

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
December 10, 2024**

The regular meeting of the City Council Worksession was held Tuesday, December 10, 2024. President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Rosso, Kovach, Stark, Wtulich, DeBottis, Petrucci, Gee, Cizl, Mayor Radeff, Service Director Hastings, Law Director Graves, Finance Director Rummell
Excused: None.
Attending: Citizens.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

*******COMMITTEES*******

ROADS & DRAINS: None. **SAFETY:** None. **BUILDINGS, LANDS, VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT:** None. **ORDINANCE:** None. **FINANCE:** None. **PARK BOARD:** None.

*******ADMINISTRATIVE*******

MAYOR: Mayor Radeff has no report. **SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Service Director Hastings reports we are struggling through leaf pickup, but we are still at it every day. Our newest equipment is down and in the shop. There are four cities that use that machine and all have failed at the same time. Our oldest truck still in operation is 33 years old and that’s the one I’m looking to get rid of. Councilwoman Gee asks how are we doing on staffing over there? Service Director Hastings replies we currently have a water dept. job open for internal bidding in the union. I do anticipate some movement, so I’ll undoubtedly bid again. Councilwoman Gee asks everyone will eventually get hit with snow, you’ve got the staffing and equipment needed? Service Director Hastings replies the bigger equipment, I’m admittedly concerned. We have the staffing and equipment, but 10-12 inches like the snow belt would be challenging. The city started a cycle of replacing these trucks finally and we were in a good row and when covid hit, we ended up waiting for our truck order for over two years. That kinda threw us off our cycle. We have excellent men and we do have good equipment, it’s just some of it admittedly, has reached its useful life. Councilwoman Gee asks are we going to get back on that cycle? Is it a possibility in 2025? Service Director Hastings responds absolutely. **FINANCE DIRECTOR:** Finance Director Rummell has no report. **LAW DIRECTOR:** Law Director Graves has no report. Councilwoman

Gee asks when we are discussing special event fees and food truck fees, I have some concerns. I understand what you are trying to do, but I know the city is trying to keep businesses in the city. The special event fees, I can't find anywhere that it explains on those. For example, if the Boy Scouts have a special event, that's a special event. If Henrietta Honey has an event, that's a special event. Who says what special event should pay that fee? I don't like legislation that is so gray area, that people can pick and choose who they fine or who has to pay and who doesn't. I don't feel these fees are really good for our community when we are trying to bring business to it. At least not in the high sums that they are. Law Director Graves replies all this legislation does is state a fee. It doesn't change any other aspect of our planning and zoning code that we are administering today. All this does is say if you are going to have a special event, there is a fee. Right now, there is no fee. President Rosso asks if they have an event inside the civic center, then would that? Law Director Graves replies I don't think that would qualify. President Rosso says if you rent the civic center and are having your wedding there, it doesn't fall under a special event. Councilwoman Gee asks what if the boy scouts have one at the park? Also, when the city has a special event at the park? If we are asking other people to pay, then we shouldn't be excluded. Mayor Radeff replies then you are just paying yourself. Councilwoman Gee says I'm against the fees. President Rosso asks are you against the fees because we don't know the definition of a special event limited and extended? Councilwoman Gee replies yes and the other reason is it seems like we are punishing the businesses and residents. We don't wanna give up things we already have. Law Director Graves states temporary events may be permitted in compliance with the following; the following activities are exempt from these temporary use regulations, but may be subject to other sections of the code: any event sponsored in whole or part by the City of Sheffield Lake, Lorain County, State of Ohio or any United States Government or any school district. Any organized activities conducted at sites typically intended and used for such activities including but not limited to sporting events such as golf, soccer, softball, baseball, tournaments conducted on courses or fields. Intended use for such activities in religious services, wedding services and funeral services conducted in places of worship. Garage sales are also permitted. Temporary of outdoor sales of agricultural products would be subject to this. Temporary special event with limited impact is permitted with a special event permit approved by the mayor for a maximum of two times. Extensive impact has a definition and that has to go to planning commission and council. Where these come into play is where you have something on commercial property that is outside the usual course and scope of their business. So, for a limited time they are having some sort of outdoor special event. The city has been using special event permits for about 8-10 years so

