nonsense. Pro Tem Smith clarified you are saying it is no big deal to just get rid of the permitting or of the permitting number. Mayor Bring stated I think the permitting number, I just don't see a reason for it. Pro Tem Smith stated I would say send it back to committee for more discussion, if they can't find anything just repeal it. Pro Tem Smith stated as far as it goes with me, it doesn't really affect me. Mayor Bring stated me also, we just had the levy signs and they put them up and nobody said a word about it. There is always going to be somebody complaining oh they didn't have a number or they didn't have that. If we just kind of eliminate that because there is always a small group that is always trying to find something wrong. Pro Tem Smith stated I think you guys have always tried to use common sense approach to the signs which works. If you are looking to get rid of it then I don't have an issue with it. Mayor Bring stated there was one time about 8 years ago, I think we had a bunch of Judges that were running for office with the big signs up and they were posting them all over and they didn't have the numbers on them. That is what that issue was about. I think we called and they said they weren't required to have them. Pro Tem Smith stated but we have an ordinance for temporary signs that describes them and what they can put up and what they can't put up. So you are just talking about the permitting and numbering. Councilman Kovach answered right. Pro Tem Smith stated I pretty much don't have an issue with it either way, I would say that would go back to your committee and you guys decide to do. If you guys decide to keep it then go from there. Councilman Erdei stated we don't charge a fee anyway. **FINANCE: None.** **PARK BOARD:** Member Kovach advised we met last night and I will just make this brief. We had a busy meeting, we had the Pride Committee came before us and we voted on allowing them to put park equipment on the condition that they receive this equipment through this contest and going after a grant. If they are lucky enough to acquire that then they would be able to use Ferndale Park as the primary park unless the Park Board and the city decide it should go somewhere else. We did give them permission to proceed. Also Mrs. Gee came to us and she came with a proposal as to what she would like to do with DMV on a 5 year plan of refurbishing and improving Memorial Park. They were granted conditional approval on that whereas they will be bringing a plan to us as to how they want to proceed. Lisa Prokay came to us and gave us an update on everything that is going on with the picnic, she is getting real busy with that one. She wants to pass out about 500 flyers. God Bless on that and I hope she gets enough hot dogs. Last but not least, there was a family that came in and the daughter made the presentation and what she is looking to do is apply for what is called "Bark for your Park"

where they are trying to win a local dog park for our community and we gave her permission by motion to go ahead and proceed. That primary park that she would be considering doing that in would be Freedom but that would also be contingent upon a plan and approval of the Board choosing that one or any other park in the city. So between that one and the one at the Pride Committee going on they have got to win contest first. So at this point the one that is going to proceed post haste would be the DAV with Memorial Park. The Mayor is working on the 2 pavilions that the one is planned to go into Guenther and potentially the second one that they acquire is earmarked to go into Gary Green. We also had heavy discussion on Pride Day but you can actually cover the rest of that on your report. Councilman Cizl advised I spent time this weekend at Freedom Park and just wondering as I am kind of reminiscing of improvements that have been made in the last 60 years or whatever else. How do improvements get made at the park? I know when there is no money nothing happens but I just wondered when a swing set is put in or a dinosaur is put in. Councilman Kovach answered it depends, Freedom Park is a good example. We have over the years things have been done over there with donations. Like the walking trail, that was donated by I want to say active retirees but it was one of Russ Warmen's group that did that. So that was a donation. A good portion of the equipment that went into that park and many of the other parks was acquired through recycle grants which were quite plentiful 15 years ago to about 5 years ago which has pretty much tapered off. There were several times that Park Board – money was available in the Park account that we were able to buy some. We also used New Construction Park account. Finance Director Smith advised the Park Pals. Councilman Kovach advised that was the playground that was put in over there was done by Park Pals. That was a major donation which Poly One was involved and Park Pals was the originator and the city actually supplied the crumb rubber for the base of it which was a good portion of the in-kind. There is all kinds of ways to do it. Councilman Cizl stated pretty much through grants or donations, we don't have a working budget for improvements on an annual basis then right? Councilman Kovach answered the only thing that we would have in that area would have been money out of New Construction Parks which we used the majority of that money that had been accrued over many, many years on everything that we did over at the Boat Launch. I believe with some of the construction going on, there is some money going into that I don't know how much at this time. That is where we would get that. The only other budget that we had was we had salary budgets for the Park Superintendent, the Rec Director and Jerry's salary came out of that. We were able to wrestle some money from Council a couple of times for the last pick-up truck we bought and trailer and that exciting Steiner that everybody enjoyed Pride Day.

