

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
February 28, 2023**

This regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, February 28, 2023. Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Present: President Rosso, Stark, Radeff, Kovach, Gee, Cizl, Wtulich, Mayor Bring, Finance Director Smith, Service Director Hastings, Law Director Graves.
Excused: None.
Attending: Videographer, Chief Kory, Members of the Police Dept., media, citizens.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Council - *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas all.

Worksession - *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Ohio EPA. *Motion by Cizl/Second by Gee that council has no comments or objections. Yeas All.

PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Bring submitted Roger Watkins for the position of full-time police patrolman. *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the appointment.

ROLL CALL: Wtulich, Radeff, Stark, Gee, Kovach, Cizl. Yeas All. Mayor Bring submitted Ernest Sivert for the position of full-time police patrolman. *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the appointment. **ROLL CALL:** Stark, Kovach, Wtulich, Gee, Cizl, Radeff. Yeas All. Mayor Bring submitted Charles Ehlinger for the position of full-time police patrolman. *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the appointment. **ROLL CALL:** Wtulich, Radeff, Stark, Gee, Kovach, Cizl. Yeas All.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse. None. **Safety:** None. **/Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment:** None. **/Ordinance:** None. **/Finance:** None. **/Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks Community Center:** Representative Gee reviewed the minutes of the February 27, 2023 meeting. **/Council Representative to the Park Board:** Representative Kovach reviewed the minutes of the February 20, 2023 meeting. **/Representative to the Planning Commission:** None. **/Council Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals:** N/A.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR/SAFETY: Mayor Bring reports I would like to congratulate the Brookside basketball team. They beat Keystone for the first time in a long time. I am now going to read a statement and it is the only comment I will be making in this tonight. There has been a lot of talk about my decision to suspend the K9 unit. Some of the information out there is not accurate. I want residents to know the background and facts concerning my decision. We have a Ford F-150 that police have used for the past 3 years. It's been

used for patrol and to put items in the bed, for example: bikes that get recovered. It makes it easier than trying to put them in one of the explorers. Some officers felt this vehicle could not be used for pursuit. They also said it was not equipped to do pushes, etc. Sheffield Lake has had a long standing practice that officers are not to get into a pursuit. This is because the city is small, houses are close together and I believe there is a legitimate concern for safety of residents and visitors. These officers took their complaint to the union and ultimately, it was determined the Ford pickup should not be used on patrol. Once I knew the truck could not be used on patrol, I had 2 choices; buy a brand new \$65,000 vehicle or take a vehicle we already had and put it back into service for patrol. The only 2 vehicles we had were the chief's vehicle and the K9 vehicle. I decided it was in the best interest of the taxpayers to put the canine vehicle back into patrol. This meant I was suspending the K9 unit. I honestly believe it is more important for our residents' safety to have vehicles on patrol than to have a canine unit. It should be noted that the dog has been called for service just 1-2 times since being certified last year. A couple more facts, there is some confusion about private donations made to support the dog. Every penny of the \$10,128 is being refunded to the donors. That recommendation is part of the finance report this evening. Yes, that means the city will incur dog expenses. However, going forward there will be cost savings for ongoing training, food, vet care, health insurance, etc. There has also been information about environmental safety conditions for officers. The city is hiring a firm to conduct an inspection and I will keep council informed about this matter. Let me just say that my goal, my interest, has always been making this city better for the people that live here and pay taxes. Some may not agree with me and the way I have done things, but I have done what I thought was right. I want the residents to know that my sincere goal has always been about doing what is best for the city and them. *Motion by Gee/Second by Stark to accept the report. Yeas All. **SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Service Director Hastings reports the Lorain County Commissioners approved a contract with Buckeye Excavating in the amount of \$633,451 for the Alameda waterline and roadway rehabilitation project. Also last week, the Ohio Water Development Authority approved our loan which supports this project in the amount of \$367,090. We have a pre-construction meeting this Thursday with construction anticipated to begin in April. The city authorized engineering for our Warwick project in the amount of \$57,000. This is so we can get ahead and bid the project out in advance of the OPWC funds which become available July 1st. The city also authorized preliminary design and engineering to rehabilitate the Forest Lawn ditch in the amount of \$8,600. I have some legislation in front of you this evening and I ask for your consideration to suspend the rules. Finally, I have 3 grants my office is currently working on. The first being the Lorain County Health Board has the grant process out where I hope to partner with the local library and rotary club to finish the asphalt around the storybook trail. I am also pursuing a NOPEC grant for new digital messaging at the Joyce Hanks Community Center. Lastly, I am pursuing the replacement of the roof at the center. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Finance Director Smith reports before you is Council #07 that has been revised to include refunds for the K9 donations. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/LAW DIRECTORS REPORT:** Law Director Graves reports on the legislation for the evening. Councilwoman Gee asks Council #09 with NOPEC, could you explain how

this does or does not affect residents? Law Director Graves replies this is just to apply for grants, it has no impact on the residents. *Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: *Barb Miller, 891 Harris Rd.* states I am here pedaling tickets for the Sheffield city schools endowment fund dinner. It is on the 25th of March, and they are \$30 apiece. I also have tickets for cash raffles and the price on those tickets are \$20 apiece. You pay \$20 for a chance at winning \$250. If you want tickets, let me know.

Carol Balog, 585 Buckeye Dr. says my questions were for the mayor. My first question is how many patrolmen do we have each shift? How many vehicles are there to accommodate those officers? Did you consult city council or outside resources before doing away with the canine unit, in which you have no expertise in? Can the vehicle still be used for detaining or making arrests? Did you solely make a decision to do away with the program because of an officer making a complaint? On behalf of the residents of Sheffield Lake, these answers will be received one way or the other. Our voices are not going to go unheard any longer.

Matt Dietes, 880 Harris Rd. says I have been a handler and trainer for military working dogs and police working dogs for 20 years. I have been deployed overseas numerous times with a dog in war zones. When I moved here, I was very pleased to hear we were going to have a K9 unit. These dogs are more then to find drugs and apprehend criminals, they can save lives and find lost children. I wish the mayor would reconsider disbanding such a valuable resource to the city. If you would like to discuss that with me, I would love to help you understand that and even help with in house training and volunteer my time, etc. Mayor Bring replies you can come to my office and discuss that anytime.

Elizabeth Smith, 4146 Forestlawn Ave. asks I used to deliver meals and I want to know why did they stop? A lot of the people that get the meals now have to pay whereas before they just wanted a donation. Some of these people need the meals. President Rosso asks Meals on Wheels that used to be at the civic center? Ms. Smith replies yes. They used to have at Christmastime meals that you could pick up for low income people and the other side was for toys, are they going to continue to have that or no? Law Director Graves replies the Meals on Wheels and other programs designed for seniors used to be the Lorain County Office on Aging and that program has been taken over by Neighborhood Alliance under the same contract terms we had with the Lorain County Office on Aging. I am not aware of any changes to the program, but if so, I would contact Neighborhood Alliance and make them aware. They aren't doing the program out of the center any longer. Ms. Smith asks so where do they go? Mayor Bring responds Neighborhood Alliance is in Elyria. Leave your name and number and I'll see if I can find a contact for you. Service Director Hastings says in reference to the program for food and toys, that is still continuing. That is supported through Community Civic Council and chaired by Lynette Moore, so that program does still exist. Councilwoman Gee says there are booklets out in the hall that list all the food banks for Lorain County. If it is a senior in Sheffield Lake, all they have to do is call my home.

Rodney Bonner, 711 East Dr. says I am the quartermaster for VFW post 8686 across the street. We received notification about the suspension of the K9 program and there seemed to be some confusion about whether or not we were expecting money to be returned. I can assure you that when we make a donation to the city, as long as it is used for the program or what it was asked for, even if the program ends, we do not expect the money returned. While we were disappointed to learn about the suspension, sometimes those things are necessary. If the money gets returned, that is great, if not, that is fine. We look forward to continuing to assist the city and doing what we can to make the community a better place. President Rosso says I was at the open house on Saturday with the new murals the students did and what a fantastic combination between the schools, students and veterans. Thank you and the rest of the guys at the post. I know you also gave a \$5,000 donation to the high school drama and arts dept., great job.

Kayleigh McCoy, 583 Maple Ave says I am a resident and member of the OPBA. I want to first congratulate our new officers. This is a great community to live in and a great community to work for. Lenny the dog is at home, and he is fabulous and happy, but he wants to be at work. I think we should be able to come to a peaceful resolution to get him back working, he will be two on Mar. 14th. I come from a long background of law enforcement officers and that is what he is. My kid's hero was fired for no reason.

Teri Kozak, 577 Maple Ave. says I live next door to Lenny and I have watched the officers training the dog. I have seen them working very well with the dog. I see he is well taken care of. As far as it goes, I feel he has been trained and is now not being used. I know we have had missing people here. I think it is an ideal thing to have and a valuable asset.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: *Motion by Gee/Second by Wtulich to amend Council #07 to include the new increase for refunds. Yeas All.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Cizl to amend the agenda to include Council #014. Yeas All.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

COUNCIL #07- FIRST READING- AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, INCREASE, AND/OR DECREASE OF CERTAIN FUNDS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO, AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: Cizl, Stark, Wtulich, Kovach, Gee, Radeff. Yeas All.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Gee, Kovach, Wtulich, Stark, Cizl, Radeff. Yeas All.

Ordinance Passes #7-23

COUNCIL #08- FIRST READING- A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE USE OF SUBMERGED LANDS FOR PROPOSED SHORE STRUCTURES LOCATED BETWEEN 5165 AND 5205 EDGEWATER DRIVE, SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: Kovach, Cizl, Gee, Wtulich, Stark, Radeff. Yeas All.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Radeff, Wtulich, Stark, Kovach, Gee, Cizl. Yeas All.

Resolution Passes #8-23

COUNCIL #09- FIRST READING- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) TO ACCEPT NOPEC 2023 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT(S) FUNDS AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: Wtulich, Radeff, Stark, Gee, Kovach, Cizl. Yeas All.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Stark, Kovach, Wtulich, Gee, Cizl, Radeff. Yeas All.

Ordinance Passes #9-23

COUNCIL #010- FIRST READING- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO SELL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT OWNED BY THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE WHICH ARE OBSOLETE, NOT NEEDED OR UNFIT FOR PUBLIC USE AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

COUNCIL #011- FIRST READING- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF PREMIUM NO LEAD GASOLINE, REGULAR NO LEAD GASOLINE, PREMIUM LOW SULFUR DIESEL FUEL, #304 LIMESTONE, #57 LIMESTONE, #8 LIMESTONE, #1 & #2 LIMESTONE, CONCRETE PLACEMENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE 2023 SIDEWALK TARGET LIST, AND ASPHALT PLACEMENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE 2023 ROAD SECTIONS TARGET LIST, AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: Kovach, Cizl, Gee, Wtulich, Stark, Radeff. Yeas All.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Radeff, Wtulich, Stark, Kovach, Gee, Cizl. Yeas All.

Ordinance Passes #10-23

COUNCIL #012- FIRST READING- AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND POLICY FOR THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: Wtulich, Radeff, Stark, Gee, Kovach, Cizl. Yeas All.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Stark, Kovach, Wtulich, Gee, Cizl, Radeff. Yeas All.

Ordinance Passes #11-23

COUNCIL #013- FIRST READING- A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE OHIO GOVERNOR AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RESTORE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND TO PRE-RECESSION LEVELS AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: Cizl, Stark, Wtulich, Kovach, Gee, Radeff. Yeas All.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Gee, Kovach, Wtulich, Stark, Cizl, Radeff. Yeas All.

Resolution Passes #12-23

COUNCIL #014- FIRST READING- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF MAZANEC, RASKIN & RYDER CO., L.P.A. TO ASSIST THE DIRECTOR OF LAW WITH LITIGATION AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: Kovach, Cizl, Gee, Wtulich, Stark, Radeff. Yeas All.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Radeff, Wtulich, Stark, Kovach, Gee, Cizl. Yeas All.

Ordinance Passes #13-23

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: President Rosso says it is nice to see whether we agree or disagree that we can talk professionally and as adults. I think you all for the behavior this evening and sharing your concerns. They did not fall on deaf ears. I thank you all for coming.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Wtulich to adjourn at 7:55 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.

CLERK OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEES

Brandy Randolph

I, Brandy Randolph, duly appointed Clerk of Council of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of COUNCIL of February 28, 2023.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Rick Rosso

MAYOR

Dennis Bring