

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO**

January 13, 2026

This regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, January 13, 2026.
Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Present: President Rosso, Kovach, Fogel, Gee, Cizl, Morrow, DeBottis, Petrucci, Mayor Radeff, Finance Director Rummell, Service Director Hastings, Law Director Ward.
Excused: None.
Attending Videographer, Citizens.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Council - *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the December 16, 2025 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas all.

*Addition to be added per Councilman Morrow- “What I want added it is part of the discussion where Mayor Radeff has said as Mr. Rosso has said we already checked with the law director and he indicated that there was nothing wrong with her being voted in tonight and there is no issue or conflict with the statute or ordinance that has been brought up as well. (addition will be added).

CORRESPONDENCE: Monthly report of court receipts for December 2025- \$1,747.97.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse: Chairman DeBottis reviews the minutes of the Jan. 5, 2026 meeting. *Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Safety:** Chairman Kovach reviews the minutes of the Jan. 7, 2026 meeting. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment:** Chairwoman Petrucci reviews the minutes of the Jan. 6, 2026 meeting. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Ordinance:** Chairman Cizl reviews the minutes of the Jan. 6, 2026 meeting. *Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Finance:** None. **/Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks Community Center:** Representative Petrucci reviews the minutes of the January 8, 2026 meeting. Councilman DeBottis asks what is a blessing box? Councilwoman Petrucci replies it is a box that is outside where people have donated non-perishable food items. It’s typically canned foods, things that can be helpful to families to maybe help them stretch their food budget. I think they’ve also donated some things like diapers and wipes and things that can be used by citizens who might desperately be in need. **/Council Representative to the Park Board:** Representative Kovach reviews the minutes of the Jan. 12, 2026 meeting. **/Representative to the Planning Commission:** None. **/Council Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals:** None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR/SAFETY: Mayor Radeff reports a little update on our ATP grant, which was the Active Transportation Grant, in which we've been working on since late last spring, in which

we got it through ODOT, in which they're going to create an active transportation master plan for the city. They've had multiple meetings. They've met with multiple different entities and did reach out for community involvement, but they're at the point now where they're already pretty much done with the drafts. Those drafts are going to be out this week to go to the schools, Sheffield Village and Sheffield Lake, and then once it's finished, they will, I believe, they're going to come to Council and present the final plan. It's going to be real exciting. It's been a lot of hard work. There's been a lot of input from county members, also Metro Parks, the school, Sheffield Village, so we're excited for that plan. Coming up, the Police Dept. is going to start what they're going to call a case talk. That's going to be a community crime update bi-monthly. The first one is going to be February 24th at 6 p.m. at the community center. The detectives, Sivert and Helmick, will be the ones running that. This is kind of more of, instead of going over the typical stuff you might hear about, whether it be theft and OVIs, this is going to be more of detective-based crimes. Specifically, I believe, cybersecurity and things of that nature. I know last year, I believe it was over a million dollars citizens had taken from them through different types of schemes, through cybersecurity and such. It will be a good way to update citizens on things to look out for, but also if they have any questions regarding how they should respond to certain emails or other things of that nature. It will be a great opportunity to talk with both detectives who are both very high qualified and have done great work for the city and other cities. That is exciting to start. Also, the police department is going to start a biweekly police blotter. They are going to start that on the Sheffield Lake Police Department Facebook page. I will have to confirm what date they are going to start that, but I know that has been asked about many times. I believe at one point we had one, and Chief Kory looks to bring that back. The last thing is we did receive a cybersecurity grant that we applied for. That was for \$26,000. That grant is specifically to help make sure that the city is in compliance with the recently passed cybersecurity laws from the state. It will help us specifically, I think a lot of it is going to be used for dual authentication, which is required under the new statute, and a couple of other things that we have to do in order to come in compliance with the state. Councilman DeBottis asks how many old police cars do you still have? The ones prior to the Dodges that we purchased. Mayor Radeff replies I couldn't tell you for sure. I don't know how many are actually in service either. I know that a couple of them have been used in other departments, so I know ones with the building dept., and I think Chief Kory had stated recently that we have one that is technically still usable, but we're not using it. I couldn't state for sure. I know in his report he had stated how many. I know in the report that he provided to the Safety Committee, I believe he mentions how many cars we have. Councilman DeBottis asks did we sell any of them yet? Mayor Radeff responds No, because the ones that were ready to be sold, we ended up repurposing them. We're debating on if we have to go through state bid to sell them or if we can actually do it through Enterprise. I know the last law director was a little apprehensive about doing it through Enterprise, so that's something that we're going to revisit with Mr. Ward before we make a move on that.*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. /**SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Service Director Hastings reports my only comments this evening in advance of anything Law Director Ward might add to it was Council #001 in front of you this evening, which authorizes the city to put out for bids Lakefront Connectivity Phase 5. I am asking for a suspension of the rules on this. I have tried to keep everybody abreast of the progress. I do follow a timeline with ODOT. So, it's very important that I stay on track with that. We are obligated to certify right away and

PS&E and various things, and they build these without really the concern of various council meetings or schedules throughout the state of Ohio. This is for Phase 5, which would include new traffic signals at State Route 301, as well as the connectivity trail and pedestrian upgrades. Construction estimate is \$981,571 with a total project including engineering and inspection at about \$1.4 million. Councilman Morrow asks that includes the Walker Rd. upgrades? Service Director Hastings replies no, that's a different project. Councilman DeBottis asks if everything goes well, when did you want to start this project? Service Director Hastings responds we would put it out to bid and sell the job by the end of February. Councilwoman Gee asks we have legislation for first reading tonight in regards to our refuse. That's the same thing you've been working on for a long time, am I right? Service Director Hastings replies so, I've been cognizant of the ending of the contract, which is April of 2026 here. So, yes, I have been monitoring and looking at the advantages of going out to bid, using that as a bargaining tool with our current supplier, which I believe would be on our 10th amendment to the original agreement. I also serve on the Solid Waste Committee for Lorain County, of which I had a meeting today, ironically. So, I am a little bit more in tune than some of the others as it relates to the landfill, the competitive pricing in the market, the rules, the regulations, and so forth. So, yes, I have been working on that and recommended this MOU to the mayor's office. Councilman Morrow says regarding the BFI contract, I'd like to know, as a new council member, what you've done in the past, and I don't know if you can provide a synopsis to the new members as to, you know, what you've looked at, what all you've engaged in, why you would make a recommendation, whatever recommendation you'd make. Service Director Hastings responds first and foremost, as it relates to the residents, is the cost of the service. As I illustrated in work session, some of the competing cities around here is as high as \$10 an hour more. We also look at the service itself, which, you know, admittedly, over the years, there have been some problems here and there, but Republic Services has always been on the go. Councilman Morrow says I'm not necessarily looking for a verbal response tonight. I just wanted a written response at some time, so when we do consider for a vote, that we have that background information. Service Director Hastings replies he will follow up in writing and prepare a response for work session. Councilman DeBottis asks is this the only bid that we're going to take right now, or are we going to take any other bids? Service Director Hastings asks when you say bid, are we talking about the Connectivity trail or are you talking about the trash? Councilman DeBottis replies trash. Service Director Hastings replies this is because we are currently engaged with them. We did negotiate with them as a possible extension. As I said, we're on our 10th amendment. We do have the option to bid, but we did not go out to bid, but that does carry a risk with it. Councilman DeBottis asks can I ask what that risk is? Service Director Hastings replies the risk is just with the market conditions and the cost. You know, Sheffield Lake is a little unique, and so we built on behalf of Republic Services, so we do have built into that price some of our overhead, our leaf collection, things like that. So, if we go out to bid, all of those things would have to be crafted into the bid, and I believe that the city would be put at risk for potentially a higher cost. That being said, there's also the potential for a lower cost. But, you know, with all things considered, we did engage with Republic Services and feel that this is the best resolution. Mayor Radeff says basically the risk you have is you can bid out, but once we say we're bidding out, this deal's gone. So, whatever bid happens, happens. We've been informed that other cities have done this. Republic was still the lowest bid, but much higher than what they could have got if they negotiated. So, you take the risk that once