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

**MAYOR:** Mayor Bring stated just to follow up on the parks thing, last year we did get \$9000.00 for the recycling and that is when we did those park benches and kiosk and some of this stuff. So when you walk along the bike trail you will see those and those have been a nice addition. We also got a couple picnic tables. That kind of thing really works well and that is part of the Boat Launch too. In going back to Pride Day, we did have a very successful turn-out. Pat told me there was somewhere between 35 and 40 people but Eric who is the head of the Pride Committee said we probably had maybe 50 people. So they were out there putting the mulch in there. We did take bulk mulch and they distributed that and planted flowers. We did the dumpsters, we have a little bit of a hiccup with the dumpsters and I did call Mr. Kidder on the dumpsters because I was a little disappointed because we could have used 2 more and they did not return our phone calls. The thing with that is the Waste Company donates the dumpsters and they don't charge and that is part of the county program that they have – the Pride Day pick-up. I was a little bit disappointed and he said that he was very sad to hear that because they have been doing such a good job for our city. I didn't want to really get angry with him, I just said I was a little disappoint because we ended up throwing a lot of the last hour debris on the ground and it took us 3 hours to pick that up today. He apologized and he said he would try to do something for us with extra dumpsters this year to accommodate that if we maybe want to another small day for that he said he would supply some dumpsters for us. We chipped probably 20 truckloads of brush so we got a lot of debris and I had a couple of the guys from the Service Department go out and pick up some of the mattresses that were laying in the neighborhood for a long period of time which we are trying to work on too. Overall like I said it was a very successful day and I am very pleased. They did Lakewood Beach Park, they cleaned up the Boat Launch over by the covered bridge and they came over here in front of the Service Department. There was a lot accomplished and they are not going to end this at Pride Day, they said they are going to continue working on that on a monthly basis and see if they can't do more for the city. I don't think we have ever had you know that kind of co-operation before in a long time and it is really nice to see. People are coming out and helping and enjoying themselves and it is really good for the city to see all the volunteers, I was extremely happy. I was also very tired at the end of the day from throwing garbage all day. The other thing is we talked about the water meters at one of the last meetings and Mr. Hastings did meet with the Engineer today to get some bids out. The costs is going to be about 1,050,000.00 or so it is a little bit under what I originally told you guys because I think I originally told you about 1,200,000.00. So the costs is going to be for a resident per month of an increase of between \$1.35 and \$1.50. So that was kind of what the number was that I originally said. So we are moving forward with this and we are trying to get all of this done. Mr. Hastings

did do a graph and everything which I will probably give to you guys at the next Council meeting. We have to move fast track for this and try to get this going because otherwise we are going to be in the middle of winter trying to install these and then we may end up not being able to install if these pits freeze and stuff. This is why we are trying to get this going as fast as possible. I want to keep you informed on that and I will keep you updated as this process moves along because we will have to bond this out because when this happens we won't have to pay for everything at one time. The number of meters will come, say we need 3500 meters they may only buy 900 right off the bat to get those installed so this is going to be a process and depending on how long it takes them to bring them in. It should work out very well, the only thing I am worried about is the time frame so we are trying to hustle on doing that. The other thing is we have talked about the Building Department and the company that we had do the presentation the other day. Mr. Graves is waiting for something from you to present some kind of a legislation because he doesn't want to move forward unless you guys on board with moving forward with that company. I need your thoughts on that and what you guys think but that part-time contract is going to end here soon. We will have to enter into a full-time contract, by keeping the part-time contract we are actually not gaining any money on this thing but if we enter into the full-time contract we would be. David do you have any thoughts on that, I understood that you did not want to move forward unless you got some kind of direction. Law Director Graves answered right, I think that that legislation should come from committee or Council as a Whole. I don't know if that is on any committees agenda right now. Pro Tem Smith asked what committee would that be? Councilman Kovach stated I think it would be Roads & Drains. Several voices said the Building Department at the same time. Law Director Graves stated if Council's opinion is not to go forward with this then we are not going to bring legislation. Pro Tem Smith stated we can discuss it here. Law Director Graves stated you were all given copies of the proposed long term agreement. Pro Tem Smith stated that is the one that you sent, nothing has changed from that right that is the one that you sent to us? Law Director Graves answered yes and they came to the last meeting and were here to answer any questions. If Council by motion wanted to get some legislation for a first reading we can certainly do that. Councilman Cizl stated right now we are on a temporary and it expires at the end of this month and if we don't do anything then we have nothing. So we have to discuss if we are going to go with this company that is basically going for a month and a half or we are going to go in another direction and if we do we have to think fast. Councilman Erdei asked 5 year contract? Law Director Graves answered it is a 2 year. Mayor Bring stated we do have an out clause on that. Pro Tem Smith stated as you all know I voted against it but I am still trying to keep an open mind. I still have some questions and