we know who is there, how long it's gonna be there, who is the contact person and have them guarantee that it's going to be left in the same condition. We have been using these are there really has been no issue. All this says is we are going to impose a fee. Councilwoman Gee says you said agriculture is affected. So, the gentleman that sells, we all buy from his produce stand, he will have to start paying a fee now? President Rosso replies I'm sure he doesn't get a special event fee now, because he couldn't hold it every day like he does. Councilwoman Gee says if this goes into effect, anybody can pick up the phone and call. President Rosso replies he still has to come in. It's for people who come in and request a special event permit. Now you bring up a gray area where you have a guy running a special event every day that's not doing anything under anything. Councilwoman Gee states this fee will only be punishing those that are actually coming in and registering and not those violating the law. President Rosso responds those violating the law should be cited by the police or building dept. Mayor Radeff says then they would be charged and have a criminal case against them. Law Director Graves says historically, where temporary special events have come into play is almost always commercial property. Councilman Debottis asks the car show would fall under which one of these two? Law Director Graves replies extensive. That technically should go to planning and council under conditional use process. Short discussion on car show. Councilwoman Stark asks do we have an idea of what surrounding cities charge for fees? Law Director Graves replies we can get that information. Councilman Wtulich asks is there a nonprofit exclusion? Law Director Graves replies no. President Rosso says this doesn't mean they can't have their event. It's just that if they are gonna have an event that impacts the city, should they pay a fee? Councilwoman Gee says I understand we have had these on the books with no fee and they have never been enforced unless someone makes an issue about it. So, if one business doesn't like another business doing something, they can call and now there is a fee involved. My issue is we're going to police more now because we are getting money for this? Mayor Radeff replies no. This is something that a lot of cities have, this is not uncommon. When you put city resources to anything, there is a cost. Depending on the special event, I may have to put more police out, etc. Passing this is not about enforcement. It's are we going to charge them or not. Law Director Graves says I have the Avon Lake fees here. There is a \$25 application fee, \$100 security deposit and then if it's approved, the fee for the permit is \$200 for a nonprofit and \$400 for a for profit and any events at Memorial Park/The Lakehouse, are an additional fee of \$200 per day. We do special event permits so we can set hours of operation, have a contact person, show insurance, etc. so we know what is going on. President Rosso says whether we have a fee or don't, we better be enforcing every ordinance on the books.

Worksession December 10, 2024

Councilman DeBottis says I don't have a problem with the fees. I think greatness is based on consistency. I think that's one thing unfortunately the city over the years has lacked. As long as it's consistent, I'm ok with it. Councilwoman Gee says I don't think it's fair to punish somebody for doing something the community residents use and like. President Rosso says that's why we have laws and ordinances. We can't just let anyone pop up. They have to file for a special event permit. Mayor Radeff says it's the cost of doing business. It is not inconsistent with how the rest of the world works. Law Director Graves states if the consensus is that the provision in the planning and zoning code needs to be reconsidered, then you could proceed along those lines.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Special event fees. Discussed above.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilman DeBottis says I probably have about 42in. in height of this paper, are we allowed to have laptops where we can just eliminate this? Wouldn't we save money and trees? President Rosso replies I don't see a reason why an individual couldn't bring in their personal laptop. Councilman DeBottis asks the city couldn't buy them? Councilwoman Stark replies we had this discussion and quoted prices and they were beyond what we could do. Law Director Graves says in some communities they do provide tablets. President Rosso says I'll take a look. Councilwoman Gee says this coming Monday the seniors are having their Christmas Party at 9:30am. Everybody is invited to stop by. We are asking anybody that participates to bring cookies. President Rosso says those of us who haven't, need to reach out and get our city email addresses set up.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Councils Agenda –

COUNCIL #011- TABLED READING- AN ORDINANCE VACATING PORTIONS OF PARKVIEW DRIVE, IVANHOE AVENUE AND FERNDALE AVENUE AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

COUNCIL #058- THIRD READING-

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach /Second by Wtulich to adjourn at 7:46pm. 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 WORKSESSION of December 10, 2024.

MAYOR

Rocky Radeff

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Rick Rosso