the bid's there, it's there. If they don't bid to give us these same terms, we can't just go back, and they're not going to, because if they're the lowest bid, they're the lowest bid. So that's the risk that we take. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. /**FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT**: Finance Director Rummell reports during the council meeting for December 16, I was asked for the numbers for what the increases would be on these new union contracts. For '26, it's about \$6.6 million, for '27, \$6.8 and for '28, it's \$7.1. I do want to preface this by saying that this is all-inclusive. It includes the benefits that go along with it from the city's perspective of it. It includes the salaries. Mr. Morrow and I had a conversation about this. I will be getting a breakdown so that way you guys can see the exact numbers and how they fall in to create this at a later point in time, which I'm sure will probably be shared so that way the public can see it. Mr. Morrow and I did have a conversation recently as well about the accounting software and how it's a little bit antiquated and not necessarily user-friendly for some of the questions that we've had. So, one of the things that we'll be working on in the future is potentially having a different proposal for what type of financial software we could be using for both the financial side of it and potentially for the payroll side of it. We've talked about a few, thrown a few options out there, so this is something that we'll be reviewing once finance slows down a little bit. In terms of finance as a whole, we did close out 2025 and have opened 2026. We've gotten a bunch of manual/blanket POs created. W-2s are out. There's still a few that have to be mailed. 1099s, I'm in the process of getting those mailed out. We've done quarterly reporting, year-end reporting, some other reporting along the way, and one of the big projects that I'm working on, I know I owe you all a monthly treasurer's report for the month of December, so I am still working on that, and even though we don't have the results yet for the 2024 audit, but we have started providing the gap information for the 2025 audit, so that way that will hopefully move slower, and one of the things that I'm focused on this year is making sure that we do not need any extensions in 2026 for the 2025 audit, because I don't want to keep dragging this process out. Mayor Radeff says to clarify, that's not the amount it's increasing, 6 million, that's the amount we are spending. Finance Director Rummell says the totals that I read off for the amounts are what we're spending, and like I said, it's salaries, it's benefits, it's everything the city would be paying out related to the salaries behind it. Councilman Morrow says I just wanted to state that I believe using the antiquated system that we have prevents us from getting better information to do better budgeting and to get more information more quickly. I think the more that we get better information and the quicker that we can do it, the better decisions that we can make in a more timely fashion, and that's one of the reasons I want to speak to this in work session and potentially forming a committee with the finance director as the head of it to search for it and to list what the pros and the cons of staying with where we're at and then what new software has and the additional functionality that it has and potentially even combining multiple software systems all into one. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. /**LAW DIRECTORS REPORT**: Law Director Ward reports I just want to say that, as you all know, I was recently appointed as the law director here, and it's a great honor to serve the citizens of Sheffield Lake and the council and the mayor and his administration. With regard to a report, I don't have any report this evening. Councilman Morrow says I'd like to know if there's any open investigations on myself or Councilmember Fogel that are going on, any type of investigations into our background, into anything that potentially says that we've done illegal. Law Director Ward responds not that I am aware of. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: *Michael Galant, 3745 E. Lake Rd. Residence Condominiums* says I am a member of the board of the HOA there. Our 21 units are situated on the lake just west of Lakewood Park with a drainage ditch in between. Unfortunately, we have been facing an erosion problem next to the drainage ditch for decades, and it is now impacting the condominium closest to the ditch and part of our pavement. While we were exploring options to address this issue, our management company went bankrupt, and we ended up getting six boxes of old documents from them. Among these documents, I found a legal agreement dated July 6th of 2006, signed by our HOA in the city of Sheffield Lake. This agreement outlines the city's intention to construct a retaining wall to benefit both the residents and the city with the purpose of preventing the erosion that is occurring from continuing. In addition to the legal agreement, a letter dated the same day was included. It was from the former law director, David Graves, expressing his hope that our HOA is as eager to build a retaining wall as the City of Sheffield Lake is. It's been almost 20 years since this agreement was signed, and unfortunately, it seems like nothing has been done to implement it. Last week, I provided a copy of these documents to the city. I appreciate your time in considering and addressing this issue. We are committed to working with the city to resolve this matter as quickly as possible. Thank you. Councilman Morrow asks would the property upon which the wall would be built, would that be the Homeowners Association property or would that be? Mr. Galant replies HOA property. They did improvements to the Lakewood Park. They put the retaining wall with our permission and this legal agreement on our property at the city's expense. It's the city's wall on our property, and phase two and phase three in the documents say they're going to extend that wall all the way to meet the residence wall by the inlet to the creative ditch. I didn't see a timetable as to when they were going to do that, but there's a legal agreement from what I can understand that the city's going to build that wall.

Sandra Jensen, 617 Lafayette Blvd. says I wanted to thank the police department and the city for the offer of the warming center on the night of our power outage. It was nice to have someone come knock on the door. We were all okay. I've only lived on Lafayette for a year and two weeks, and we seem to have a lot of power outages, and I know, Mr. Morrow, you ran one of your campaign interests was utility poles. I'm willing to spearhead a little, whatever it takes in the Treadway, Lafayette area to get this under control, but, I mean, it's just like a lot of people say, we have them all the time, and I've noticed. I've got them marked on the calendar. Anyway, any direction we can have toward how do we get our power outages looked at? Do we have trees? Too many trees that need to be trimmed? I don't know, but that's something on my mind. The other thing is I listen to Kool Kat Oldies, and today I heard Mayor Radeff is going to be doing the Rocky recap, and I think that's great because I do listen to that every day, and so you'll be up with Mayor Brubaker and Mayor Markovich and Mayor Jensen, so welcome to the board. Councilman Morrow says I've gotten reports throughout the city that ever since the Avon plant closed, and it's potentially that we have our system under more of a strain, that we've had many more outages, and I know that from myself being on Irving Park Blvd. that I think 10 years prior to the Avon plant closing, we may have had one power outage or two power outages. I want to say now we have 30, 40 power outages a year on Irving Park Blvd. They're normally only for a few seconds, sometimes a couple minutes, but it is really annoying, especially if you're working on your computer and you lose a bunch of information, or you also have to go around and reset all the clocks and everything, and I really think that we need to look at that, and our infrastructure is

deteriorating badly. There are things that we can do as a city council to improve that, and that's something that I'd like to work with the law director on.

Patty Gascoyne, 856 Irving Park Blvd. says it's just in hearing the trouble spots in our city, things that are getting work done, things that need to get work done, I wonder if Pat Hastings and the council could maybe put the computer person to work and have as part of our website a map of the city where projects proposed, ongoing projects, or trouble spots where there's been a lot of complaints or a legal issue where there's an infrastructure problem that's noted but hadn't been addressed yet. If it could just be on a map, color-coded, however you'd like. So maybe families wanting to move to the area or businesses can make an informed decision, and it would just give residents a picture of what's going on in our city and that things are being addressed when there's a known problem. So, I think it would be attractive to citizens, people wanting to move in, businesses. Also, what would be very attractive to businesses is not having to pay a fee to do business in Sheffield Lake. Please do not license businesses.

