

**Minutes of the Safety Committee
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
July 5, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday July 5, 2023.
Chairwoman Stark called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Stark, Gee, Kovach, Mayor Bring, Fire Chief Novak, Police Chief Kory.
Excused: None.
Attending: President Rosso, Councilman Cizl, citizens.

MINUTES:

*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the June 7, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairwoman Stark says we did receive notice from Chief Novak in regards to the viewing of the parking ban, as well as a letter from our service director. There is also information regarding golf carts.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

Reports from Safety Forces:

Police Chief's report – Chief Kory reports for the month of June we had 1,046 calls for service. It is relatively high due to the amount of premise checks, 546. The only thing of note is our animal complaints are up to 26 for the month, which is a lot. Welfare checks were up as well. We did have a call for an atm machine stolen out of Risko's and it is under investigation. With vehicle maintenance, in 703 the radio is down and in 720 we still have issues with the transmission. In your packets are the citation counts, we are up about 50 from last year. Chairwoman Stark says we will add the solar eclipse to the upcoming agenda. Chief Kory says we are in planning with staffing, etc. Chairwoman Stark asks is it possible to have traffic going one way on Lake Rd. that day? Chief Kory replies that would take a lot of discussion and coordination. Shutting down any road lies with the safety director and service director. Member Kovach asks our drug problem in this city, how bad is it? Chief Kory responds that is difficult to answer. We have a handful of overdoses a month, but it is hard to gage something people don't advertise and you don't see. Member Kovach says I was just looking for comparisons with other cities. Chief Kory says I can pull up statistics and compare and have a chart for you next meeting. Member Gee says the dog calls have gone up; I have noticed for the last 6 months that has been happening. Is it the same dogs/same residents? Chief Kory responds some of them are repeat offenders and we try to work with them to find an amicable solution like getting them fixed, etc. Member Gee says I know a lot of people are concerned about stray dogs on the walking paths and trails and dogs not on leashes. Chief Kory states I don't remember too many complaints about that, but anyone that mentions that to you, have them call and we will address it.

Fire Chief's report – Chief Novak reports in June we did 106 calls. Two of them were water rescues. One was for a sailboat possibly in distress about 2 miles off the coast and we deployed the jet skis. Lorain was able to get there first and they were not in any distress. The

second one was a watercraft that was taking on water. They were able to pull the gentleman over to the boat launch. The davits for the jet skis should be back in 2-3 weeks. Chief Kory and I attended a solar eclipse meeting over at the county. It was a what do you need from us to help you plan for it. The new squad has to be taken in for some warranty work, the airhorns aren't working and it's shaking a little bit. That will be done Monday. Member Gee asks were there any incidents over the weekend with fireworks? Chief Novak replies not that I saw in the reports.

Mayor's report- Mayor Bring reports going back to the drug issue, it is difficult to answer that question. We probably do have active drug activity in the city, but I don't think we have a lot of major players. It is unfortunate and we will deal with it. With the dogs, we do have a few more that are loose. We had one that was picked up several times and he has now been neutered. I think Covid had a lot to do with it. People were bored and got pets and now they are back to work and too busy. It's a very bad situation, these pets deserve more. The other ambulance we have is 9 years old and we discussed the possibility of ordering another new one. If it is going to take 2 years to get, we need to discuss ordering it now. I passed out 3 pamphlets, one from the fire chief, one from the police chief and one from the service director. They pertain to parking overnight and to golf carts. As the safety director, I am adamant and think neither one of these ideas is good for our city. I don't think we should go backwards. Councilman Shaw mentioned other cities having them. I could only find Vermilion and they are very limited on how they do it. It is basically around the marina area. Those are concealed with little traffic. Huron has them around the boat marina as well. As far as on the streets, none of the cities have that. I think it would be foolish to open that up to our city and I am not going to put my name on that. Parking overnight ban has been working. The police use it as well as school buses. Chief Kory says I recently ended up behind a garbage truck and I couldn't pass it with how wide it was, if you change the ban, I think people will be more inclined to park on the streets, etc. and we will have more difficulty getting around. You are creating a problem that doesn't exist right now. Mayor Bring says this morning an impatient driver passed on the double yellow line at about 50mph, if he does that and someone pulls out on a golf cart, what do you think is going to happen? It is a bad idea. Chairwoman Stark asks the leased ambulance we have, is that something we can continue to lease for a while? Chief Novak replies that was returned when we received the new ambulance, it was just a loaner. Mayor Bring says in Chief Novak's report, that new ambulance has to back up all the way down the street at a dead end because they don't have enough room to turn around. If you have cars on the street, it's very difficult. Member Gee asks I have been reading a lot on people wanting to park in the street because they don't have enough room in their driveway or because their garage has been turned into storage, etc. and the same people want golf carts, where are they going to put golf carts if they don't have room in their driveways for vehicles? Mayor Bring says they will park them on the street. Member Kovach says when I have done anything with an ordinance or issue, we are dealing with, I take into consideration all 9,000 people in this community, not 50. That is part of doing your research and due diligence. As far as the previous K9 program, have you gotten together the actual cost of that for a year? Mayor Bring replies between \$75-100,000. In 7 months, the dog was used twice and there were two other calls out to bring the dog and the officer was unavailable. Member Kovach asks our cost for an actual officer would be

somewhere in that same neighborhood, no? Mayor Bring replies about \$100,000. Member Kovach says so we could afford another officer or a lot of the equipment you have been asking about. Chief Kory replies the current cost a year for entry level patrolman is \$117,000 seasoned guys about \$130,000.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to adjourn at 7:25 PM. Yeas All.

CLERK OF COMMITTEE AFFIRMATION: This meeting of the City Committee of Governing The Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio as they may apply. All meetings are recorded and available in Council's Offices.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Brandy Randolph

CHAIRWOMAN

Leanna Stark

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 Safety Committee of July 5, 2023.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso