

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO  
September 26, 2023**

This regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, September 26, 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, Shaw, Mayor Bring, Law Director Graves, Finance Director Smith, Service Director Hastings.

Excused: None.

Attending: Citizens, videographer.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

**Council** - \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas all.

**Worksession**- \*Motion by Kovach/Gee to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

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**CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse:** Chairman Wtulich reviewed the minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Safety:** None. **/Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment:** None. **/Ordinance:** None. **/Finance:** None. **/Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks Community Center:** Representative Gee states our police chief attended last Monday and our fire chief will come next Monday. **/Council Representative to the Park Board:** Representative Kovach reviews the minutes of the September 18, 2023 meeting. **/Representative to the Planning Commission:** None. **/Council Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals:** None.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR/SAFETY:** Mayor Bring reports there are some things from the last council meeting I would like to go over. Councilman Shaw had questioned the police cars and said cars are going down now and I don't think they have gotten any cars in a year or two. I had the chief give me a maintenance program which he gives to safety every meeting and it has details of all the cruisers. We have a total of 10 cruisers actively working right now. When I started 12 years ago, we had four and that included the police chief's cruiser. I think we have done a nice job and we do have a maintenance program. The other thing is Mr. Shaw stated we have had overdoses almost every night in our city. I had the fire chief give me a report from June until September and we had 5 calls that were given Narcan or they had hallucinatory drugs, one passed away. I asked

the police chief for a detail and since 1/3/23 to 9/14/23 we have had 36 overdoses. Out of those overdoses there were 5 deaths. Out of those 36, 10 were with prescription pills. To say we have overdoses every day is irresponsible. The proof is right here and I wanted to correct that. I went to the bonfire last night and it was very well attended and fun. Tomorrow night is the homecoming parade and then Friday we have our 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion and are attending the football game. Councilman Wtulich asks to clarify with the overdoses, 10 with pain pills and 26 with illegal drugs? Mayor Bring replies correct. Councilman Shaw asks do you know the overdose death rate in the city right now? Mayor Bring replies since the beginning of the year, we have had 5. Councilman Shaw asks what is the percentage of death per overdose? 14%? In regard to the cars, I know they were going down, I'm glad to see they are back up. Do you know how many are high mileage? Mayor Bring replies 2. Councilman Shaw asks how many are close to 80,000? Mayor Bring replies 1. President Rosso says I listened to council from the 12<sup>th</sup> and I know Adam you brought up staffing. I wasn't quite clear on where you were going. I know you mentioned Wellington and Lagrange routinely have 2-3 on staff, so were you questioning we should have three on a shift or we need more than three? Councilman Shaw replies those two villages operate anywhere about two to three officers per shift and the other day Lagrange had 5. I was questioning the City of Sheffield Lake with 9,000 residents, sitting next to Lorain which is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest city in the state and the 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> highest crime rate, we run two officers here. Other villages are running the same if not more with a lower crime rate and lower population. When you arrest someone, you are looking at around an hour and a half, that leaves one officer in the city. You can't always rely on surrounding cities for backup. I mean more manpower within the city, more guys per shift. President Rosso says I reached out to John Greever, the village manager for Wellington and he told me they have two cars on per shift and rarely do they ever put three on. They have not used 3 cars on a shift in 2023. I also spoke to Mayor Kincannon of Lagrange and he said they only have two cars per shift. They will put a third car on if something comes up, like for community days. Neither one of them gave me their total general fund income or what they spend on their forces. Both are non-union so I don't know if that impacts it. Mr. Greever said their chief also works second shift, 3-11. Our chief mentioned that FBI recommendations is about 1.5 officers on staff per 1,000 people. Councilman Shaw says I'm a police officer and I see the calls come in and I have seen Sheffield Lake call for help from surrounding cities often. The issue I'm trying to make is you have 2 officers on a shift right now and are sitting next to the 9<sup>th</sup> largest city in Ohio with a very large crime rate. If you take an officer off the streets, you have an hour and a half without an officer so you have one officer responding. If something goes bad, and other cities can't come, who are we gonna call? That's my issue. I think we should commission a crime study. President Rosso says that should all go through safety and the police chief. Mayor Bring says during the day, we have the chief, the detective and two patrolmen there so there are four people on that shift. We ran three shifts for a while, and the budget went out the door. We can't afford to do that. It's always in the back of my mind how to keep everything safe. You never want to put anybody in jeopardy. I think we have enough staffing and cars, if I think otherwise, we will change it. Councilman Wtulich asks for clarification, we have 12 total officers including the chief and 3 sergeants? Does that not include dispatchers then? President Rosso replies

correct, and we have 4 dispatchers. Mayor Bring says and two part timers. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Service Director Hastings reports with the residents along Lake Rd., I have been in contact with several of them and shared plans of the original storm sewer. I continue to work with them. The city has completed five of the seven sinkholes. There is legislation tonight for TLCI which is the continuation of the connectivity plan. I am submitting an application October 9<sup>th</sup> to compliment the 2.7 million that we have funded and scheduled forthcoming. Councilman Kovach says you have done a lot of work on grants, etc. Is there any such thing as a free grant? Service Director Hastings replies a free grant, no. You have to have matching funds earmarked and set aside.