Dennis Bring, 5389 E. Lake Rd. says I want to thank the finance director for getting that. I read that, and I think, just to clarify, at the end of the contract for all the unions and stuff, I think it added up to close to \$2 million, I believe. So, I just wanted to make sure everybody wasn't thinking of the \$6 million or whatever. That's at the end of the three years of the contract.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Councilman Morrow says I'd like to make a motion to continue the discussion started by Councilman Debottis on addressing the ethics and the legality of hiring Leanna Stark in an effort to protect Mrs. Stark from bad counsel. President Rosso asks you want to do what now? Councilman Morrow responds I want to have a discussion surrounding the legality of hiring Leanna Stark in order to protect her from bad counsel. Councilwoman Petrucci asks what do you mean by bad counsel? President Rosso asks basically, isn't that a question to have something from the law director that says whether or not it was? I don't know if you can answer it at this moment, but there was an issue with hiring Mrs. Stark, and I think the question is the fact that her term was ended, and then she took a job with the city. Right, John? Is that the question? Councilman Morrow replies it's a little bit more nuanced than that, but, I mean, I reached out after getting my employment packet and asked the Ohio Ethics Commission whether or not 2921.42 of the Ohio Revised Code applied or not to hiring her. They said it did. I described the situation and they said that almost definitely that the law was broken at that point, so that's why I figured we should open the discussion. He had said that the longer that they go on, that she would earn money that she would have to pay it all back, and so rather than waiting months, I kind of wanted tonight to ask the law director to get a written opinion from the Ohio Ethics Commission, and that way it wouldn't put her in a spot to where she would have to pay back all the money that she earned just looking out for her. There's nothing personal about it. Law Director Ward states to date, I'm not aware of the issue that you raised. I have not seen any precedent or learned of nay information that would warrant changing the position that my predecessor took on this issue. If I do come across that information or precedent, then certainly additional action, if any, that may need to be taken will be considered. Councilman Morrow asks how does 2921.42 not apply in this situation, especially when I've called the Ohio Ethics Commission and they have confirmed that it does apply? Law Director Ward replies I think I don't have anything to add other than what I've already stated, and I thank you, Mr. Morrow, for bringing this issue up. Councilman

Morrow states I would like to make a motion to direct the law director to seek a written opinion from the Ohio Ethics Commission on this situation. Law Director Ward says I don't know that what Mr. Morrow is requesting is appropriately within the scope of councilmanic action. It's not something that is within the authority or duties of the Sheffield Lake City Council. President Rosso asks did someone say second? Yes, Councilman Fogel. President Rosso says so right now, we have a motion and a second. So, I guess my question is, I don't know what to do now if you're saying it's really not council's authority, but I have a motion and a second, which is going to require me to do something. Mayor Radeff says I'll just say if his opinion is that, and I agree with him that you can't direct him to seek an opinion, then you can vote on it, but I'm not going to force him to act on it, so I'll say that. President Rosso says we have a motion and a second to request the law director to ask for a written opinion from the Ohio Ethics Commission regarding the employment of Mr. Stark. Now, I will open it for discussion. Councilman Fogel asks are you saying that council can't compel you to take action? Law Director Ward responds I'm saying that what was described by Mr. Morrow, in my view, does not appear to be legislative action. Councilwoman Gee asks was there another way, other than the way the motion was set, that this could be looked into by the law department so we know no one did anything wrong and everything's legitimate? Is there a way you can look into that other than what just transpired? Law Director Ward replies as I mentioned earlier, the law department has looked into it, and I will continue to look into it, as requested by Mr. Morrow. As I said earlier, I haven't seen anything to date that would cause a change in position that was given by my predecessor. Councilwoman Gee asks but you are currently looking into it and you will get your information back to us when you learn any? Law Director Ward replies yes. Councilman Cizl says We have a law director that's representing all of us in the city. I'm struggling with the fact that somebody thinks that we need to demand that they do something as if they're not going to do it. They work on behalf of the best of the city. So, for us to have a motion and have a second and vote on it to mandate him to do his job, I don't see why that's necessary. Councilman Morrow says I'd like to just read nine sentences that provide more information as to why this is potentially illegal. Mayor Rocky Radeff stated that he and the finance director interviewed Councilwoman Stark for the finance clerk's position while she was still a sitting council member. Mayor Radeff stated that he decided the position should be a full-time union position, and he changed it from a part-time non-union position. Mayor Radeff stated that Leanna Stark would start on December 29th. Leanna Stark abstained from voting on her hiring. Leanna Stark stated that her resignation would take place on December 27th. Leanna Stark then voted on the budget that authorized the increase for the wage for the finance clerk. Leanna Stark recused herself from voting on the AFSCME contract. Leanna Stark did vote on the police and fire contract. It's alleged by one of my constituents that Leanna Stark's daughter works for the Sheffield Lake Police Department as a police dispatcher. According to the Ohio Ethics Commission, with that information, they made a determination that they gave me by verbal, and they said if I wanted a written one, that we should direct the law director, and that that's a common practice to ask for an opinion and that's like asking for a second opinion so that we don't have to pay for outside counsel. With all that said, and I'm giving you additional information in order to be able to make that determination. I'm not asking for it now, but I would like a written opinion explaining how it does not violate 2921.42, and have it written out in legalese. President Rosso states a couple of corrections; there was never a part time position for assistant finance director. It was always going to be

