

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
September 12, 2023**

This regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, September 12, 2023.
Council President Pro Tem Kovach called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Present: Stark, Radeff, Kovach, Gee, Cizl, Shaw, Mayor Bring, Law Director
Graves, Finance Director Smith, Service Director Hastings.

Excused: President Rosso, Wtulich.

Attending: Chief Novak, citizens, videographer, media.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Council - *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas all.

CORRESPONDENCE: Monthly report of court receipts for August 2023- \$2,939.08.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse: *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the sewer credit for 4675 Edgewater Dr. Yeas All. *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the sewer credit for 937 Stark St. Yeas All. *Motion by Kovach/Second by Cizl to approve the sewer credit at 4205 Lake Rd. Yeas All. **/Safety:** Chairwoman Stark reviewed the minutes of the Sept. 6, 2023 meeting. Councilman Shaw asks is there any status on getting new cruisers? I know the cars are going down and I think they haven't got cars in a year or two. Is there an update to getting them money for new cruisers? Mayor Bring asks what cars went down? Councilman Shaw replies I know they can go down. Mayor Bring replies but they're not. We have a program we have been working with for the last 8-9 years. Councilman Shaw says I know how important it is to get new vehicles for law enforcement. I know the transmission I believe is out in one and you can only go forward, not reverse. Mayor Bring states that was fixed. I have talked to the chief about it and we are not going to do anything this year. Councilman Shaw asks what about man power? With the detective bureau working the road, that really limits everyone. Mayor Bring says they have already gone \$45,000 over the budget. Councilman Shaw says the Village of Wellington has a population of 4,824 people and they staff consistently 2-3 officers a shift. Lagrange, 2,797 people and consistently 2-3 officers per shift. Sheffield lake, 9,000 people consistently 2 to maybe 3 officers per shift. We need the manpower here. I know two officers are leaving and one part time officer quit and another is leaving I think in 3 months. There is a manpower shortage where I work, we are short officers and it's hard to get them hired, but is there a plan to move forward with staffing and try to bring guys in or give the police dept. more money? Is it being looked at or talked about at all? Councilwoman Stark replies that is something we discussed at the meeting and they are in discussions; the chief and Dennis. Mayor Bring says the Wellington demographics are much larger coverage, we have 2.5

sq. miles. The need of having three officers on 2.5 sq. miles is not there. I have talked to the chief about that. Councilman Shaw says I would disagree. The calls that come into Sheffield Lake are a lot more critical and emergent than the ones in Wellington. Mayor Bring says you show me those facts and I'll discuss it with you. Councilman Shaw says you can pull the call logs and see the overdoses every night in the city. Mayor Bring states there aren't overdoses every night. Show me that. Councilman Shaw replies I will get it for you. Mayor Bring says I haven't seen that and the chief certainly hasn't reported it to me. Councilman Shaw says they are there. Mayor Bring states it's not every night, you are saying every night. Councilman Shaw replies there's overdoses almost every night, not deaths. Councilman Cizl says just for clarification, shouldn't any questions from council go to the chairman of the safety committee instead of the dialogue back and forth? Council President Pro Tem Kovach replies I would think so. We did have quite the discussion about staffing and equipment needs. My suggestion had been that there was a better possibility of using the money we had used in regards to the K9 program in regards to another officer. At that point, the mayor said we do not have money for an officer or the luxury of a K9 program. We are even unable to get the city entrance cameras that only bear an annual fee. Ms. Stark brought up adding a levy of some kind. That would have to go to the taxpayers for a vote and I'm not sure that would go well in today's economy. At this point, the budget of the police dept. is at its' max.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. ***/Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment:*** Council President Pro Tem reviews the minutes of the September 5, 2023 meeting. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. ***/Ordinance:*** Chairman Radeff reviews the minutes of the September 5, 2023 meeting. Council President Pro Tem states I think we need to promote some townhall type meetings in regards to the parking ban and golf carts. I think these issues require a lot of input and discussion. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. ***/Finance:*** None. ***/Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks Community Center:*** Representative Gee states we have a new lady that does the booking for rentals and we are partway booked in to the year 2025. The fire dept. will be looking at using the center as one of the medical stations during the solar eclipse. There is a sign-up sheet at the center behind the glass that tells you when the classes are. If you use the center, please keep in mind that tape is ruining the walls and it is starting to look bad. ***/Council Representative to the Park Board:*** Representative Kovach reviews the minutes of the August 21, 2023 meeting. ***/Representative to the Planning Commission:*** Representative Gee reviews the minutes of the August 16, 2023 meeting. ***/Council Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals:*** None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR/SAFETY: Mayor Bring reports we had an officer turn his resignation in, but he gave us 3-4 months before he is leaving. I talked to the chief today and the other gentleman that retired is a part time officer. We have two part time officers that said they would love to come on full time, so we are not concerned with manpower right now. Car 720 sat out there for about three months and I talked to the chief to take it to the shop, we did and got it back in one week. The cars are one of the reasons we talked about the K9 unit. That was a take home car and that's why we brought that back into

