

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
March 15, 2016**

The regular meeting of the City Council Worksession was held Tuesday, March 15, 2016. Council President Rick Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: President Rosso, Smith, Mayor Bring, Kovach, Wtulich, Erdei, Cizl, Gee, Superintendent Hastings
Absent: Councilperson Stark, Finance Director Smith, Law Director Graves (excused)
Attending: Concerned Citizens, Park Board Joe Gee, Media: Avon Lake Press

PRESENTATIONS: None.

*****COMMITTEES*****

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

*****ADMINISTRATIVE*****

MAYOR: None./SUPERINTENDENT: None./FINANCE DIRECTOR: None./LAW DIRECTOR: None./COMMUNICATIONS: None./OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Matt Harper, 4146 Holl Road stated I don't know if any of you know but most of the street flooded again last night, a lot of us had 4 to 6 inches of water again after we had just recently redone all of our family rooms. Something needs to be done, I don't what but something needs to be done. I for one can't keep pumping money into that room every time, every 2 years if we are going to keep flooding like this. I don't know what needs to be done but something needs to be done. I am ready to move, I have a great bunch of neighbors and I don't want to move but I am ready to move. I can't do this every 2 years, it is uncalled for and something needs to be done and it needs to be done pretty soon. I don't what but something needs to be done. A lot of us were up until 2:30 in the morning and 1 in the morning cleaning our basements out and then going to work today. President Rosso stated Matt you had sewage come up, it wasn't rain water? Mr. Harper answered I had both. President Rosso stated the Mayor and I spoke today for a little bit and talked about the issue of how water is getting into that sanitary line which obviously I don't have an answer. So one of the things that I have asked the Mayor and we talked

about is obviously there is only a couple of ways for water to get in there, either that sewer line is getting infiltrated with rain water so it is cracked or broken or something or and if I use the wrong term here people have cross-connects that is pumping their rain water into the sanitary line. So 2 possible things to look at and the one thing that I talked to the Mayor about was to get and it is going to be a big number but to get a costs of what it would take to replace the sanitary line down Holl. Obviously if it is cracked and broken and water is infiltrating, replacing the line would eliminate part of that. Another option would be is to do a smoke test on some of those lines and try and identify what types of cross-connections where rain water is getting into your sanitary line which we could eliminate at that. Just be aware that if your house gets determined that there is a cross-connect and storm water is going into the sanitary line it is the homeowners responsibility to correct that. We are talking 12 years ago I think when Bill was still here, Alan this number is way off you might remember. Bill said it was like \$2000.00 to dig up around the house and fix a cross-connect. Councilman Smith advised probably a lot more than that. Mr. Harper advised that would still be \$6000.00 cheaper then redoing my room again. President Rosso advised somehow rain water is getting into that sanitary. So I am right there with you, my son's house flooded on Devonshire and I got water in my basement and there was some on Warwick a little bit but ours is all rain water which is not nice but a heck of a lot nicer then sewage. Mr. Harper advised I totally agree. President Rosso stated I don't mean to steal the Mayor's thunder there but I just wanted to mention that and to be honest if they quote a number for that sanitary, number one it is going to costs this amount of money and number two is how we going to pay for it. That is my 2 cents to share with you some conversation, I know that we have cleaned out that ditch to some degree, maybe not 100% and I guess the only thing you can look at is you got 4 to 6 inches this time which at least it wasn't 10 inches from last time. But there was a hell of a lot of rain in a short amount of time. Mr. Harper stated I agree. Councilman Smith asked how deep is your basement? Mr. Harper answered we are about 4 feet under. Councilman Smith asked where does their sanitary come in Pat, Sheffield or Lake Breeze? Superintendent Hastings answered it runs down Sheffield Road. Mr. Harper stated we shoot straight down the street to Sheffield and it ties in there and I believe the ditch is behind our houses. Councilman Smith stated we have a problem at the pumping station right? Superintendent Hastings answered all the pumps were surcharged and we turned on our force main. Councilman Smith stated I was just thinking your basement is only 4 feet deep, if those sanitarium's backed up my basement should have flooded. How deep is the sewer line there? Superintendent Hastings answered 10 feet. Councilman Smith stated there has to be head pressure because the basement is 4 feet above the ground. Superintendent Hastings answered the storm sewer is actually overtaking in my opinion the