full-time. The debate was whether it was going to be union or non-union. The decision was made to keep it union. The union actually came back and said you don't even have to post it. because we don't have anybody that wants it. Then they went out and got resumes and they interviewed who they thought would be best. So, it was never a part-time position. It was always a full-time position, and the decision, it was an administrative decision to keep it as a union position instead of changing it. It was never a part-time position, and it's the exact same money whether it was going to be the non-union or the union position. Councilman Morrow asks but there was a raise in pay? President Rosso replies only because the union contract got voted on. It had nothing to do with her. The previous law director also stated when Mrs. Stark's daughter got hired in the police department, she could not vote on anything specific to her job., but she was allowed to vote on just the union contracts because that wasn't specific. That affected the whole department. So, that previous law director had ruled that voting on a police union contract was fine. I just wanted to clear those couple of things up. Councilman Morrow says well, my concern is for Stark. Councilman DeBottis asks the law director would it hurt us to get, because I'm one of the ones who voted no on that position and I gave my reasons why. I just had my doubts and wanted to be reassured that I was doing the right thing. I have nothing against Mrs. Stark. I have nothing against her position and what she's doing. I just, in the statute that I have read, I had my doubts possibly that we weren't doing the right thing. That's my opinion. Would it hurt to get an ethics opinion on this so we can finally maybe put this to rest? Because I think avoidance right now is maybe putting doubts in people's minds. Law Director Ward responds certainly avoidance is not the intent here and the city should be following ethical rules and so forth. My only comment was related to whether or not what is at issue here or the request made by Mr. Morrow is properly within the scope of legislative authority for this council, not necessarily the merits of requesting an ethics opinion, if that makes sense. Councilman DeBottis asks is there another way we can get an ethics opinion without going and you saying that possibly we're not doing the right thing here? Law Director Ward replies I'm only saying that the mechanism is not properly within the scope of council's legislative authority. President Rosso says ok, let's just vote. ROLL CALL: Gee, Morrow, Fogel, DeBottis. Nays: Petrucci, Kovach, Cizl. President Rosso says for what it's worth, we ask you to look into that.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilman Morrow says I had several constituents talk about the leaning and dangerous utility poles around the city. I'd like to ask, not direct at this point, the service director, Pat Hastings, to see if there's any situation to where the city can be of benefit. And I'll just note that other cities, even though they did not have ordinance that created ordinance to push the utility companies to better maintain our infrastructure. Councilman Fogel says I move to introduce an ordinance submitting a charter amendment and a field house bond issue to the voters at the May 5, 2026, primary election. This ordinance begins the process of allowing residents to decide whether the city may issue bonds for construction of a municipal field house. President Rosso says we are gonna send that out for work session. Councilman Morrow says I have several other residents that are concerned about the purchase of gym and weightlifting equipment for the field house, whether or not the money was properly approved and that it was not misappropriated. They'd like the law director to look into that, to investigate that, and render an opinion on

whether or not funds have been misappropriated or not. President Rosso replies I would think that if there was any issue with misappropriation, our financial director would have caught that. Mayor Radeff states and I would say that would have been on our audit.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

COUNCIL #102- TABLED- AN ORDINANCE BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE AMENDING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF LOTS KNOWN AS PERMANENT PARCEL NUMBERS 03-00-040-101-015 AND 03-00-040-101-008 LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF EAST LAKE ROAD FROM A B-1 ZONING DISTRICT TO AN R-2 ZONING DISTRICT.

President Rosso says Council #102, which we tabled until the last council meeting of January. Due to the holidays, the newspaper didn't publish the notice in time, so on the 27th, at the last council meeting when it's untabled, we're going to table it again for another two weeks so we can get the 30 days notice out in time.