I still have a problem with limiting the services that the residents used to have and I know they said they will be here whenever but when push comes to shove a contract is a contract and it says they have to be here 1 hour and if they have to be here 1 hour then its 1 hour. That is one issue that I have so I am still trying to – 1 hour a day 5 days a week or 2 hours a day 5 days a week which is the minimum. I understand that but it says to be negotiated by us but it still says 1 hour minimum – 2 hours. So realistically they could be here 1 hour a day 5 days a week – realistically, I am not saying they are going to but contracts are contracts. Law Director Graves stated you are focusing on 1 provision in the contract. Pro Tem Smith stated those are just a few things that still bother me. Like I said I voted against it so I have still got to talk myself into looking and really coming up to justify it but you know you guys are all for it. It is up to you guys, so if you guys go forward. A vote is ultimately a vote at the end but I can honestly say I don't really know what I am going to do yet. I can honestly say I don't know what I am going to do yet but if you guys want to go forward that is a Committee of the Whole decision and being that these guys are gone we got enough here to at least move forward. Councilman Cizl stated I am not necessarily saying that I am for it, I am looking for we have to have a solution, we have to have something. Pro Tem Smith stated I think that is what they are looking for is whether this committee is for it so they can move forward because they are not going to move forward unless we all are. Law Director Graves stated I am not asking for you to make up your mind right now all I am asking is the Council direction to go ahead and draw up legislation, either to extend the temporary agreement or to enter into a full-time agreement under certain terms. But we need to know where we are going. Mayor Bring stated one problem, the Inspector that we had was absolutely not able to do his job with one person there. We lost money and I have told you guys since 2007 in excess of \$500,000.00 and I know the press is here and I want them to hear that because that is a big number. We can't afford to keep losing money and this is what it is all about and you guys have talked about spending money and everything else throughout this city. Every time I keep trying to move this city forward and stop losing money you got to think about this. This is what the process is and the only way that is going to work is if we have 2 Building Inspectors and every time we have 2 Building Inspectors we lost over \$100,000.00 a year. I can show you the numbers and with Wendy in there right now which she is overwhelmed, she is done because after this is over with I can't have her doing this anymore. She is working I don't how many hours. Finance Director Smith stated she is stretched thin because she is not doing what I need in the Finance Department because she is over at the Building Department. Mayor Bring continued I am just explaining to you what is going on with the city here and what happened is that you are talking about 1 hour – he wasn't doing his job over there at all. Pro Tem Smith stated he

