

**Minutes of the Ordinance Committee meeting**  
*Sheffield Lake, Ohio*  
**July 10, 2023**

This regular meeting of the Ordinance Committee was held Tuesday, July 10, 2023. Chairman Radeff called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Radeff, Wtulich, Cizl, Mayor Bring.  
Excused: Law Director Graves, Service Director Hastings.  
Attending: Chief Kory, President Rosso, citizens.

**MINUTES:** June 6, 2023 \*Motion by Wtulich/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** A lengthy discussion is had on golf carts and the parking ban with the following key points. Chairman Radeff says I have been able to review the documents presented to the safety committee and have considered the arguments presented and appreciate the concerns involving the parking ban from the service and fire dept., but I believe there is room for compromise. As a councilman, we have to weigh the concerns of the city against the burden put on the citizens we represent. A lot of the houses were built in the 1960's as single family homes with driveways with 1-2 cars expected. Nowadays it is not uncommon for every person who is a licensed driver in the family to have a car. Maybe there are some options we can discuss like limiting parking to one side on certain streets that have width threshold. I know Lorain does that and some other cities. I would still keep a snow ban in effect and maybe keep the parking ban in the winter. Another one would be limit the number of cars on the street. In Rittman you can have 1 car per house on the street, you just have to register it. You could also say you have to park a certain distance from each other. We can go over what does the city do the other 20 hours of the day since the ban is for 4 hours. What is the difference between 1-2am? I just want a feel for the thought process. As far as golf carts, I think they would be a really good advantage to the city. I think they are more economical and fuel efficient, environmentally friendly. Most roads in Sheffield Lake are 25mph. They promote a community friendly form of transportation. Cyclists and pedestrians are safer I believe when you have lower speed traffic. I obtained statistics from the Ohio State Highway Patrol and it is all the crashes that have occurred from 2019 to June 2023. Since 2019 there have been 2.1 million units involved. Units are pedestrians, bikes, trailers, wheelchairs, etc. Of that, .012% of those were from golf carts. Just in Lorain County there were 47,526 units involved in crashes and .0042% of that were golf

carts. There were 2 crashes, one had major injuries and one had minor injuries and neither were fatal. I think as a council we can't regulate risks that an individual is willing to take. With this, I think there is also room for compromise like you must be a licensed driver, only on 25mph roads, etc. Member Wtulich says for many decades the city operated with off street parking. Whole neighborhoods only have single lane driveways. For residents who it does not affect, it's a no brainer to continue the parking ban. For the residents who are burdened doing the car shuffle every night, it is a major inconvenience. There is also a safety factor with thousands of extra backings out of driveways each year that is caused by the ban. It does not affect me personally anymore, but I sympathize with the parents who have to remind their teenagers to pull their cars in before bed so they don't get a ticket. I realize it will make our services employees a bit more challenging, but they are already doing it the other 20 hours the ban is not in place. I would like to look at the legislation and if not repeal the parking ban, at least work towards a compromise. On the issue of golf carts, I think we can come up with a healthy set of rules to safely allow operation in the city. I think sometimes we over legislate using safety as a reason for not allowing certain freedoms. My sister-in-law lives in the outer banks in North Carolina and it is legal to drive golf carts there as long as they are street legal, have a licensed driver and not on major roads. I draw this comparison because we are a lakefront community and should lean into that more if possible. Member Cizl says I have been many places where golf carts are very popular and I know Vermilion is the only city in Northern Ohio along the lake that has golf carts right now. Ideally, if we were a vacationland, I would say maybe let's look at that, but I don't see that's the case where we are now. Since we are a winter community, I don't see golf carts being used all year. I think it's just going to be another vehicle we have to deal with; stored in the yard, stored in driveways, etc. I am willing to listen to both sides. I did pass a moped the other day on Ferndale going the wrong way on the wrong side of the road and I think golf carts is just going to add to that. I don't know how you would legislate the fact that they wouldn't be permitted on Lake Rd. except the 25mph part. We have a hard time governing the laws now. I don't see the feasibility. As far as the parking ban, I understand cars constantly being moved, I know there are a lot of vehicles in yards, and vehicles being parked for months. If you don't have to move them, the street will be where they are stored. I understand the parking ban and I appreciate the fire and police concerns and the snow plows. I'm afraid if we take away the ban, the street is going to become a parking lot. That is where I stand at this point, but I'm willing to keep an open mind. Chief Novak reads his letter that was sent to safety and ordinance committee pertaining to the fire dept's stand on the parking ban. (attached) Member Wtulich asks is it a big struggle the other times of the day when the ban is not in effect? Chief Novak replies Lt. Mariner came back from a call today and said he was going down one of the streets and there was an F-250 parked in the street and he was barely able to get the pickup truck by, it's a challenge. Chairman Radeff says I appreciate all of what you said and the concerns,