\*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Finance Director Smith reports currently I'm working on the 2024 budget. I will be meeting with the department heads throughout the end of the year. I will probably have some changes in October and maybe after. Councilman Shaw asks do you know what the projected carryover into 2024 is? Finance Director Smith responds I do not yet. Councilman Shaw asks do you know what it was at the beginning of the year? Finance Director Smith replies I don't have that with me. I can get you that information. Councilman Kovach says I know everyone on council received the email and I understand we have had another outstanding audit with no glitches or mis payments, etc. \*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. Councilman Kovach says I understand we had good news come back to the city in regards to the warrants that were served back in July. Law Director Graves responds the result of that was that no action was taken. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY:** *Anthony Camera, 750 Oliver St.* says I would like to address the sewer on my street. I addressed it back in March and nothing has really happened since. I have flooded four times since then. At the last flood, I walked the neighborhood around me and I'm not the only one that has the problem. I addressed the mayor and was spoken down to as if it were my fault. I'm wondering if anything is going to get done? Pat answered my question a little with the 1929 sewer system. President Rosso asks you have ditches, don't you? Mr. Camera replies yes. Two floods ago, I talked to Pat and the truck was down to clean the sewers. Three weeks went by and it flooded again. Truck was still down. This has been an ongoing issue for 12 years. My house has been destroyed many times. It is uncalled for and then Mr. Mayor decided to blame me. Mayor Bring states that is simply not true. You came down and talked to the service director and I told you he offered to come in your house and you declined. Is that not correct? Mr. Camera replies what's the purpose? Mayor Bring says I told you and you got mad at me. Mr. Camera says it's the sewer, not my basement. *Jennifer Ginley, 750 Oliver St.* says the mayor actually blamed me saying I am pouring cat litter down my drain. Mayor Bring says that is what he told the service director. Ms. Ginley says several times we have been told cameras are coming, we are going to do this, etc. I have videos of water all the way up and destroying my new washer and nothing gets done. Every body in my neighborhood is getting their basement destroyed. People are leaving their homes and letting them get repossessed because of this. Every body is sick of this.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Service Director Hastings says I did talk to this gentleman many times and all of our calls are documented. That sewer system was rehabilitated in 2019. We did camera the sewer and that is public record that I could produce tonight. I have done everything I can and I offered to come in. The purpose of coming in someone's home is to dye test to determine whether footer drains are connected to the sanitary sewers. The reference I made to a 1929 sewer on Lake Rd. is a storm sewer and not affiliated with that. We talked about check valves and he told me he had access to a machine and he would do it. I will continue to work with him and I have all the documentation and will be happy to provide it. It's not fair to be belittled time and time again when I have the proof.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Councilman Kovach says I have been in discussion with my volunteer group, Community Civic Council and we are going to be working on/sponsoring the majority of the festivities going on in the community. We are already in preparation for the annual tree lighting and Christmas party, the annual Easter egg hunt, working with the city and community on the community gardens, citywide garage sale, summer arts program, etc. We are hoping to get additional volunteers. We discussed possibly doing something with Leanna's suggestion on Halloween, but with the short time frame, we will work on it for next year. CCC has been sponsoring the weekly car cruise in and this Saturday is going to be a special event. We are going to have a high-powered professional race car, a fuel dragster I believe. Next Saturday there will be a trunk or treat, please bring your children. Councilwoman Stark asks are they gonna bring the car show back next year? It seems to be very popular. Councilman Kovach replies that is what we are working on. Councilwoman Stark asks if anyone wants to volunteer or help out, who do they get ahold of? Councilman Kovach responds they can go through the city website and contact me and we have a Facebook page we are working on and will hopefully get a newsletter. President Rosso states to clarify, Mr. Kovach is involved in a group called Community Civic Council, that is not Sheffield Lake City Council. He is talking about Community Civic Council, a private volunteer group doing these things. Don't think city council is out spending all this money on all these things.

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**COUNCIL #032- THIRD 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.

\*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl FOR ADOPTION.

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

#### ***Resolution Passes #37-23***

**COUNCIL #038- FIRST READING-** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE DONATION OF ONE HUNDRED ENERGIZER RECHARGEABLE TACTICAL METAL LIGHTS FROM ENERGIZER BATTERY INC. AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

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

#### ***Resolution Passes #38-23***

**COUNCIL #039- FIRST READING-** A RESOLUTION OF THE SHEFFIELD LAKE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE GRANT FUNDS 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, Shaw. Yeas All.

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

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

***Resolution Passes #39-23***

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** None.

**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.

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**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 26, 2023.

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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

*Rick Rosso*

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**MAYOR**

*Dennis Bring*