wasn't at all, I know. Mayor Bring stated if these guys work a half an hour it is more then what we were going to accomplish out of him over there. Pro Tem Smith stated I know and if you had somebody there that was actually his job. Mayor Bring stated now they will have a Secretary. Finance Director Smith stated we couldn't do it with 1 person, 1 person isn't realistic for that department. Mayor Bring stated for 3 months out of the year; January, February and March you probably could get away with it. Pro Tem Smith stated I was the only one against so I am not here to put anything into it, I am just trying to get it. Mayor Bring stated I am just explaining to everyone here what is going on in the Building Department and why; all the apartments for property maintenance was ignored because we didn't have the manpower to do it and all the property maintenance for the rental property was basically getting ignored. It was way too much for 1 person to handle. So I am just telling you and right now we have that department has lost a ton of money and we can't keep doing this. So something has to happen, so if we don't go with this company then we are going to end up hiring 2 Building Inspectors and we are going to lose another \$100,000.00 in the next year. So I am not going to do that so you guys make your mind what you want to do. So that is my thoughts. Councilman Erdei stated I like the idea but now like you said at least having 2 Building Inspectors with a Secretary and all that. We are a small town and I hate to lose the money but then again we can't cover everything but with this they would be covering it and we give a percentage. Is there any chance, instead of trying to make a quick decision is there a possibility that we can extend this like another month or two just so we can all hash it out. Mayor Bring answered well you will extend it and then you will have Wendy doing this stuff and Wendy is not doing this anymore. Every time you extend this thing we are losing money because right now you are on a temporary basis and then temporary basis is we are losing money as far as how they are charging us. David you look at me like I am crazy but the fees are not being collected. Law Director Graves stated that is not what I am thinking of. Councilman Stark stated I don't know if we can talk about this but what is our out clause? Pro Tem Smith answered 60 or 90 day I think it was. Mayor Bring answered 60. Councilman Stark stated after 60 days if all of a sudden they are not doing the job. Pro Tem Smith answered notify 60 days in writing and then send them. Councilman Stark stated I am just making sure that if we go through with it which I am fine with it but I want to protect us, if they are doing it and then all of a sudden they are not doing it where is our options. Mayor Bring stated I absolutely 100% agree with you but I will say that there is a couple of other cities looking forward to this but it is working very well in Bay Village and Olmsted Falls and there is a few other cities and it has also done very well in Colorado which is where their main stay is. I think with cuts from state, with cuts from everything that we have had manpower is a precious commodity and it is

making it very difficult for the cities to keep above the red line and to stay in the black. I think that privatizing something is not maybe the best thing in the world but we didn't lose an employee that was hired as a union employee, we didn't lose an employee – he resigned. So we have no employee there so there is no conflict of getting rid of somebody to bring a company in from the outside to try this to see if it works for the city. Councilman Stark stated why just out of curiosity and my personal opinion is let David write the legislation and do it but is there a reason went specifically with these and did you guys talk to other companies and we just decided this was best one? Mayor Bring stated I looked into it and like I said I kind of looked into hiring a new Building Inspector and we did a few numbers on that and it is just not realistically going to work and what I saw in the last 3 years of how things were handled over there I was very disappointed and I don't think the people got their bang for their buck. I will say that these guys when they look at a print and when they go into a house and this is not saying anything bad about our last Building Inspector but there is people that can walk into a house and see what the violations are as far as how things are constructed and everything else. I think these guys are much more inept at seeing that and everything that I have heard from the contractors that were over in Bay Village that were dealing with these guys had the same thoughts that you guys did. They were not happy because they had the other people there but after they got over there and started doing business with them they actually thought it was a better system. Their time frame for their permits turned around faster and the city got their money which was turned in on a daily basis and it goes right to the Finance Director so it goes in. Again when Mr. Wiblin resigned that made us crunch time and if I continue to stumble here and wait another 5 or 6 months. This is prime building time right now and you may say we are a small town but really not because there is a lot going on, especially with the permits and rental properties and everything else going on. They were very surprised on how much that the Building Inspector has to do around here and again right now Wendy spent all day yesterday over there and spent 3 hours over there today. At this end of this month she is not doing that any more. Councilman Stark stated like I said I am good with it and my instruction would be to tell David to draw up the legislation as long as we can protect ourselves that if it doesn't work out we can pull out of the deal. I am good with it. Mayor Bring stated I will say one thing if you hire a full-time Building Inspector and we go ahead and do that the difficulty of getting rid of that person is far greater than trying to hire a company that at least has a contract. If we do a full-time Building Inspector and then we want to get rid of him you are going to pay unemployment and the odds of getting rid of them if he doesn't do a good job they can fight that and take us to court and so on. This is a far easier way to get out of a situation then what we had the other way and we are paying vacation times, we are not paying workers comp

if he gets hurt, we are not paying retirement, we are paying sick time. You have to look at all the options. Finance Director Smith stated no vehicle costs. Mayor Bring stated they have their own vehicles and their own computers, their own fuel. Finance Director Smith advised we don't even have a good vehicle to give a Building Inspector right now. Mayor Bring stated we had the one vehicle that was basically falling apart over there and we finally gave him one of the police cars and that police car broke down and we gave him another police car and that has 136,000 miles on it. Councilman Cizl stated I agree with Leanna, I think we have to do something – it is a no brainer. Regardless of what we do we have to do something but I was concerned if down the road we were going to have permit increases if we are going to hear complaints from our community – how come Sheffield Lake's permits are so high and that is something that I am sensitive to. Mayor Bring advised you guys control that Mark. Councilman Cizl stated that is my concern though and my other thing that I thought was positive was Lenny seemed to be the person that is going in between the company and the city. I am in favor, I agree with Leanna we got to do something. Mayor Bring stated one more thing while I am on a roll here. Mr. Smith has probably passed out about 135 letters so far and that was something that the Building Inspector was doing before. So he is not only that now he has got the grass, he has got the trees and the yard waste. Now the Police have done about 175 letters of junk cars and out of all those letters we have only had 2 people that didn't comply and I think David is in court with one of them coming up. Those have all been taken care of and the Police are going to continue doing that. Before we had the Building Inspector doing that too by the way and nothing was getting done. If you go around right now with what Lenny has done as far as passing out those letters you are seeing a lot of stuff get picked up. Now there is people calling and complaining about other people because now they found out that we are doing this, their calling and saying my neighbor is not doing this and this. We are not going to get into this neighbor thing and he is doing what he thinks is right. So we are going to pass out letters which we genuinely think is right, we are not going to get into a neighbors dispute. The letter that is going out is very kind but it is working, we still have a lot of tall grass with apartments and everything else but we are doing the process with the letters but it does take time. That process is going to continue. Councilman Kovach stated after listening to them, their presentation and actually talking to Len about them he seemed very happy with them and more importantly I am just going to make a comment. Using this type of people which are the only ones to me that are reasonably available to us in a quick time frame that I think they would be doing an honest and impartial job which is probably one of the bigger problems that we have had with the last Inspector and it actually goes a little deeper than that. I have no problem moving forward on a 2 year basis with these people. Pro Tem Smith

stated you have your direction then, there is a couple yet but they are not here. Councilperson Stark pointed out Rick doesn't get to vote. Law Director Graves stated I really wasn't looking for a discussion of whether you are in favor of it or against it, it was just do you want legislation drawn up to enter into a long term agreement. Pro Tem Smith advised you don't really know that unless everyone is in favor of it or not because if they are not in favor of it they are basically saying no don't write the legislation because you don't want to write it unless it is going to be a favorable moving forward. It is kind of the same thing I guess but you got your direction. Councilman Kovach stated if there is major disagreement about it you will find out during the vote. Pro Tem Smith stated I would say you are probably looking for an emergency I would imagine and I don't know that that would be the best thing right. Law Director Graves stated I will write it with a three reading and emergency clause so you can suspend the rules. Pro Tem Smith advised okay. Law Director Graves advised I will write it and you will have it next Tuesday actually you will have it a lot sooner than that probably tomorrow. Mayor Bring stated we talked about hiring a new Fire Fighter, we have had an enormous amount of overtime. The new Fire Fighter will cost approximately \$40,000 until the end of the year and that should be almost a break even from the overtime that we are paying right now. The guys are going getting a little tired of working the overtime and I know that that is not an excuse for anything but I am just telling you that that is what is going on. So we are probably going to bring that to you on Tuesday. Pro Tem Smith stated not going to be the popular one again but I got that paper that you sent out and I am a little curious as to – I know overtime is being created right now because you are filling a 2 man shift and you got 2 – 4 man shifts. Now if he would have taken one guy off that shift which you can do by contract, it only takes 48 hour notice and moved one of those guys over to fill that shift for the 2 months or whatever it was you wouldn't have all that overtime. Second of all, the B shift has been on a 3 man shift for well over 2 years. It is good enough to run a 3 man shift on 1 shift but it is not good enough to run it on 2 shifts and maybe leave 1 – 4 to cover some of the overtime and I just don't see the need for a 4 man shift with the squad run being that we no longer have to keep going back to do dispatch because we eliminated that part of it by going to county dispatch. I am still way up in the air on why we even need 4 man shifts now, the 4 man shift was for the 4<sup>th</sup> guy being dispatch unless we are going to run 2 squads then we need them. There is other ways with the overtime and I was just kind of curious on some of that. Mayor Bring answered when you do a squad call you got the 2 guys in the back of the squad and 1 guy driving and then they follow it with unit#66. So if nothing happened on the way there they are going to bring back #66 there and then man the station. That does eliminate overtime by bringing a person back to that. Pro Tem Smith stated that works on a 4 man shift but how does the B