service. We have a maintenance program that works quite well. We also have a program to buy vehicles. As far as more men on shift, we have had 2 men on shift as long as I can remember. We went to a 3 man shift briefly, but it killed us in overtime. We have a budget and we have to follow that. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Service Director Hastings reports I have meetings setup with engineering this month; one is with the Ohio EPA for an exposed waterline at Day Ditch and I have a follow up concerning the Forestlawn Ditch. I also have a meeting to further the discussions with the US ARMY CORPS of Engineers concerning our boat launch. Their primary concerns are questioning the original construction from back in 2007. On the PERP complaint, there were some issues with the contractors we had and I have since rescheduled that to this week. At last night's Roads & Drains meeting we had extensive discussions due to the flooding. Right now, the city is responding to seven sink holes around the city. The company that was awarded the bid for the cell tower was recently at Ferndale Park and they are doing core testing. From the Park Board meeting, because it did involve an ADA complaint, the ramp going to the pirate ship playground heading due west, has been relocated and now going due south so that there is no fear of them traversing down the hill nearby. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Finance Director Smith reports in the packet tonight is council #037 which are appropriation changes. I have also provided 2022 City of Sheffield Lake property tax breakdown that shows how the taxes are distributed. Out of every \$100 we pay in property tax, \$15.48 goes to the City of Sheffield Lake. I then attached another chart that shows where that \$15.48 goes. Councilwoman Stark asks with the possible strike of the UAW, how much do you think that's gonna affect us? Finance Director Smith replies I can't see it being a lot. It would have to be a very lengthy strike. I would add none of this portion of property tax goes to the sewer, water and roads dept. Water, sewer and refuse are generated through enterprise funds. There is no property tax that gets paid for sewers. *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. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: *Joyce Nicola, 218 Mariner's Way* asks since we are getting so close to a mayor election, Rocky, what are your plans for our city? Councilman Radeff replies being city council, this is not the forum to discuss that. Ms. Nicola asks do you know how to get grants? Councilman Radeff responds again, this is not the forum.

Amelia Walters, 38919 East Lake Rd. asks has the city ever received the Ohio Dept. of Development Funding for the roads? Service Director Hastings replies OWDA? Yes. Ms. Walters asks DeWine? Service Director Hastings replies I would have to research that. I've definitely got grants, about 130 so I don't remember them all exactly. Ms. Walters asks so we have a grant writer? Service Director Hastings responds yes, me. Ms. Walters asks the \$25 million that was spent on infrastructure, how and where was that spent? Service Director Hastings replies part of the original economic development the administration took on, identified that in order to excite economic development, you needed to address every road in the city; coming into the city. Every one of which according to NOACA readings, was in poor condition. We wrote grants to replace

every major road in the city and in doing so, we replaced the infrastructure underneath it. We continue to do the infrastructure. You have to have plans to go after the grants. We put in \$1.5 million in infrastructure all around the Shoreway Shopping Center. I would have to look at my grants specifically. Ms. Walters asks do we have any of that \$25 million left? Mayor Bring replies no, it had to be spent. Service Director Hastings says the other problem is any grant you write, you have to have the matching funds to go with it. Every time we are awarded a grant, there is money set aside. Ms. Walters says I'm just trying to see if I can find the grant money to help get what needs to be done on Lake Rd.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Gee says Mr. Hastings, you mentioned the work on Warwick Dr. last night, any idea when that might start? Service Director Hastings replies we haven't actually officially awarded it yet. We do have the apparent low of Buckeye Construction, so it may still start this fall. But because Columbia Gas has identified lines back to the original construction of the area, they want to replace these and it's prudent the city work with them on that.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

COUNCIL #032- SECOND READING- A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LORAIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

COUNCIL #037- 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 Gee/Second by Cizl FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

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

*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl FOR ADOPTION.

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

Resolution Passes #36-23

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, *Motion by Cizl/Second by Stark to adjourn at 7:47 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 September 12, 2023.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM

Steve Kovach

MAYOR

Dennis Bring