sanitary. Councilman Smith asked is it possible that the pump#2 is pressurizing that line going down that street. Superintendent Hastings answered I am not an engineer but the head pressure as it heads to pump#1 is so great that the water that is coming in from the interior streets is kind of stopped as that pressure is so strong going west that the water coming down can't get in the line. It is basically what you are describing. President Rosso asked what would be the option to reduce that pressure if any? Superintendent Hastings answered one of the bigger goals of the city as soon as we get done with this force main is we are working on the studies to move a portion of our sewage to the City of Avon Lake which is not approved. I mean that is a big step that has to go through NOACA but that would effectively reduce 1/3 of the sewage in the city and alleviate a massive amount of water and increase capacity. Now I and confirming this with the Mayor would propose to do that in fiscal year 2017, start that engineering and design and it is a very big job. Mayor Bring advised millions. President Rosso clarified that would send part of the sewage east, the part going west wouldn't have as much pressure like Alan was talking about allowing these other streets to flow a little better. Mr. Harper asked what about a retention pond or something, is that a possibility to at least run the sewer not the sanitary of water that is coming in that all the gutters are tied in. Is that a possibility so that maybe – I don't know, I know nothing about this? Superintendent Hastings answered yes we have one just a thousand feet down the street but really a lot of the answer in my opinion goes back to President Rosso and that I&I (inflow & infiltration) is a very big problem in this city and the reality is I think a lot of people are moving water off their property through the sanitary system. I have seen it personally and we try to explain to the home owners and our only recourse is in an occupancy when properties change we look for it. But other than getting more aggressive with smoke testing and camera work it is an unknown. The reality is once the city undertakes it it takes it with the burden being passed onto the homeowner which I suspect are 100's and 100's of homes. Mr. Harper stated I know our houses like mine I have 2 gutter spouts that come down and they tie together in front of the house and they go straight out not to the sewer but to the storm sewer. Mayor Bring stated we are talking about sump pumps and stuff like that are probably all connected to that. Alan can probably remember when Bill Gardner was talking about doing this and with the smoke test and said how much it was going to cost each homeowner and everybody had a heart attack, so they stopped. President Rosso stated but those water lines should tie to the storm sewer. Superintendent Hastings concurred they should. Mayor Bring stated those should. Superintendent Hastings advised the contract that the city used for our flow analysis which we have now been using to the EPA to justify our loan, that company works all over Northeast Ohio helping communities and specifically the homeowner identify and address these problems in somewhat inexpensive ways

whether it be the splash guards going way out into the yard and that is just an example but they are very good at it. It is something that the Mayor and I have discussed about starting a program like this we just unfortunately have been behind the 8 ball with that sewer. Now the sewer has been repaired and we keep it off in case of emergencies like this and last night was an emergency and we had it running. The water was so profound it was coming sheeting off the road right down the steps and right to our electronics, the volume of water was almost to the point where it is unmanageable regardless of all the best efforts. That being said I live here too and I have a basement and I had water so I get the frustration. Mayor Bring stated so did I. President Rosso stated I think Alan said before we can put in a 60 inch pipe and there will be a day that we need a 62 inch one. I didn't go down Holl so I don't know how bad it was. Superintendent Hastings stated the sanitary in like a residential area is predominantly 8 inches but once it gets down into our trunk lines it gets as big as 24. President Rosso stated I went down Devonshire last night and in the middle of the road to my son's steps was 4 inches, it was bad and I have never seen it like that. It was like a river flowing. Mayor Bring advised I drove around last night even across into Lorain which was 3 inches across the road. I went over by Oberlin Avenue and it was all cluttered over there. We had a gentleman that came in from Willard and said it was flooded over there. Our engineer was in Amherst and he said all the streets were flooded there. There was a lot of water and it doesn't change the subject and it doesn't make your flooding go away. I will tell you that every time it rains Pat and I cringe because it is extremely frustrating. Superintendent Hastings stated you guys are very calm and we are very grateful. Mayor Bring stated we totally agree with you, it is something that I said at a Mayor's meeting not too long ago. I said everybody looks above ground and they think it is all honky dory, that they are new buildings up and apartment buildings up and houses up but the infrastructure of all these cities and a lot of the older cities is absolutely just a disaster and you are talking millions and millions of dollars. Just to do Devonshire over there is a 1/2 of a million dollars. If I had to do your whole street it is 3/4 of a million dollars. So you start adding all these streets up and you got 30 million dollars at least for doing everything. Someday it has to be done and we are slowly looking at all this stuff and the other problem is that the EPA won't let us go dig something up anymore. The EPA just told us we couldn't dig through the woods to put the Devonshire pipe in because of some nonsense which I am not going to get into all that. But everything has to be engineered and everything has to be okayed by the EPA so we have to go through all that process and all that doubles or triples your price of everything and that is what takes so much time because just like the pump station we have been working on this for I don't know how long and the engineers came in the other day to finalize this stuff. It is very, very frustrating and I am extremely frustrated. Mr. Harper stated I get

things are going to take time and it is not going to be cheap but at the same time you are going to keep losing residents if it takes too long. I was laying in the bed with my wife afterwards at the end of the night talking about putting the house up. Mayor Bring stated I flipped my switch on and looked down in the basement this morning and felt the same thing pain. Mr. Harper stated I am at the breaking point but I am trying to stay calm and cool because I know that yelling gets you nowhere. I will at the next meeting. Councilman Wtulich stated when you are saying that the sanitary and storm lines are crossed could that have been something would have been done when the houses were built. Superintendent Hastings explained that is twofold, that development was put in in the 50's and the building standards then ran the footer tiles into the storm sewer. So back then the building standards you were allowed to bring those footer tiles all the around and right out to the sanitary line. Those are the kind of issues that if the city gets aggressive for the benefit of all that all of us homeowners will be digging up. I know it is illegal as far as the EPA and so forth and it might be addressed in ordinance with a fine, I don't honestly know. But to Rick's point, I am positive the city did institute a CIPP plan which Cure In Place Piping and it went down at least Knickerbocker and Belle. So all of those imperfections and cracks and everything in the pipe that go in with the liner and it effectively relined the whole pipe and that was done in Mr. Gardner's era. I just don't know if it was done to Holl, I would have to look. So some effort has been made. In my opinion the city needs to have a more aggressive, you know let's take on this responsibility together both the homeowner and the city. If we put together a big plan with big numbers and discuss it at the same time, so to should the homeowners face some responsibility. That is just my opinion.

Kory Rosso, 4133 Holl Road stated my question is when we came in here 5 years ago when it happened the first time we had a once every 100 year rain. We came in here 2 or 3 years ago and it happened again and it is the water, it is the water. I got a rain gauge at my house and it said we got 1.7 inches of rain and I know it came fast but why is it happening now. What changed 5 years ago that the problem is happening. The problem that didn't happen for 15 or 20 years and why is it happening now? I know with the additional homes going up you are going to have a little more issue but I mean is that our answer for that? Superintendent Hastings stated it is kind of the reason why storm water utilities are being created because of all of the development, you can't just look at Sheffield Lake as we are at the end of the game. So all of the development we see in our neighboring communities and land clearing has a water shed that is moving twice as quick and ultimately coming right here through that ditch that the railroad hasn't cleaned and it is all wide open and nice and big and right through our homes. So it has a lot to do with development in and around the area, not just Sheffield Lake. In having been

employed here for several decades I don't really recall rain like this. Mr. Rosso stated I just haven't gone back to look at rainfall amounts, it is just a stuff egg to take. Superintendent Hastings stated I understand and it has to do with development, woods, all of the areas that otherwise would have retained and held that water are now shedding that water twice as fast. It is exactly why these utilities are cropping up all over the state. I was just trained by the EPA, I am supposed to go out and bag this water, sample it for a nonpoint pollution source. It is astounding the requirements, when in reality I would just like to keep it moving. Mr. Rosso asked what have we done to try to correct this from the last time this happened? You guys mentioned the pump station, how old is the pump station? I have talked to a few people. Superintendent Hastings answered well they are in phases; they go back to 1947 which is the oldest part of pump station#1, we had a major rehaul in 1995 which included all brand new german pumps but you fast forward 20 plus years now. All of the equipment that measures the data and all of that is aged and not working, so we have to hire companies to have all the data to submit to the EPA who won't even look at you unless you have a plan and a date and all that in place. So as long as I have been assisting the Mayor that is what we have been doing. Mayor Bring added part of the problem is too we have a real high concentration of houses, you go back to what we are talking about. When you look at back in the 50's and what they required as far putting in sewers and putting in drainage and stuff like that. The engineers now realize everything was kind of undersized which I think everybody agrees. Look what happened to Avon over there with Red tail and North Ridgeville and everything and they realized they made a big mistake over there but part of the reason is that we are probably paying for some of that under-engineered piping from way back which again yes that is probably a big part of the problem but the part of digging up and changing it is where it is all money related. Unfortunately your street seems to be taking the hit but we did get calls from Belle and Devonshire was terrible as I went down there and Lakewood Beach was terrible. Lake Road we had water over it and Dr. Evans had water running into his garage last night from the water coming off where his Dad's old house was down there. Those properties over there were all filled with water but we are getting a lot of water from the south, from the Village and stuff and that is all coming our way. I will tell you that they wanted to bring more towards and we will fight that tooth and nail. I don't have an answer for you but it is not like we are going to ignore it, we keep trying to do what we think is good. We cleaned up Idlewood ditch and we cut those trees down, that is going to be in 3 phases. I would like to go in there and grind those stumps out and then re-dig all that and get that all out. I still don't think that is going to solve your problem. We camera'd that as we found an obstruction and we got that out of there. The last time it rained I asked Bill if everything was okay and he said yes and I was all