shift work it then 2 go and 1 rides and they go to the call right? Mayor Bring answered correct but it is also creating overtime on that if somebody calls off. Pro Tem Smith stated yes you always have that but I am just curious on why you are filling a 2 man shift without just moving somebody to save it. It is like there is no thought in the saving on the Chief's part. Mayor Bring advised because there is going to be a retirement. Pro Tem Smith stated I know that but all vacations are posted at the beginning of the year so you can just as easily move guys around on their shifts. Mayor Bring answered but you can't do that when they call in sick. Pro Tem Smith concurred no you can't do it so you are always going to have some overtime. Finance Director Smith advised I think Tim has moved people around. Mayor Bring advised yes he has but it still doesn't eliminate the overtime because when they call in sick you don't have the 24 hours, they call in that day. Pro Tem Smith stated yes you will have that I am just trying to justify in my mind why is it seems like it is okay to have a 3 man shift run for 2 years without any issues but we need a 4 man shift, you know we can't just take the 4<sup>th</sup> guy and make 2 – 3's and 1 – 4 so we don't have to hire somebody. Mayor Bring advised if there is a fire and you got to go in and somebody is outside, there is a safety issue and that is what has always been brought up. Pro Tem Smith stated yes I know but on the other hand there is automatic response as soon as there is a fire – 6 other departments that are there. I am not trying to argue, I am just trying to get all my thoughts together. Mayor Bring stated I am not going to put 1 of our Fire Fighters in jeopardy because we want to cut manpower and worry about things like that. Pro Tem Smith stated I am just curious. Mayor Bring stated I plan on living for probably another 30 years and I don't want to have that on my conscious. Pro Tem Smith stated I get it, it is 3 man and 4 man shifts and with them being dispatched – the 4<sup>th</sup> man was always used for the dispatch. He stayed back for the dispatch. Mayor Bring stated that was part of the reason we asked for that levy too that we could get our manpower back up. Pro Tem Smith stated am I right or wrong, the 4<sup>th</sup> guy always stayed back for dispatch and then we got rid of dispatch and went to the county. Mayor Bring stated they are still coming back and manning that station. Pro Tem Smith stated that is just my thoughts so I don't know yet. Councilman Erdei stated I do recall when I was on Safety Committee and Chief Card attended the meeting and I remember you and him saying for safety reasons it is very wise to have a 4 man crew. That stuck in my head since the day you guys said it and I believe that is true, safety is first. Mayor Bring stated you know some of our biggest expenses are Police and Fire but some of our best employees and our Service Department is extremely important but when it comes to safety for the residents and things like that – they are also a very good representative of our city. I think if you look at the Police Department right now and you look at what is going on we haven't had already any crime and I think that attributes to the Chief

right now and how he is handling things and they are doing an excellent job. Unbeknownst of what you are hearing on TV that the Police are the most worthless pieces – I think that is totally wrong and I will stand by those guys 100% and I firmly believe that they are getting a raw deal on that and I feel terrible about that. I think our Fire Fighters, a lot of times people say they sit around and stuff like that but when you need them you need them and we have got some of the best – we have saved more people with heart attacks because of our quick time and these guys and their training and stuff. These new guys that we have been bringing in are not only Fire Fighters/Paramedics but they are also Nurses. The one gentleman Chad is also a Teacher, he does all kinds of classes on fire fighting and everything else. If you went by the station the other day they had a ladder out, they were all doing training and stuff and these guys are really at it. We had a lady and I forget what the function was – it was at the Civic Center passed out over there and the gentleman that was the newest guy that we had hired was the one that brought her back and brought her over there. It is just important and I know it costs the city a lot of money but sometimes you just got to spend the money for something that is worthwhile. Also the other reason that they want to bring this guy in now so they can train him and get it going. So that is what we were going to do. Pro Tem Smith stated I was just asking for my own notes, I don't understand it that's all. I am not saying that we don't need him I just don't understand. Finance Director Smith stated Tim would probably be best. Mayor Bring stated we have been very lean and we didn't have. Pro Tem Smith stated I know it is overtime and I am thinking if we are wasting this much money in overtime, why are we doing this and why are we doing that. Mayor Bring advised we spent \$11,000.00 in 2 weeks on overtime, that is a lot of money. Pro Tem Smith stated my thing is have we done everything we can to cut as much as we can and I just don't think we have by thinking about it. That's all but that's me. Councilman Erdei asked on the pump stations, are we going to do anything about them or are we going to just keep sending the guy over there when we have to in the case of an emergency. Mayor Bring advised the pump stations – that is going to be a very costly expenditure. The reasons the pumps go off is because they go into over flow and that will not stop unless we send a lot of money and that is something that we are working on. But that is another whole subject which is going to take me a long time. We have been talking about that for over 3 years. Finance Director Smith stated they are working on it. Mayor Bring stated I have talked to another Mayor that is a little bit of east of us. It is not something that you just click your fingers and say this is going to work, it is a process. Pro Tem Smith stated it is a long drawn out process too. Mayor Bring stated I would hope with the algae bloom and everything else that went on the lake last year that they start to realize that what goes into the lake is very important that we keep that clean and we can't continue this process. I think everybody along the

lake is in the same boat it is not just us. You got Vermilion, you got Avon Lake and you got us and Rocky River. So every time a heavy rain we are throwing waste into that and plus every time we salt the streets, that is why I have been trying to cut back on salt. You look at everybody that fertilizes their yards along the lake and every time it rains that goes into the lake. Everything you do along the lake, they talk about the farmers, the fertilizer with the phosphorus that goes into the streams and into the lake and that is our drinking water because sooner or later we have to start paying attention to that. I think they are and it is a lot better than it used to be but we still need to do more. We had the new Explorer, we have a sensor that shows the tires. If you get a new car and the tire pressure goes low there is a little that comes on and shows you that tire low. What happens is that when they put the cages and everything into these Explorer's for some reason it messes with the sensor. So it is showing that the sensor is on and the tire pressure – there is nothing wrong with the tires. So we sent that off for 2-1/2 weeks back to Cincinnati and they still can't figure out the problem. So we are still trying to figure out how we are going to do that. On a short kind of a simple term, we bought an air gauge only for the fact of – just like I told you before safety is a very important thing and if that sensor goes off and if the tire really was low and they weren't paying attention I don't want them getting hurt. So if the sensor does go off they do check the tires and they do get with the gauge and unfortunately right now our guys are doing that and now we are logging it. I have one of the Officers logging that for the next 2-1/2 or 3 weeks on a daily basis during the shifts and we are going to turn that information back over to the company. Councilman Kovach asked is it just one car or both of them. Mayor Bring answered one in particular it seems to be going off more than the other. The other one does it occasionally. Pro Tem Smith asked do they have to add air to any of the tires? Mayor Bring answered no and the other thing is we can't disconnect that feature because if something would happen we would be in a lot of trouble. Councilman Kovach stated you cannot disconnect that feature. Mayor Bring stated regardless we wouldn't do it anyway. So we are trying to figure this out and again we can't afford to keep sending that truck down there for 2-1/2 weeks. Pro Tem Smith asked is it paid for by the dealer? Mayor Bring stated it was the company that installed all the safety equipment; cage, radios, etc., and that was down in Cincinnati so they brought a car hauler down here to pick that up and took it all the way down there. They just brought it back on Friday last week. We still have the other car on order and there is no time frame for that but could be July, could be August we don't know. Other than that the new Explorers have been very good other than that little feature so we will see how this all works out. Councilman Erdei asked are you guys accepting applications for another Fire Fighter/Paramedic or do you guys already have a collection that you are going to pick from? Mayor Bring answered

we just did a Civil Service test that is where we got the gentleman's name. Pro Tem Smith advised usually one gets promoted and then the other one comes up through the ranks. Finance Director Smith advised this one was 4<sup>th</sup> on the list of gentlemen that we are talking about. Law Director Graves advised this is not a promotional, this is entry level. We have an eligibility list for eligible Fire Fighter that is 1 year old. So under the Civil Service rules that is good for 2 years. Pro Tem Smith advised oh, when you lose a Lieutenant you always give a test and put 1 Lieutenant on each shift. My bad that is what I thought usually happens. Mayor Bring stated we probably are going to bring that temporary provisional Policeman full-time for a period of 120 days. So I am going to be bringing that to you on Tuesday night too. With vacations and we are going to lose another Officer due to medical issues and we don't know how long he is going to be out and that is going to happen in June./**FINANCE DIRECTOR: None.**/**LAW DIRECTOR:** Law Director Graves requested a brief executive session for discussion of compensation of public employees and pending litigation./**COMMUNICATIONS: None.**/**OLD BUSINESS:** Councilperson Stark stated I know I have brought up a couple of times about this small business thing with trying to do some stuff with getting the small businesses more publicized. I know as a city we are not supposed to promote 1 single business, like if call the Service Department you can't say oh I would recommend this tree service for example. But can we do something where if they came in and somebody was renting, could we put a book in the Service Department that had every business in the city so not promoting one but all of them could have something in a book where something that we could promote these guys. Mayor Bring answered we don't really do that. Finance Director Smith answered we haven't done in the past, first of all that is another something that somebody has to keep updated. We don't have a lot of people to do extra lot of those kind of things. If we had like a summer intern that didn't have anything to do we probably could do that because you have to keep it updated. Then I don't know, my thought is people say well the city told me to go to this guy and he ripped me off. Now it is the city's fault, there are yellow pages that they go to that leave the city not liable for that. Councilperson Stark stated my concern is I am getting some feedback from some small business owners in this city that they don't feel their being supported necessarily or that it is getting enough attention within the city that other cities maybe give theirs. I am just worried that we are not being necessarily completely business. Pro Tem Smith stated we have had books and stuff with all the different businesses. Finance Director Smith advised the Northcoast Chamber of Commerce is who they need to look into, they are very supportive of small business in all of the four communities here, if they want to interact. Law Director Graves stated you have probably in other communities the magazines; Avon businesses and Lorain – these are put together by private companies that come in

and sell advertising and they get all local businesses. The city doesn't do that. Pro Tem Smith stated we have done that a couple times I think on the city maps. Finance Director Smith stated we are probably due for that. Mayor Bring stated it is actually pretty costly to put one of those booklets together, it is not cheap. Councilperson Stark stated I am just saying that if we want to bring people into this city, we need to support what we have, maybe it has to go to the Pride Committee or something. Pro Tem Smith stated that would be a good place to start, the Pride Committee I would think. Mayor Bring stated when Abbe Road Lumber was down there and everybody would come to us and say you guys are way too expensive and then they would go to Home Depot or Lowe's then they would come back and say did you have a sale today? I would tell them no that is our normal prices and I suppose you went to Home Depot and Lowe's because they are 50% higher than our items but the perception was that and that is the problem with having small businesses in a community and you have these large boxes and a lot of other things. Now as far as Apples and everything else, you can't make the people shop there. You can't make the people go to Bi-rite, you can't make the people go to Subway but you would hope that if you live in a community that you would go to those. I go to all of those and I go to almost all the businesses we have here and I see a lot of local people but you can't force people to shop at a certain place. You hear that we are not getting supported, it is not the city that is not supporting them it is whoever lives here doesn't support them and I can't go around and telling everybody that is where they have to go. I am more than glad to tell, like Dennis Vollack down here at Bi-rite I stop there every morning but I tell people if you look at his meats they are cheaper than someplace else. It is very difficult to get that into the mindset when somebody goes someplace else, when they go to Giant Eagle and they think they are getting deal. Unfortunately that is the mindset of the general public right now and small businesses are suffering for that. I agree with you and it is a hard thing to do and we have occasionally over there recommended somebody and we have had it unfavorably happen for them and then they come in chew our butts out and we are not going there anymore. We always tell them there are local people that business here. Councilperson Stark stated you know if we could list local businesses on our website, something to at least get the word out.

**/NEW BUSINESS:** \*Motion by Stark/Second Erdei by to adjourn to executive session for the discussion of compensation of a public employee and pending litigation. ROLL CALL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE REASONS STATED ABOVE: Yeas All – Cizl, Erdei, Kovach, Smith, Stark.

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

ROLL CALL TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: Yeas All – 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 compensation of a public employee and pending litigation.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Councils Agenda –**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 8:44 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*

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
*Richard Rosso*

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 May 19, 2015.

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM  
*Alan Smith*