but I don't understand how we got to those 4 hours are the hours people shouldn't park, why wasn't it a full out ban? Mayor Bring replies it is night time and it is very hard to get people out of bed to move the vehicles. The rest of the time, day time, they can move the vehicles. At night when everyone is sleeping and we get a lot of snowfall, they can't get people out of bed. We had to get the police to go around and get them and blow their horns and get the lights out and sometimes we had to tow the cars. The issues of parking on the street are they destroyed the street by parking on the edges. The previous service director complained about that on East and West Dr. There were all the junk cars, we had kids breaking into cars and the police couldn't see the kids because they would move in and out of the cars hiding. I don't understand why we want to go backwards now after we got everybody comfortable with this. There are a few occasions and I agree there are some people that have some problems here. City hall gets maybe a dozen phone calls a year about if they can park on the street like for when they are getting a driveway done and we say yes. There are no issues. If there were 200-300 people calling, I would say we have a problem here, but 12 people a year? With golf carts, they are called that because what do you use them for? Golf. Why do you want to put them on the streets? How many people have gotten killed on Lake Rd. riding their bicycles the past couple years? You want to put a golf cart there now with 4 people and have 4 people get killed? Where are you going to put them on Lake Rd.? The bike path? They aren't allowed on there. Member Wtulich says definitely wouldn't be allowed on Lake Rd. I'd say. Mayor Bring asks who is going to make all these rules and who is going to follow them? Chairman Radeff replies that is an enforcement thing. Mayor Bring says you have the fire dept., the police dept., the service dept. and the safety director telling you it's not right. You think it's over legislating? I think you are trying to protect the people from getting hurt. Chairman Radeff says I am going by the stats and what was reported. Mayor Bring says the stats say there are no accidents with golf carts because nobody around here has golf carts. Chairman Radeff says this is from Lorain County where they allow them in multiple cities, it's not an uncommon thing. It's not our job to tell people what risks they get to take. People get hurt on bicycles, walking down the street, on scooters, etc. Mayor Bring replies it's your legislators that make rules for the city to make the city as safe as you possibly can. Chairman Radeff states I don't think there is an argument that golf carts are unsafe. Chief Kory says I have some concerns with the parking ban and the narrow streets. Some things we have to think about are school buses, garbage trucks, safety services, etc. I can't get around to pass that stuff and have to turn around and backup a lot of times. It adds delay to our calls and is an area of concern and something to think about. Abandoned vehicles as you become more lax with parking on the streets, people are more inclined to leave it on the streets and forget about it. It's just another increase to police resources. With crime prevention, at least one occasion the parking ban has led to helping with a burglary investigation. It leads to an increase in the opportunity to commit vehicle entries. On golf carts, my concerns with that are they

don't have the same safety measures as motor vehicles. A motor vehicle gets hit at 35mph, chances are the people will be ok, a golf cart gets hit at that and there is increased risk of injury. Then there are the traffic violations. We already have an issue responding to speeding, mopeds, etc. Golf carts would add another traffic element to that. With inspections, if we are in charge, I just want to be sure that we wouldn't be liable for anything. If we say yeah, it has all the safety equipment, are we then saying yes, it is safe? I don't know enough about inspections to speak more on that, but it is something I would want addressed and a proper answer to before we move forward. We aren't a vacation community; we don't have boating areas other than the boat launch; we don't have golfing or a food district or anything centralized. Basically, if we had golf carts, it would be just to get groceries.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY:** *Bev Codner, 4131 Belle Ave.* asks how wide is Sheffield Lake in miles? Chief Novak replies 3.5 from end to end. Mrs. Codner says over the years I have had a business here and I have been tormented and my employees have been tormented on different things. I had a sailboat there and the building dept. decided that the tail end of it was sticking out and I had to remove it or be fined. I have since closed my business. The new owners have pushed dirt onto city property and cars are parked on grass. They are supposed to park at 2 in the morning, come on, 2-4, I saw Karen McCullough in the store and asked is it beautifying your street or what? She said I was told to keep my mouth shut. If you need an ambulance, where does it go? It goes way to the house. They don't care if they are on the grass or nothing. We never said anything about parking on both sides of the street, we said one side of the street. I don't know what else to do. My employees, they have towed a car right off the property. They towed this thing three times and have harassed him last week or the week before. This is bologna. My neighbors are great neighbors, but when they park on the grass day in and day out, that's ok. You guys do what you want and about the golf carts, we can't make people come around and go to that shopping center. Nobody comes to Sheffield Lake because they haven't heard anything good about us.

*Rick Rosso, 4054 Lake Rd.* says I am not going to argue for or against, I have my feelings on both topics. Other than Lorain, I believe almost every community I go through has the parking ban from 2-6. I worked in Mayfield Heights and you drive through there, Mayfield, Gates Mills, etc. and they all have a parking ban. When everybody has it by us, why would we take it away? Obviously, it is there for a reason. The statement about Karen McCullough being told to keep her mouth shut, is an interesting comment, because she was on council and introduced the legislation for the parking ban and actively pushed it through. Council passed it unanimously back then. Our roads are small and not as wide as they should be. Golf carts also, when we voted on it, it was unanimous. The mayor vetoed it and we unanimously

overrode his veto. I don't see the advantage for golf carts. But that is what democracy is, we talk, get the feeling, try to do what everybody wants. On the parking ban, we had public meetings and there were more people here that argued for it. As far as one side or the other, every street has a fire hydrant and you can't park on that side anyway. I just wanted to share some history of how we got to where we are at.

