

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
October 10, 2023**

This regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, October 10, 2023.
Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

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

Present: President Rosso, Stark, Radeff, Kovach, Gee, Cizl, Wtulich, Mayor Bring,
Service Director Hastings.

Excused: Shaw, Law Director Graves, Finance Director Smith.

Attending: Citizens, videographer.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Council - *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the September 26, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas all.

CORRESPONDENCE: Monthly report of court receipts for September 2023-\$1,653.00

PRESENTATIONS: None.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse: Chairman Wtulich reviewed the minutes of the October 2, 2023 meeting. *Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Safety:** Chairwoman Stark reviewed the minutes of the October 4, 2023 meeting. Councilman Wtulich asks so we are thinking about leasing vehicles instead of buying? Mayor Bring replies it's a practice many cities do and we have done it before. Instead of putting out \$60,000+ for a car, you break it up over 3 years. Short discussion had about previous car purchases, current number of cars and maintenance program. President Rosso says before 2003, there really wasn't a plan on maintaining vehicles and equipment. It's over the last 20 years with the last 2 administrations that put that in. *Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment:** Chairman Wtulich reviewed the minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting. Mayor Bring says I misquoted on the roof, it's almost \$300,000. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Ordinance:** Chairman Radeff reviewed the minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting. *Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Finance:** None. **/Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks Community Center:** Representative Gee reports we did not have Monday morning coffee because of the holiday. The last Monday morning coffee we had, there was a protestor outside, but he did not disturb anything inside. The question and answering will be tomorrow night at the community center. **/Council Representative to the Park Board:** Representative Kovach reviews the minutes of the September 18, 2023 meeting. **/Representative to the Planning Commission:** Representative Gee states the chairperson cancelled this month because there was no business before them. **/Council Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals:** None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR/SAFETY: Mayor Bring reports there was a public records request by a council person to Tammy Smith about our general fund carryover. On page 9 of the report, there is 1,031,174.00 in that carryover. What is recommended by the state is a two month general fund in case there is an emergency. When I started, we had \$400,000 and had to borrow money from the county so we wouldn't get penalized. If you take that and take the money that is needed for those two months, which is 997,081.12, that leaves us with 34,092.88. That number has not been updated for this year with the insurances and fuel cost, etc. so that number is probably much lower than that. We really don't have much money to play with. The money in the account is accounted for. President Rosso says the carryover is used because our income tax doesn't really start coming in until April. It used to be January, February and March, that carryover carried you through those three months. Mayor Bring says in the paper, the auditor I think next year, is going to reevaluate all the houses again. There are a lot of houses that sold for \$150-200,000+ that in previous years sold for \$75,000. Those people are going to get hit with a pretty good size tax bill. It is going to put more burden on everybody here. I feel bad for a lot of people. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Service Director Hastings reports at the community center, I will be working with Amanda Harret and we will be updating the door on the east side to the little room, it has been problematic for some time. The city will also be correcting all the interior closers/openers as well as rekeying the center. The city was awarded \$220,500 from the state for Alameda phase two. The law director, city and the OVI have been discussing some old minutes from the 20's on easements and responsibilities of the water mains. It was always believed to be the responsibility of OVI, but that might change and we are still working on it. I did find a grant for the lead safe Ohio program and I'm trying to start steering some funds their way. This would replace all of the lead service lines that are in their cottage district, there are about 30 units. I'm at the preliminary stages of that right now, it's a \$100 million dollar grant, obviously not all to one entity. We are going to be receiving our sewer truck with an estimated delivery of late December/early January. The city is working with USACE for some issues at the boat launch and had a deadline of Sept. 30th to locate plans from the initial construction and we did meet that. Service Director Hastings discusses moving forward and potential removal of some sand and Armor stone. On a sanitary survey, the city did get a notice of violation for a 94 year old exposed water line that passes through a creek near Hawthorne Ave. I did submit a reply and provided a schedule on July 5th. They agreed to it. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Excused. **LAW DIRECTORS REPORT:** Excused. **CITIZENS COMMENTARY:** Matthew Harper, 4146 Holl Ave. says I want to talk about what happened on Aug. 23 & 24th. I wanted to know what things are being done with the drains. I am at the point now where I believe this is the 4th time in 9 years that I have gutted my basement and started a refinish. I'm not blaming anybody on council, I'm not blaming our mayor, but we are at the point that something needs to be done. I've heard now we've had 400 years worth of storms in the past 9 years. Our sewers are not accommodable for what we have going on in our city. President Rosso states we