COUNCIL #105- SECOND READING- AN ORDINANCE TO PROCEED TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION ON BEHALF OF THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE LORAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Councilman DeBottis states I just wanted to say that last week I met with some of the trustees of the library. Living here almost 40 years I probably should have spent more time in the library. I know my kids did growing up, but I did not. I was humbled by the gracious support that sitting down and all the questions that I was asking. They provided me with a budget, which we went over. They are operating in the red every year. I did not know that, so that was great information to have. Also, we went over programs that they offer, the number of employees that they employ. I was, again, very humbled. Them being very, very transparent with me. I'm not a big proponent of putting any type of a levy on a ballot unless it's needed. One thing, this is just my own opinion. Second of all, I don't like them being put on in May, because I think that May levies are skewed more towards the person asking for them versus the number of voters that get out and actually vote for them. They gave me very good reasons for that. They wanted to do this last year, but because of extenuating circumstances they were not able to do that. Now this year, they need to put on the May ballot, because of them operating in the red. They said if it doesn't pass in the May ballot, then they'll go to the November ballot. If it doesn't pass there, then they'll start to have to make decisions on some sacrifices as far as the way that the library operates. So, I was just going to say that me personally, after speaking to them for over an hour, and they answered all my questions, that I am very comfortable with two things; As a council person, just going to the May ballot and knowing that they definitely need the money and that they're spending their money wisely. Councilwoman Gee says during COVID, a lot of Sheffield Lake students were doing their classes through Zoom. A lot of them did not have internet. A lot of them that had internet, had extremely poor internet, and they kept losing their classroom. Thanks to this library, they supplied hotspots for all those students at no cost to the families. For the whole time period that was going on, people don't realize all the things that the library does do, far more than just books. When our cable was down, our grandkids didn't miss a night of TV thanks to the library. They went and they picked their own movies out. If the library didn't have it, they got it there the next day from another branch. People need to realize how much the libraries do. Councilman Morrow says I love the library and I'm normally against anything that would raise taxes. As an economist, I will say that if the library were to shut down or reduce services significantly, the city would more than likely pay in many other ways. To me, I want to say that this should go on. I have heard from my constituents. There are a lot of them that are for it. It seems like it's kind of evenly split if it goes to the May ballot. Most of the people want to know what compensation is for the positions. They're afraid of people making \$200,000 a year. They just want assurances that the money is done right. Most people say, hey, we love the library, but we don't know if it's worth it. Everybody's economies, especially those on fixed incomes, are strained at this point. Yet, the people that are on fixed incomes, they're the ones that use the library the most. Councilman DeBottis says I like the ballot language. It's very acceptable to me as far as our constituents, our voters, who know this is a tax increase if it does get voted in. Second of all, if this does pass, for a \$200,000 home if I'm not mistaken, would be an extra \$50 a year.

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: Kovach, Cizl, Gee, Fogel, Morrow, DeBottis, Petrucci. Yeas All.
*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl FOR ADOPTION.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Cizl, Gee, Morrow, Kovach, Petrucci, DeBottis, Fogel. Yeas All.

Ordinance Passes #1-26

COUNCIL #109- SECOND READING- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 505.18 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF SHEFFIELD LAKE REGARDING OWNING, HARBORING AND CARING FOR VICIOUS DOGS AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

COUNCIL #111- SECOND READING- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 935.15(e) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE REGARDING WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CHARGE, AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

COUNCIL #001- FIRST READING- A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE LAKEFRONT CONNECTIVITY PHASE V LOR-US 0006 15.09 PROJECT AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: DeBottis, Morrow, Petrucci, Fogel, Gee, Kovach, Cizl. Yeas All.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach FOR ADOPTION.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Petrucci, Kovach, Fogel, Morrow, Cizl, DeBottis, Gee.

Resolution Passes #2-26

COUNCIL #002- FIRST READING- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BROWNING-FERRIS INDUSTRIES OF OHIO, INC., AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, *Motion by Kovach/Second by DeBottis to adjourn at 8:30 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 January 13, 2026.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Richard Rosso

MAYOR

Rocky Radeff