*Carol Balog, 585 Buckeye Dr.* states the houses on the lakeside of Sheffield Lake sit far enough back allowing for 6-10 cars to be parked there and not everybody is entitled to that privilege. If you go down the Knolls, Madison, Northwood, Pinewood, those streets were built with the ability to only park 2 vehicles. That is where a lot of our community has kids. The street is absolutely necessary due to the fact that they can't park in their side yard because that is a violation. A lot of these homes are too close together to expand driveways, therefore leaving no option. I don't see how the 2-6 parking ban serves the citizens. If you agree this is a safety concern, then are you only worried about the resident's safety from 2-6am? It doesn't make sense to most. Mayor Bring it seems your supporters are the ones giving push back and if no compromise can be made, then maybe it should go on the ballot and let the people vote. A short argument with multiple people talking and yelling is had.

*Jennifer Diaz, 512 Treadway Blvd.* says with the parking ban in 2015-2014 is when it went into effect. At the time I had a teenage daughter and my husband and I had to invest \$2,000 to put a driveway in. It was a financial strain on us. It has been 7 years, what are the crime statistics from then until now? Have you seen a decrease in crime? I have been here since 1999 and my husband has been a lifelong member here. As far as golf carts, I can go either way. If I choose to do it, that is my responsibility to check that my vehicle is equipped safely. When you said people are parking on blocks and grass, that's illegal and against the ordinance and the responsibility of our safety forces to ticket those people. My suggestion is if you see 5 on your street, you have the resources, reach out to our law dept. and get them citations. A lot of people affected are on Irving Park. I also agree it should go to the people. Our community has changed immensely over the last 8 years. I understand other communities have it, but those communities have different driveways and are setup differently. Sheffield Lake is very limited in space.

*Romolo DeBottis, 868 Lake Breeze Rd.* says I have lived here almost 40 years and I lived in Brook Park previously. Every house there looks like a teepee. 50ft. lots, some are 40, the houses are scrunched together. From day one there was always a parking ban like here, but that was started in the 60's. You could barely fit your car to go up in the garage. At the end of the day, the community looked great. We are talking about a parking ban that is only 4 hours. When I first moved here, I saw cars in the street 24/7, many abandoned cars sat there for months or years. Since the ban went into effect, I think aesthetically the city looks great. Another thing the ban has done is kept the cars off the street throughout the day. People are now trained to keep their cars off the street. I would say there is an 80% reduction from when I first moved here. I know it's a strain on some people. Before I ran for mayor, I spent

thousands of dollars on a survey that we mailed out. 2,000 questionnaires went out to people. There were three people in this city out of 2,000 that mentioned the parking ban. The concerns were we have other things in this city to straighten out. Not one person mentioned a golf cart.

*Kathy DeBottis, 868 Lake Breeze Rd.* says we have lived here 36 years and I agree with Mr. Cizl. Golf carts don't belong here. We aren't a camping community; we aren't a boating community and we don't even have beachfront. Where are they going to drive their golf carts to? As far as the cars on the streets, I think that helped because there was a lot of cars being vandalized. I am not for either one.

*Steve Kovach, Council at Large,* says even though you are a very interested bunch of people, you represent a very small portion of the community. I feel we would have to have a lot of public meetings again to discuss all these concerns. Before I vote for or against an ordinance of any kind, I consider all 9,000 people in this community whether it be children, adults, seniors, etc. I will not side either way on this, I have my feelings. I was around on both votes and I hope council makes the best decision after long and healthy discussion.

Mayor Bring says the school bus drivers also contacted us with concerns of the kids running in between the cars and not being able to see them.

**ORDINANCE/RESOLUTIONS BEFORE COUNCIL AT THIS TIME:**

**Council #025-SECOND READING-** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR THE SALE OF TWO VACANT LOTS KNOWN AS PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 03-00-038-120-017 AND 03-00-038-120-018 LOCATED ON MAPLEWOOD AVENUE AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

Bob Blazina, 731 Howell St. says myself and a lot of people I have talked to at my place of business are all looking forward to having a new regime under Rocky.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, \*Motion by Wtulich/Second by Cizl to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Yeas All.

**CLERK OF COMMITTEE AFFIRMATION:**

This Meeting of the City Committee of the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, was 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's Office.

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**CLERK OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEES**

*Brandy Randolph*

I, Brandy Randolph, duly appointed Clerk of Committee  
Of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this

Is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of the  
Ordinance Committee of July 10, 2023

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**CHAIRPERSON**

*Rocky Radeff*

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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

*Rick Rosso*