have talked about it and our storm sewers were put it 90 years ago and my opinion is one of the big contributors is that everybody drains to the lake. We are fairly landlocked. If you look at the village, all they do is push it north. The entire length of Lake Rd., that storm sewer is only 10in. Eventually, everything ties in to there to get to the outfalls to get to the lake. The city can't afford to do it. There was talk years ago to get the government involved to help the lake cities improve their storm drains so they could handle the influx from all the other cities to get to the lake. Mr. Harper asks now that we have the new Tall Oaks going in, how much is that going to affect it? President Rosso replies they are putting in a retention pond, just like the Ford plant. I thought the city talked years ago about putting a retention pond in? President Rosso says we talked about where the Metro Parks is on the south. The Metro Parks kiboshed it and said it's wetlands and they won't let us do it. Mr. Harper asks we can't find anywhere in the city to do something? I can't keep coming here every 3 years to pitch my story. What about grants for sewers? President Rosso replies remember, there is always a part the city has to pay. It is usually 10-15%, maybe 20%. So, if you have to put in \$100 million dollars' worth of sewers, we gotta come up with 20-30 million. Mr. Harper says at the same time, you just expect residents to keep putting money out of their pockets. President Rosso responds no, but I don't have a good answer for you. I feel for you. We have talked about it a million times. Mr. Harper asks can we do something to try and address this? Mayor Bring replies I agree with you 100%. We charge our residents \$4.85 for storm water utility and the village and everybody south of us doesn't pay a dime and they send 10 times the water we get over here. We get penalized for being the end user and it is a shame. We have had discussions about it and we have put outfalls in there and we need more. That is something I would like to address in the next four years. We need to continue this. It is very outdated. If you listened to Gary Tollett's podcast the other day, he had a gentleman from FEMA and he explained a lot of things. It was really good. We are talking about getting money and we didn't get a dime. From what that gentleman said about how FEMA recognizes basements, it's an inconvenience. You have had four of those inconveniences, and it is frustrating. We have to do something, I agree. We have been trying to address that. Mr. Harper asks maybe we can put together a committee or something to at least think about what our options could be? Mayor Bring says we have our new pumps, etc., but it was just over capacitated. Mr. Harper asks did we shoot water out to the lake that night? Service Director Hastings replies in theory. I say that because the overflow is not visible to us. There is SCADA that controls that. The city did invest \$500,000 in that ditch from Belle, Brockley, Knickerbocker and Holl. Service Director Hastings explains the issues and costs with the small box openings, etc. We did receive some kickback on the retention pond that included a Metro Park as well as a private property owner just south of the tracks. A condition of the grant was that they had to remain publicly accessible, which was problematic for the owner. However, that property owner has recently contacted the city about allowing the city to do just that. In the near future, we could reconsider the construction of a sizeable retention pond south of the tracks. We would just have to fund it ourselves. President Rosso states he will get with the law director about a committee. Councilwoman Gee says when we had the stormwater utility appeals board, there was a board underneath it, overseen by it, that was addressing that issue. At that time, there was a discussion about putting meters up and charging the village for water

that came through. It never materialized. Mayor Bring says and we can't stop it from coming in, it's illegal.

Romolo DeBottis, 868 Lake Breeze Rd. says when Tall Oaks was going in, I went to those meetings and they were originally going to put in one pond. There was a video conference with the owner and my objection was they were going to be draining everything towards me. They are putting in a second pond. I think he is concerned about the drainage and is doing everything he can to get it drained. With Tall Oaks coming in, we have to remember that's a \$10 million dollar project supposedly, and to me it's going to be like an anchor area. I'm sure eventually all of Lake Breeze is going to be developed. As that's developed, that water has to come somewhere. I would say more people in Sheffield Lake need to get involved in those meetings as that corner starts to get built up. We could work together to figure this out.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

COUNCIL #040- FIRST READING- A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Wtulich asks would it help any if members of council wrote letters to the Metro Parks about using that land? President Rosso asks mayor would you ask David if it would do any good if council passed a resolution asking for their consideration in putting in a retention pond in there? Mayor Bring replies it's also somebody else's private property. Service Director Hastings responds we talked about it, but that is a class three wetlands. So, there are a lot of problems with that. Mayor Bring says we can ask. Service Director Hastings says in my opinion, the answer is to focus on those box culverts. We could narrow the scope because of the urgency. I could get an example of a cost in the near future.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Cizl 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 October 10, 2023.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Rick Rosso

MAYOR

Dennis Bring