excited and then this morning you could have popped a balloon on my butt because I was so upset of it happening again. It is frustrating but it is like we are going to ignore you, we are going to try to do everything we possibly can. I think after we get done here with this Devonshire project we will start going over there and taking a look at that and camera-ing it and testing. A lot of it has to be with all the water that is going into the sanitary, we have a lot of infiltration. Mr. Rosso stated do we know like a pump truck with it pumping out sewers over that way today. A couple of neighbors saw them? Superintendent Hastings advised the vac truck was out shooting out the lines, that kind of rain moves leaves and debris and so forth that are in the ditches. Mayor Bring advised that is another problem, you hate to keep blaming a lot of stuff on the residents but a lot of people have to take the responsibility to clean out their own ditches with leaves and stuff like that. We have a lot of renters and renters don't seem to care about that. The homeowners seem to do a pretty decent job and need to have the residents take responsibility to clean out the leaves because when that gets plugged up it backs up too. That all has an effect all the way down the line. Our guys go out and take breaks and move the leaves and we got some of those leaf vac's that we are going to use this year to do that but again if a homeowner goes out and does that it would take him 20 minutes to his ditch but we ultimately getting blamed for that. It is not supposed to be our responsibility. It is just accumulated things that happen and this rain has been bad. It didn't help that we had 245 hours of rain the other day, albeit it was not hard. This one rained and all the water shed off the ground and it all ran into everybody's houses and stuff.

David Dunn, 4119 Holl Avenue stated I don't know if you guys are aware of this but those woods on the other side of the railroad tracks over there, that guy that owns those woods dug a trench so who gives him permission to dig a trench to tie into these sewer lines? Superintendent Hastings answered that is private property. Mr. Dunn asked wouldn't you have to have a permit to do something like that or get it approved? Superintendent Hastings asked are you talking about the woods north of Club Carousel? Mr. Dunn stated right across the railroad tracks. Mayor Bring answered that is the Village. Mr. Dunn stated that is the Village, I understand that but that ties right into that ditch but what I am wanting to know is wouldn't you have to have a permit to do that and ever since that has been done is when we started having problems with flooding. Superintendent Hastings stated truthfully I wasn't even aware of that. Mayor Bring advised that is Mr. Debottis. Mayor Bring continued I also agree with you that when the railroad cleaned that big ditch out and it seems like it collecting more water, it is bringing more water towards us too. I do agree with you on that. That is very frustrating, just like Pat said unfortunately we are the end users because everybody is trying to get the water to go to the lake. That has bothered me since that has happened because that

seems to have brought more water towards us. If he dug that, that doesn't get it through the City of Sheffield Lake. Mr. Dunn stated I understand but after what just happened again. President Rosso stated but if there was he probably got it from the Village, he wouldn't have to come to Sheffield Lake for it because it is Village property. Mr. Dunn asked wouldn't that be a study, somebody should have studied that. President Rosso stated again that is all on the Village that we can't control. Mr. Dunn stated we called the Village about it and they said it is Sheffield Lake's property. Somebody needs to figure out whose property is. President Rosso stated it is Sheffield Lake's problem that their water is coming in too fast into our city. They could care less because their streets and homes don't flooded as bad. That is why it is our problem. Mr. Dunn asked are we allowed to take the matter into our own hands, I will go over there and dig that thing up and cap it. President Rosso quipped as long as the Village police don't get you. Mr. Dunn stated or send this guy a bill for having to redo our basements, I am sick and tired of doing this and I just got mine done and now I have to do it again. It is ridiculous. Mayor Bring stated I know that when Rosa and I were talking about the storm water too, she was on the storm water and so was I which this is part of the problem is that Storm water Utility is we are getting all the water to us and we are also paying for all that. I think her and I both agree that if everybody is shipping their water towards us we should be getting some kind of monetary reimbursement for that so that we can repair or do whatever we have to do to take care of these problems. That has not transpired so that is something that we have to work on. Councilperson Gee stated the Federal Government has started a thing connected with the Great Lakes Initiative. They are just recently starting to discuss end source, a lot of communities are in the same boat that we are in and they are honestly starting to do studies on it and look and see what can be done legally for the cities south of the end source. Let's pray it moves a lot quicker than most government things do as it is a big issue.

Mayor Bring advised we appreciate you guys being calm about it, I can't tell every time it rains we just cringe. President Rosso stated these guys only have to hear it every couple of months, I got to hear it every holiday. Councilman Erdei stated I have got a question because I got calls from Warwick Drive in between my episode and they said there was an orange cone or something about a sewer for about a week. Council-at-Large Cizl stated there still is. Mayor Bring answered that is because that sewer grate dropped and we put the cone there that is all it was. Superintendent Hastings stated it is the castings, it doesn't affect the drain. It is the safety of the weight of a vehicle. President Rosso stated the south end of Warwick doesn't have storm water drains, it runs through gutters up until Forestlawn. So that grate that is covered in the intersection there then that water starts going back up to the south side. Mayor Bring stated he turned the pump on last night and

everything was running fine. We had so much water it was going into the pump station but it was running down the steps that is how much water there was. That cone thing had nothing to do with anything. Councilman Wtulich stated you said the water coming from the east to the west has so much pressure, is that from where the pumps throttled at or is it just from how much water is coming through there? Superintendent Hastings answered it is driven by floats and then those pumps are at about 2000 gallons a minute so it is very powerful but it is based on these float actuators so obviously they were at max so off they go. We have tried to control that so that we don't flood people but we are not allowed to bypass to Lake Erie so if I shut off a pump I am bypassing to Lake Erie. Councilman Smith stated that was a big issue before because every time it rained bypass to the lake. Superintendent Hastings stated we have to write a report and it is off to Chicago. Councilman Smith asked how long ago was that that they said we can't do that anymore. Superintendent Hastings answered it has been a while, 10 years or so. We are still mandated to report it all the way to Chicago, it is very serious. Councilman Smith stated we have had more flooding issues since that stopped, you just can't do it no more. Superintendent Hastings concurred that is exactly right. Councilman Erdei stated so then that sewer, the sanitary where it runs through my front and I put that back-flow valve in there. My back-flow is working good but we can't use nothing in the house, water or nothing for at least 2 or 3 hours. That has only happened maybe like 3 times with the heavy rains but that is all flowing? Superintendent Hastings answered yes we had it all activated last night. Mayor Bring advised the problem is your back-flow valve is trying to push against all that pressure that is why you can't use anything in your house. We just discussed this because there was another gentleman that was on Facebook that said his house flooded, again he has got the drain there and has a flap just like you do but he is trying to push water through the flap and all the water is pushing back towards it so that flap is not going to open up because there is too much pressure on it. Well everything is coming back into his house. When that is happening you can't do a shower, you can't do laundry and you got to be very careful when you go to the bathroom. It works good to keep it from coming in but it also isn't going to push it back out.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Councils Agenda –

Council#010 – SECOND READING – an ordinance by the Council of the City of Sheffield Lake amending the zoning classification of the five lots known as permanent parcel numbers 03-00-033-108-006 through 03-00-033-108-110 located on the east side of Pleasantview Dr from R-1 single family residential to B-4 business.

Council#012 – SECOND READING – an ordinance amending section 121.08 of the codified ordinances of Sheffield Lake regarding littering and the declaring of an emergency.

Council#013 – SECOND READING – an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Greve Chrysler for the purchase of one Police Department vehicle and the declaring of an emergency.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 7:42 pm.

CLERK OF COUNCIL AFFIRMATION: This Meeting Of The City Council Of The City Of Sheffield Lake, Ohio Was Held And Conducted Under All Rules And Regulations Governing The Sunshine Laws Of The State Of Ohio As They May Apply. All meetings are recorded and available in council offices.

CLERK OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEES
Kay Fantauzzi

MAYOR
Dennis Bring

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 March 15, 2016.

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM
Alan Smith