

**Minutes of the Safety Committee
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
March 6, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday March 6, 2024. Chairwoman Stark called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Stark, Gee, Kovach, Mayor Radeff, Chief Novak, Chief Kory.

Excused: None.

Attending: Ward 4 Councilman DeBottis, citizens.

MINUTES:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

Reports from Safety Forces:

Police Chief's report – Chief Kory goes over the attached maintenance report. No major equipment issues. Chief Kory says we plan to have the basement done completely in the next three weeks. We had some radar units donated from the City of Avon. Ptl. Baez and Dobbins have started full time this week. We have interviews and backgrounds scheduled on filling the rest of our staff. Chairwoman Stark asks how many more are we looking to hire at this time? Chief Kory replies two right now and we have another one leaving so we will need to hire three in total. Member Gee asks the new hire, were you who vetted him? Chief Kory replies I was involved in the background process, yes. Member Gee asks what about the new dispatcher we have, she starts this month? Chief Kory responds she turned down the job, so we are still looking. Member Gee says I understand there had been an incident on a Friday where city hall was locked down, was the service dept. and all the other depts. also locked down? Mayor Radeff replies when we say locked down, we locked the doors. We take threats very seriously and wanted to make sure everyone was safe. We had an officer in the parking lot and had an officer walk everyone out to their cars when their time was up.

Fire Chief's report – Chief Novak reports in February we did 103 runs. Our total for the year is 225. We have had some shaking on the new squad on the front end and we had the tires balanced a couple times and it wasn't taking care of the problem. We took it back to Sylvesters and they said it was probably a bad tire, so we had them replaced. They will be covered under warranty. UH will be out this month to recertify everyone in pediatric events life support. I received the final ISO report and the only issue we had was our 3 man fire response to structure fires. I'm continuing to work on the SAFER grant. Mayor Radeff and I have a meeting on March 7th with University Hospitals to discuss the first aid station that will be at the community center for the solar eclipse. The next solar eclipse meeting is March 11th at 7pm at the Joyce Hanks Community Center. Lt. Davis added the fire and rescue decals to the jet skis. Chairwoman Stark says I see someone posted on Facebook that you guys were

going to be doing interviews and testing. Chief Novak replies yes, we are having a civil service test on March 23rd and then will start the interviewing process. Member Gee asks do you have anymore information on the other grant? Chief Novak replies I had the guy come out and give us a quote which I haven't received yet. The gentleman I spoke to at BWC said their fiscal year will start in June, they kinda ran out of money now that it's the end of their year. I'll apply for that when available.

Mayor's report- Mayor Radeff reports I met with a citizen that lives over on Community by EZ Transitions and he has had a lot of problems with speeding and such. I did speak with Pat and the police chief and indicated we will probably make sure we have some officers patrolling that area more. I think we are going to put a speed bump over there.

Al Whitmer of EZ Transitions, 4210 Ivanhoe Blvd. says we have rented from the city since 2015 and we have had ongoing traffic over there. The city has done speed traps, etc. for years. It's great you are going to put a bump of some sort over there. If you are looking for a speed bump, I have one in stock and I'll give you a great price. Whatever you guys can do back there. The cameras are going to be great. The police have done a great job for us as well. Chief Kory asks what time of day are you usually seeing the most speeders? Mr. Whitmer replies we are there 9am-3am M-F, 9-4 Fri/Sat and 9-1 Sun. We do 4-5 sales per year and the people in the city patronize us and we do appreciate it. Mayor Radeff says with the speed bump, there will be two signs indicating there is a speed bump coming. We are putting cameras up by EZ Transitions and the woodshop and also at Freedom Park where one of the community gardens is going to be placed. I met with EMA representatives to talk about generally things that come up and things we can use them for like the eclipse. They addressed the flood from last August and they did try to apply for FEMA, but there wasn't enough money damage. I had some calls about mini bikes and I sat down with the police chief and law director and we discovered that there are multiple ordinances that speak to them. I'm having the police chief put together a policy on how we are going to deal with those. Part of that is going to be bringing all of those ordinances together to the ordinance committee and hopefully consolidate them down to one. Member gee asks you mentioned you were going to talk to Lorain about finding out if the cities could work out a deal on using some of their existing auxiliary, any luck? Mayor Radeff replies I talked to them and I guess they're short on auxiliary. Member Gee asks is the city going to be able to utilize the police bike during the eclipse? Chief Kory responds we won't be. I need all the guys to be in the cars to respond to calls. I won't have all the equipment needed on the bike. Chairwoman Stark says the Guardians home opener is also that day. I know they talked about lowering some of the numbers that might be coming in and out of the lake front because people were going to try to go downtown, do we think that is going to have an effect or are we planning for the same level? Mayor Radeff replies originally the estimate was 4 million people for Ohio, now they are saying the new estimate is 100,000 and most are going to go to Lorain and Norwalk. At the mayors meeting, they were all of the same opinion to close the parks and don't promote people coming there and be ready for the worst. EMA did say the five cities have done a great job of being proactive. Chairwoman Stark asks with Enterprise, are we still moving along? Mayor Radeff replies absolutely. I looked at the cars and it was said we drive 30,000 mi/year, but when we did the math, we average about 14,000. I spoke with North Ridgeville and Avon Lake who both use their program and they totted it very well.

They said they saved a lot of money. Chief Kory says we are replacing four cars with this, they are overdue to be replaced. Member Gee asks for the years of the cars and Chief Kory provides them and the car numbers and why they are being replaced. Member Gee asks how many officers currently live in the city limits? Chief Kory replies three.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairwoman Stark says we started a discussion in regards to a deputy safety director. This is because we cannot separate the mayor from the safety director position because that was voted for on the last charter. Member Gee says I would like to see a list of what their current responsibilities are; the safety director and how many hours it takes. Mayor Radeff replies I don't think either one of those are memorialized in anything. Member Gee says there has to be something that breaks it down. Mayor Radeff responds the point would be having someone who can directly focus with police and fire. Chief Kory says if he feels he needs this in his administrative staff, I fully support it. Member Gee asks are we talking about someone that needs to be in the building everyday so the chief can reach out to them, because that was an issue just now that it is hard for you to get together. So, we need someone in the building, in an office. Mayor Radeff replies not necessarily, it's not just about reachability. I am in charge of multiple other things so I'm not necessarily always able to respond in the most speedy, efficient way. The goal is to get someone that was a former police officer/fireman who has dealt with working in those depts. Police and fire aren't my specialty. Hopefully you get someone that is retired. It would be a very small salary like \$10,000 which gives you the one year credit for OPERS. Member Gee says I don't think it's in the charter exactly how much the safety service director should get. Maybe we could just take that out of that and lower the salary for that one and then there wouldn't be any money in the budget needed extra. Mayor Radeff replies I don't know how that works with it being in the charter. Chairwoman Stark says that would have to be done on election year. In my conversations and concerns, we need to have a buffer. Member Gee says I agree. Chairwoman Stark says I can't remember why they were merged, but they used to be separate. Member Gee says you and Steve both sat on council when that was passed and it passed unanimously. Chairwoman Stark replies I would have to check with David, but I'm pretty sure the recommendations that the charter makes are required to go on a ballot for a vote. We can't just say we don't like this so we aren't going to put it out for a vote, the citizens voted. Member Gee says I think we should have all the things in a row to give us an informed discussion. I pulled the charter and the votes. I would really like to know how many hours are really needed for the safety service director. I understand it's hard to itemize. Shouldn't it be a little more organized if there's no one keeping track now? If no one has any idea how many hours it really does take. Mayor Radeff replies just like any administrative position, you can't itemize hours, it ebbs and flows. Member Gee asks so it will be a flat fee no matter what? Mayor Radeff responds absolutely. Member Gee asks the safety director currently gets paid what annually? Member Kovach says the monies paid are by pay ordinance. The reason the two jobs were combined is #1, they were combining the salaries because the mayor's salary was miniscule. Mayor Radeff says the budget for the mayor's salary is \$25,000 in that fund. I would have to ask Mitch specifically. My guess would be

\$15,000 for safety director. I'm fine with whatever you guys wanna come up with. Chairwoman Stark says I mentioned it this evening because I want everyone to come up with questions and concerns, pros/cons. I would like us to have an informed discussion. Let's get a job description, pay, etc. Member Gee says I like the idea of a retired officer.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to adjourn at 7:45 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 Mar. 6, 2024.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso