

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

January 27, 2026

This regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, January 27, 2026.
Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

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

Present: President Rosso, Gee, Cizl, Morrow, DeBottis, Petrucci, Mayor Radeff,
Finance Director Rummell, Service Director Hastings, Law Director Ward.
Excused: Kovach, Fogel.
Attending Fire Chief Novak, Police Chief Kory, Members of the police and fire dept.,
Videographer, Citizens.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Council - *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2026 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas all.

Work Session- *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2026 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: HR Report

PRESENTATIONS: Chief Kory gives commendation to Officer Antonio Baez for life saving measures on January 2, 2026. Officer Baez responded to a call of a downed male in a yard on Lake Rd. He performed CPR until the fire dept. arrived. They were able to get the heartbeat and the individual lived. Chief Kory presents an award for meritorious service. Chief Novak gives commendation to Lt. Davis, Firefighter Joe Cook and Firefighter Dan Ferror for their actions on Dec. 28, 2025 when they saved a K9 trapped over a 30ft. cliff. Lt. Davis decided to launch one of the jet skis. Firefighter Ferror secured the jet ski and found the dog inside a cave like area. They were able to secure the K9 and get it back to the station. Chief Novak presents each with a gallantry medal.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse: None. **/Safety:** Excused. **/Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment:** None. **/Ordinance:** None. **/Finance:** Chairwoman Gee reviews the minutes of the Jan. 20, 2026 meeting. *Motion by Cizl/Second by DeBottis to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks Community Center:** None. **/Council Representative to the Park Board:** Excused. **/Representative to the Planning Commission:** None. **/Council Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals:** Representative Morrow reviews the minutes of the January 15, 2026 meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR/SAFETY: Mayor Radeff reports I've been talking about this ATP Grant and have gotten a draft of it. Pat has been reviewing it and I have been reviewing it. Once it's a finalized draft, I'll make sure to get it to council. Some of the major topics though, is it does hit areas in which we can improve on, especially with crosswalks, a couple paths, sideway gaps. It's a really, really inclusive plan. It's very well put together with a lot of citizen

commentary and such in it. In it as well is also a list of areas in which we can go after funding to reach some of these goals. They also give you a list of priorities based off of projects, based off of their scoring system, which is really good, especially when we go after these grants to show that we considered these areas in which we're trying to get funded. I know that one or two of the high recommended ones can be funded through a grant that is coming up at the beginning of March we'd have to turn in, so we're trying to see if it's possible for us to get an application into that. Pat is meeting with Rachel tomorrow to solidify those plans, but it's a very good plan, and it's great because it's for us, the village, and the school system, and it's very inclusive on making sure that we're continuing to build a walkable city that also allows people to bike and do active transportation, not only to school, but to work, to areas within the city. I want to thank the Service Dept., the Police and Fire for this weekend. Obviously, we got a lot of snow, and they did a really good job clearing as fast as possible. Police and Fire, they met with us, and we had a meeting with the county, had a huge meeting with every city municipality over Skype on Friday, and they warned us about the things coming up, possible Level 3 and such, and they were right on that meeting and ready to assist however they had to. It's really good to see that they both had backup plans for multiple scenarios that could happen. Again, I just want to thank them for working diligently the last couple of days. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. /**SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Service Director Hastings reports I wanted to echo the mayor's comments on our Service Dept., from the mechanic who has all of our equipment prepared and ready, to the Road Dept., and the assistance of our Park Dept. We broke it down into 12-hour shifts, and they did a fantastic job, so I wanted to compliment them on that. I wanted to discuss this evening our current status with the sanitation. I was asked to give a synopsis. Service Director Hastings gives a Power Point presentation with the following key points: I would start with a couple of corrections and additions. Specifically, Section 2, Subsection A, beginning May 1st, the rate per quarter for standard service is \$23.69. The word per quarter will be struck, as it is identified correctly, at a per month fee. Section 3, Subsection E, the collection day will remain on Fridays. There is a typo on Mondays. That will be struck. Finally, with the discussion on the availability of garbage removal and so forth, and other opportunities, we went ahead and defined a customer option for additional cart availability. These fees would be billed directly with Republic. So, as I reflect on city council January 13th and again on work session on the 20th, which I wasn't at, I apologize, I was dealing with a sewer issue again with the City of Lorain and our pumping. Beginning with service pricing, I went ahead and summarized with area comparables. You'll see Sheffield Lake is positioned not only well, but the best based on service pricing. When you consider a percentage increase, Sheffield Lake sits favorably at 4%, with Vermillion at 6. I didn't include Elyria, which is even greater. Of particular interest was a senior discount. Our own code, Section 965.03, Senior Citizens and Residents who are totally disabled should consult the Clerk of Utilities as to any credits allowed them. That was written in 2010 and 15 years later we still do not have a credit available. I attribute that mostly to the city defining an equitable means of applying the service, as well as it getting to the intended recipients. One of the proposals in the MOU uniformly used by Republic Services is the use of the Homestead Exemption. That is for senior citizens age 65 or older, those who are permanently disabled, or surviving spouses who are at least 59 and otherwise

receiving the exemption. To define the Homestead Exemption, it specifically targets the most vulnerable populations who are at the highest risk of losing their primary residence due to rising costs. The exemption is state mandated and regulated. In other words, it's clearly identified with the metrics being met specifically. New applicants should note in 2026, the Ohio Adjusted Gross Income must be below \$41,000. However, if you were already enrolled in 2014, you're grandfathered in. We also have the idea of combined billing and targeted collective relief strategies. There was concern about the value of just that dollar. A combined billing here in Sheffield Lake, we do include water, sewer, refuse, capital improvements, Ohio EPA fees, and stormwater utility. We imposed under Mayor Radeff a broad relief last year, Section 931.17, summer charge reduction for non-commercial users and the sewer rate, and that effectively gives a break to everybody in the community throughout the summer months when they're washing cars and watering plants and so forth. We do have the targeted relief with the pending MOU. We could have additional targeted relief with an impact study of our water, sewer per unit charges and the reduction through the Homestead Exemption applied again through those credits. We have a broad relief, because my office put a strategic pause on the base water per unit charge and sewer charge to stabilize the monthly consumer invoices. When you consider bulk pickup, a quick chart of the landscape and the bulk of the State of Ohio, you'll see that weekly unlimited garbage really only is available to about 10%. In Sheffield Lake, the weekly strictly limited, meaning 4 items or less, is still rare at 15 to 20%, with the market leaning heavily towards scheduled on-demand, where if you have a couch or a mattress, you will most likely incur a fee of \$20. And the other option is monthly and quarterly. So, when you question the bulk, I'd like to show the comparison. It's very uniform, and again Sheffield Lake is positioned well with many communities of 4 items weekly. Some are 2 items monthly, others 6 monthly, as well as the fee base that you see in Avon Lake. Councilman Morrow discussed at one of those meetings the potential benefit of dumpster days being available to residents to manage bulk. I'm happy to report that the City of Sheffield Lake participates in Lorain County Pride Day. It's the third Saturday of May each year. Multiple dumpsters are available and free, as well as pickup services for the elderly. Our fall dumpster days, we have attempted that with limited success. Pride Day, now labeled as Lorain County Beautiful Day, has seen a remarkable decline in the quantity of bulk garbage, dumpster use and yard waste dumpster use due to the operational changes and expanded services that we provide, such as bulk, curbside leaf pickup and roadside chipping. I do know that like veteran members Gee and veteran member Kovach have been at these and can certainly attest that we used to have lines around the building. Today, as we've cleaned up the city over the years, that has significantly reduced. Weekly, limited bulk pickup has been proven an effective use in the disposal of bulk items. I believe that the debate on a quantity of 4 items versus a defined measure, cubic foot area, is otherwise interpreted as simplicity versus precision. An item count is intuitive, it's simplified, and it's easy for the residents to understand. The drivers can quickly count, eliminating an argument between the driver and the resident over what a pile encompasses. When you use the cubic yard approach, it does provide precision, but it does also account for loose items, small things like bags, boxes, broken wood. However, these smaller items should be broken down and placed in the container, and in doing so, it reduces the likelihood of wind-generated litter, which we have seen an improvement on. The management and collection of bulk is an established and a cooperative effort with Republic Services. We do have SOPs, which

include visual assessment by the city and multiple visits throughout the collection day between the route manager and my office. Complaints and concerns on the execution and defined allowable quantities is rare. Further assistance and opportunity and assistance with bulk items are available by calling the Public Service Dept. Our residents, like everyone in the county, have access to the Lorain County Collection Center. When you dig into public bidding, the process, the analysis, and the risk, the City of Sheffield Lake has established a cooperative, fiscally responsible, safe, and successful agreement in place with Republic Services since February 20, 1991, which spans 35 years. This MOU can result in the Tenth Amendment to the original. All the metrics I have reviewed and associated with the new agreement are favorable when analyzed comparatively. My office has been providing facts and statistics on the pending conclusion to our current Ninth Amendment for 12 to 18 months, during which time I have not received a collective interest or a desire to proceed with public bidding. When you look at the process in comparison, advertising for Municipal Waste Management Service draws the interest of a very few limited qualified vendors. Currently, the City of Sheffield Lake is positioned to advertise independently. Our research and discussion include the pros and cons. The Mayor and I met with Director Patrick about applying to and entering in with the Lorain County Solid Waste and Recyclables Consortium. This position would allow us to buy in bulk through a consortium, but did require a \$5,000 application fee where acceptance is not guaranteed. I've also had conversations and research with Eastern Communities, recommendations to piggyback if you go out into contract negotiations such as Fairview did when they aligned with Parma Heights to benefit favorably with Republic Services. In my discussions with Bay Village, their director relayed the importance of collective bidding to quote, "so you don't have to go through the brutality of trying to bid this service." When you consider the Consumer Price Index and the potential vulnerability of an individualized bid with the City of Sheffield Lake, the Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks the specific category, water, sewer, trash, collection service, identified as WST, and ending in the last 12 months, the cost of these services increased 4.8% nationwide, with Northeast Ohio seeing an indexed increase even greater at 4.5 to 5.5%. The City of Sheffield Lake, in my opinion, is simply not positioned well to defend individually the CPI inflation opportunity desired by those limited vendors to impact the market condition through the bidding process. There was a little brief conversation on localization for the city to abandon all of these services and pick it up ourselves, converting collections owned and managed by the city requires the acquisition of trucks, carts, increased administrative and labor staff, and increased compliance requirements. Our responsibilities of collection and hauling encompass the cradle-to-the-grave methodology. In other words, when we pick up that garbage, we're responsible for it. We're responsible for hauling it, moving it. If we have a chemical spill from somebody's dump three cities away on the way to the dump, that's our responsibility. I think consideration should include a professional study identifying the goals and objectives, impacts to residents, financials, environmental compliance, and general pros and cons. If you think about it, facilitating the program and the process to implementation would consume half of the proposed agreement anyway. This most likely would take several years to implement. It's worth noting that the collection of garbage is ranked seventh as the most dangerous jobs in America. However, Republic Service utilizes professional, trained, safety-conscious, and union drivers. I don't know if most know, but the City of Sheffield Lake

actually did collect and manage its own garbage collection and are well aware of the dangerous, as in our own history. It includes the tragic death of a Sheffield Lake garbageman in the 1960s. Ironically, I worked in 1985 when I came in, I worked with a couple of guys who stayed, you know, 7-8 years, one of which was at the scene of that tragic event, and I was given details that I won't share publicly. Safety is paramount. I mentioned combined billing earlier. I did want to point out that our code, Section 139.05, combined billing, the Director of Public Service is authorized to set up a billing procedure for combining services of water, sewer, refuse, into one billing statement that can be sent and changed or charged to property owners. I believe public bidding will negatively impact our current combined billing strategies and budgets. When you consider organic waste collection and recycling, in addition to the fees collected for our service management and billing for refuse, Ordinance No. 45-19 established leaf collection, yard waste, composting, equipment fees at about 48 cents per month. I use these funds and leverage them against aggressive Ohio EPA grants for the acquisition of equipment, leaf collection trailers, chippers, and the implementation of expanded services. Our curbside leaf collection and chipping lessens the burden of residents' disposal opportunities, lessens adding to landfills, and optimizes our drainage system using Republic Service dumpsters. Our refuse funds contributed to the matching dollars of awarded grants to acquire the city's first new street sweeper, also contributing to optimal drainage and the removal of heavy metals using Republic Service dumpsters. I would comment that the dumpster use and fees available here at the city, the City of Sheffield Lake Public Service Department contains up to 7 different dumpsters, including general rubbish, yard waste, metal recycling, street sweeping, non-hazardous waste, leaf collection, and facility-specific dumpsters. Dumpster placement and its contents are strategically placed in compliance with the Ohio EPA good housekeeping procedures for local government, and they are subject to contamination penalties and manifest compliance. Limited, specific dumpsters are available to the public and historically were realized by calling my office in advance, I could review the available capacity, confirm their residency, provide direction on the location of the dumpster, and monitor what they brought in and dumped through our surveillance system. As I conclude, I would bring out the importance of our charter, Article 5, Section 5, in the Dept. of Public Service, which tasks me with the charge of the collection of rubbish and the disposal of waste. When I look at that definition and consider the totality of sanitation in the City of Sheffield Lake, I consider it an urban ecosystem of compliance, reporting, public health, and safety. In Lorain County, you are mandated by Ohio Revised Code to establish a solid waste district. Sheffield Lake is one of 34 communities who are required to participate and fulfill the management plan under their broad umbrella. Sheffield Lake unanimously passed and adopted that waste management plan in 2023. I would also add that in 2023, all 34 communities responded favorably, and Lorain County Solid Waste had the rare honor of all of its member communities being included. Lorain County Solid Waste sets the bar on good procedures and policies throughout the state. The NPDES, which is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, regulates point sources that discharge pollutants. The city is permitted under this. Under that permit, we do file an MS-4 every year on reporting and logistics. It includes the disposal of street sweepings to landfill, which is regulated by the Lorain County Board of Health. Use of dumpsters to dispose of materials after certification, lab tests, and manifest documentation. Non-hazardous-hazardous waste also uses dumpsters with manifests, as well as application and disposal of

pesticide records. These functions, logistics, and assistance are facilitated with Republic Service. We have established a functional relationship. We have established policies and procedures. We share mutual best management practices and standard operating procedures, as well as safety protocols. In consideration of the data, my experience and compliance issue, the success of our relationship with Republic Service, I continue to recommend to Mayor Radeff and the City Council that we approve the MOU between Republic Services and the City of Sheffield Lake. The final thing I wanted to report tonight was on a comment made by Councilwoman Gee at the work session regarding heat. Admittedly, the Mayor was caught off guard. I would have been too. The Police Dept. is unique and actually has 3 heating systems over there, including 3 boilers in the basement servicing City Hall. They have a split system units in their basement that are new, as well as an RTU on the top. This last quarter, the mayor and I, finance director and police chief, identified a series of improvements they wanted to work on. I did want to note that she was concerned on their comfort and their safety, and that she saw space heaters. I think if you walked around, you'll see that in all offices. I think it's just a personal preference. So, the point of contention, I think, is with that RTU unit. It has a soft duct work and is quite often vulnerable to all of the wires, etc. that are drawn in their communications. I do have an appointment with Geisel to look at the repair to that, but more importantly, look at what administration looked at as the next improvement in a split system up there. Mayor Radeff says I spoke with Officer Dobbins and he said they've never had a problem with the heat in there. I spoke with the dispatchers as well and they said they prefer space heaters. I think the issue was there was a lack of heat in the lobby, but people were not working without heat. Councilman DeBottis says last week I asked Mr. Givens what was the highest senior citizen discount that he had written. He said he would check, so I don't know if you have that information. Service Director Hastings replies I can tell you that the area wide average is \$1-3. Councilman DeBottis asks is there someone receiving \$3 discounts? Service Director Hastings replies not that I can recall off the top of my head. I think there was one that I found, but I don't remember the city. Councilman DeBottis says there was a \$2.20 discount given to the City of Vermillion seniors recently. I wanted to know why we couldn't get that offer. Service Director Hastings replies well, the City of Vermillion is in a unique position in that they were enjoying the low rates because they were in an older agreement with Republic Services. That rate that you see as a discount was considerably high, probably in the range of 15%, but given on a total garbage bill of about \$16. The difference is now they are in an agreement signed in January of 2025, and their rate is, I believe, \$24.66. Councilman DeBottis asks so, we don't want to go into competitive bidding because Mr. Givens explained it and you yourself explained it, that if we go into competitive bidding that we could pay more. Service Director Hastings responds most certainly. Councilman DeBottis asks could we have gotten quotes instead of bids? Service Director Hastings replies the industry is aligned for public bidding, and it is actually rare that a city would go in it alone. They're typically in a consortium or piggybacked, as I mentioned earlier. Councilman DeBottis asks Republic gave us a quote, correct? Mayor Radeff replies right, based off of extending our contract, not starting a new contract. So, the benefit, like he said, with Vermillion is they've had a contract with them, they continue to extend it. Adding the \$1 was an add to our contract that we never had before. He has by no means has to. He added that on his own too. We told him we would like it, but again, you've got to understand there's a

difference between them renegotiating their contract and then going out for bid again. They're just renegotiating an old contract just like we are negotiating an old contract. Councilman DeBottis asks you don't think any of the other companies would have just given us a quote? Service Director Hastings responds no, it typically doesn't work like that in municipal operations. Councilman DeBottis says I noticed reading the contract that the rates 4% per year. I noticed that it's compounded, so that's not really 4% per year. So, the \$22.78, which is the rate that we start off at, the first year it's raised by \$0.91. That's a 4% increase. President Rosso says it's 4% each year, not 4% from the original base years ago. It's 4% a year, so yes, it compounds. Councilman DeBottis states so, instead of it being 20%, as we were saying, it comes up with a 21.75% increase. Service Director Hastings responds but that's standard procedure for all utilities including water and sewer. If you look at it in the reverse perspective, they would take a loss. They would have to, in order to gain the same money, add 5%, 6%. Compounding math is significant. Councilman DeBottis says right now we're paying, as the finance director said, we're paying \$859,855 per year to Republic. These numbers start to grow, obviously, a lot quicker at the 4% than the 20-some dollars that we're getting charged per household. So, the difference when we start is \$1,046,142. That's on year 5, which is a 21.75% increase. So, the first year it's a \$34,000 increase. The last year it's a \$41,845 increase. That's how much it grows. I have a difficult time accepting any increases where we have not gotten any other bids. Service Director Hastings replies my comment on that would be the fact that I did identify the CPI at over 5%, and that is what's used industry-wide. If the city exposes themselves and goes out to bid, which you still can choose to do, they're going to use that as an opportunity to raise that consumer price index for the entire industry. President Rosso states with this change of the year and everyone following rules, I'm sticking to our rules. Council Rule Number 10 says you get 5 minutes on any topic, and you've already spoken for your 5 minutes. Councilman Morrow says I do want to say that I think that we have a good value right now. I don't know over the next 5 years with a 20% increase whether or not we will have that value. My biggest concern is that our residents have been squeezed by property taxes raising so dramatically here lately. I fear for some of them. I would like to look at this to take this opportunity to do what some other communities have done and have the option of having a 32, a 64, and a 96 gallon so that someone could pay a lower price. So, that people like, we have a widow now that may have 3 bags of trash a week and may only fill up a quarter of that 96 gallon. Well, she's subsidizing a family of 4 that is filling that in excess. I would like to look at that, as far as the rates of the unlimited trash, I think the refinement that you have is good. I'd like to see a way for those that are in need to be able to get a bigger discount. I think that comes with aligning costs with what the actual trash that is that they're producing. I also would like to look at the possibility of having where you can go and buy extra colored trash bags that might be yellow in color or orange in color. You might pay \$5 or \$6 a bag so that if you do have excess, you can come down to city hall, purchase 5-6 bags, take them home, and then put them out on the sidewalk that way. What I'm saying is I appreciate what's here. I just don't feel that we can keep it the same structure as what we've had before. Otherwise, I think that we're going to have underserved or residents that are hurting financially are going to hurt just that much more. I'd like to see if there's a possibility of negotiating that, the possibility of looking. I want BFI to make a profit. I don't think anybody's in business not to make a profit. I think that we can do that by saying, hey, if gasoline or diesel or natural gas goes up, whatever your trucks run on,

I'm sure they're probably diesel, but if that price goes up, then there's a surcharge, and then the price is adjusted accordingly. Maybe even put in PCE for the wages and everything every year for what like the Dallas Fed calculates every year. So, you're adding 2.5% for the people's wages to adjust for inflation that way. And that way, everybody can be assured that they're going to make a profit. No one's going to get so-called hosed on the deal like that, and everybody should be happy that way. Mayor Radeff states so, if you then move to where certain people who have smaller trash cans can pay less, the difference in the price is going to go to everybody who has a bigger trash can. Their price is all going to go up. Councilman Morrow replies absolutely. Mayor Radeff says there's going to be more complaints about that than anything else. Why am I paying more than this person based off the size of my trash can? The city is still going to pay the same amount. It's just going to be divvied up in different ways. So, you're ok with a portion of citizens paying way more than others? Councilman Morrow replies yeah, if they are using less, than they should pay less. If they're using more, they should pay more. We shouldn't have widows out there subsidizing 4-5 person families. Service Director Hastings states I would recommend, councilman, that we explore some of the other savings that the Homestead Exemption is offering to vulnerable people that you're describing. We do have other opportunities through water and sewer rates because it is a combined billing. I think to pursue the majority of what you're saying should be done really as we progress through this next contract. I mean, to try to renegotiate all that now would be difficult. Councilwoman Gee says I've heard a lot of talk for the last couple of years in regards to the solid waste contract. A few times in the past it's been brought up that different-sized trash cans would be a big help. All right; we have bulk. We did have it for a while that it was unlimited, but they were asking and trying to get us to encourage residents to only put out 4 items every single week. I'm a senior, so I want the tiniest trash can and the cheapest rate, because I get to put 4 bags out every week right beside that little trash can. That would open up a whole can of worms. There would be people doing that, whether we want to admit it or not. then we'd have residents calling saying, well, they've got a little trash can, but they're putting out bags. Well, they're allowed to put them out, but do you see the can of worms we'd be opening? And the feuding, we would start resident against resident arguing. This is something we have to really consider. I'm very grateful that we have the weekly bulk. All the years I've done Pride Day community-involved cleanups, it has cut down. It really has made a difference in cutting down, and I've been doing that since 1995, I think. So, it is beneficial. I'm not seeing a lot of cities that have weekly bulk pickup. I know there's been questions about, well, what if you put 4 box springs out, 3 beds? That's 6 items. 3 beds, 3 mattresses, 3 box springs, so they can't be put out. I'm sure something like that would be considered. It's not every day a family buys new beds, but they do. During this time of year, a lot of times people do buy new furniture, but there are ways around that. There are ways that we've been doing it, and there hasn't been an issue. I think it's working good the way we're doing it. When you brought up trash bags, a different color that the city dept. sells, I bet in the attic we still have some of the yellow ones from pay as you throw. That was a disaster. I see citizens grinning remembering it, and it was extra work on our own staff. There's no reason to do these things. We don't want to burden our staff; we don't want to hire more staff. I think we need to read what we have, what Pat presented tonight and make a decision by our next council meeting. Councilwoman Petrucci says I also remember when bulk pickup was once a month and it's like trying to remember, okay, which

Friday or which Monday was it? Is it this week? This is perfect. If somebody's got more than 4 things, leave it in your garage for another week. Ask your neighbor if you could put it in their yard. I mean, I don't see why we're haggling over 4 things. Councilman Cizl says I just want to thank Pat for that report and everything you do for the city. This is a big, big job. Garbage service is huge in any city. I just want to express my thanks for the presentation that you made. President Rosso states I made a mistake during work session when I said we had 3 dumpsters. I was wrong. I didn't know about it when I said it. I thought they were, but there is a fee that was passed a while ago. I know some people have went out and repeated that. So, if anybody gets any pushback about being wrong, please let them know you were told wrong by me, okay? I own it. I messed it up. I apologize to everyone. Service Director Hastings says if I could be clear, the city historically has not charged the residents because I've been able to encapsulate the limited use inside of our free dumpster. The problem with advertising it without the supporting information and just saying they're open and free, within days I have cars meandering through. As I said, there's 7 different dumpsters. The contamination fee for one dumpster is \$250. So, I reinstated the fee to maintain order.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. /**FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT**: Finance Director Rummell reports in front of you this evening, I have the December monthly treasurer's report. Also, in front of you is Council #003. It is an appropriation. I would appreciate suspension of the rules. This is money coming in; we've already received this money. This is tied to the West Dr. project. We paid out for the contractor and OWDA reimbursed the money. So, this would just be moving the money back into the line to cover what's already come out of it. The finance committee met regarding our project to move over from CMI to new software. Mr. Morrow has been working diligently with Ohio Gov to get plenty of information to help make a better-informed decision. I'll be reaching out very soon to the rep to confirm a date where I can talk to them one-on-one or as part of the group, so that way I can explain our needs and figure out a better pricing situation for that. I also need to get pricing for UAN, so that way we can do a comparison to bring before you all, so that way you have a more informed decision as we move forward with that. At last meeting I was asked about the percentage for Encompass Marketing and I do have that. It is 15% on the first \$75,000 and then it goes up to 18% beyond that. Councilman DeBottis asks under Huntington Bank, 4142, what is that? Finance Director Rummell replies 4142 is our general account; our main bank account. Councilman DeBottis asks and 7437? Finance Director Rummell replies that's a new account we have. We experienced a little bit of fraud, and so we attempted to open a new account to switch everything over. We got the fraud completely under control, so now I'm looking at options since the account is already open on better ways to utilize that. I'll be meeting with Huntington next month to go over whether it will become an interest-bearing account or how we're going to go about utilizing that to keep funds in it and potentially grow our funds through that. Councilman DeBottis asks can you explain to me the fraud? Finance Director Rummel responds we had a check that ended up being taken from one of our vendor checks that was written. It was altered, and then after that, they did a series of bogus checks against it. Our clerk of courts does our receivables. She actually caught that, and so we worked with the police dept. to go through the process of monitoring everything. Fortunately for us, we do have a positive pay on the account, so every transaction that was going through we were being notified, so that way we could go through and manually accept or deny charges that

were deemed to be fraudulent. Councilman DeBottis asks was it altered in house? Finance Director Rummell replies no, it appeared to have come out of Texas. Councilman DeBottis asks and 3228? Finance Director Rummell replies that's a sweep account. Basically, funds move in and out of it to maintain a regular balance on the 4142 account. Councilman DeBottis asks and then Star Ohio? Finance Director Rummell replies most cities end up having this, Star Ohio is a funding account where we earn interest on our money. It's designed for government. Councilman DeBottis asks and it says PSN building and transit? Finance Director Rummell responds building and transit or even the one below it for CC in transit, those are transactions that they typically fall right around the end of the month. So, the transaction may have been recorded for the end of December, but is not going to show up until January 2nd. So, those are cross-month ones where I may not see them in the bank, but they've been recorded by the department. Councilman Morrow says I'm looking at, when I looked at the city charter and I looked at the ordinance; it calls for an investment committee. Is this the investment committee report or do we not have the investment committee or not? Mayor Radeff replies I think it's a just a thing that's never been filled. President Rosso says we had it at one time and then couldn't get anybody to fill it. We can look it up and see what the requirements are. Short discussion about next steps. Rick will get more info. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. /**LAW DIRECTORS REPORT:** Law Director Ward has no report. Councilman Morrow asks so, we had asked for the second opinion. Is that something that you're going to seek to get? Or do you still feel that we do not have the power to ask you for seeking that second opinion? Law Director Ward responds I did contact the Ohio Ethics Commission regarding that issue and was informed that they do not provide an advisory opinion after the fact. That is what I was told. So, I don't have anything else to add at this time. Councilman Morrow says then I'm going to ask you tonight for a written opinion from the law director as to why the informal opinion 2000-INF-0316-2 by the Ohio Ethics Commission does not apply to this situation. Law Director Ward replies he will have it before the next city council meeting. Councilman Morrow asks I still have public records requests in and I'm going to get those by the 31st.? I don't have to go to small claims court to get the information? Law Director Ward replies yes, the city is working to address those requests Mr. Morrow. Councilman Morrow says It's going to be about 60 days for me to get my information here. I just want to make that known that I've been extremely patient in getting this information, so I don't want to have to go to court. Law Director Ward reiterates the city is working on it. Councilman Gee asks the law director how he is adjusting and he replies he is enjoying his role as the law director. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: *Patty Gascoyne, 856 Irving Park Blvd.* I know that the requisite for the Homestead exemption to get your discount thing, is an item in the negotiations here, but has anyone ever applied to the county for anything, in this room? A rhetorical question, of course. Like heat or veterans, something or other, or a Homestead exemption. The county is lazy and slow. Though I live here, I respectfully say it is lazy and slow. I qualify for it. I could get the Homestead exemption. I will never apply for it, because I don't want to do the paperwork and wait, wait, wait. However, the city does know where I live, that the bill gets paid. I usually pay it in person, and I always have my driver's license like most people do. I think it would be wonderful if whatever discount the city arranges

could be done in-house and either conveyed all at once to our disposal company of choice or just do it through the city on the water bill portion or something. Anything that can be done should be done through the city and not depend on the county for anything. It would be more efficient. It would be more community-like and easier on the people who do need it, who work hard, who want to pay their taxes on time and just keep the roads clear going and people working and the roads safe. So, if council would please consider something like that, I think it would be easier for the citizens who need it that just don't want the red tape and high blood pressure of dealing with the county that puts you on that little call loop that gets you nowhere and no one calls you back and your time's expired after you've sent in your application, you have so many days to do this, that, and the other thing. We all have forms of identification, our addresses, and these are services we who live here are seeking to receive, and any discounts should be sought locally too. This is just my two cents.

Brandon McDonald, 849 Sunset Ave. says I moved here in 2024 from Milan, Ohio, where we had Republic Services under a subscription where you pay roughly \$130 a quarter. Here, where I come from in Milan, that's quite a benefit to pay \$23 a month. Not only that, I worked at Republic Services for over 10 years before I took my current job, which is business agent and trustee with Teamsters Local 20, who represents the 300 members that work at the Elyria Republic Services. As my constituents, we are the hardest-working trash men that are out there. They're out here, they're going to be out here on Saturday now, because of the cold weather, and we look forward to continuing to pick up this community.

Sandra Jensen, 617 Lafayette Blvd. states I've lived here my whole life. I was there when the Sheffield Lake garbage man was killed when I was in middle school, so we're not going to go back. I say if it's not broke, just leave it be. I mean, we emptied out our house where we lived forever, and the things I put out, the garbage men took and I appreciate it. I think it's a good deal. I'm happy to pay, whatever. I'm a senior citizen, and I do work for the county, and I know how hard people in the county work, so you've got my support. Keep it the way it is. Just keep it, okay? I like my cans. They go out every week, they get empty. I'm happy with this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilman DeBottis I just wanted to say thank you for all the work you've done on this when it comes to trash collecting. Because I guess I'm hard-headed and old-fashioned with the amount of increases that the residents here have taken up over the years and continue to take up, I know every penny, every nickel, every dime absolutely counts. So, it doesn't look like we're going to get any competitive bids or any other competitive quotes, which I'm okay with. All I ask right now is two questions. One to the mayor; Do you feel that this is the best deal that we can get? Mayor Radeff responds like I said, I think this is the best deal that we are going to negotiate. It's now up to council to decide if this is the deal they want to go with. Councilman DeBottis says I feel that we should take the increases as a city and take them out of the general fund. Starts the first year with \$34,000, ends the last year at \$41,000. I'm sure we have the money to do this. That way we don't burden the residents with these increases, even though we're going to get a large reduction in service, which I'm willing to accept. So, I guess my compromise is that we take it out of the general fund. We don't pass anything on to the consumers since we're not getting

any competitive bids. I know that we can vote no and get competitive bids, but I don't think council should be put in that situation. Therefore, if we feel this is the best, then I guess let's put our money where our mouth is and let's take care of it out of the general fund and give our citizens something back in this city, which I think they would greatly, greatly appreciate. I know that we do things for our citizens in this city, but I think at this point in time this would be a very nice gesture and it doesn't cost us a lot. Councilwoman Gee says I understand some people have a hard time doing things with the county on the county level. The Homestead Act, you can file for it online. It's real simple online to do. You have to be the homeowner to claim it though. So, anyone that's renting, whether they're a senior or they're disabled, they would not qualify for the Homestead Act, which means they will not qualify for the discount from Republic. If there was any way Republic could change that to just by showing an ID, that dollar really would go to a lot more people then. I understand things are done the way they are done and this is something I pretty much have to accept, I guess. I do not qualify for the Homestead. I know a lot of renters that should qualify, but they don't because they don't own the home. Councilman Morrow says I think it's horrible we didn't take pictures of Antonio Baez and the firefighters. President Rosso replies the fireman took pictures. Councilman Morrow says I have a number of things that will probably be referred to work session. I wanted to look at evaluating or investigating the possibility of hiring a city engineer to offset our engineering costs. Just an idea I wanted to throw out there to get a discussion rolling about it. We do have, from looking at the budget, very high engineering costs, and we may be able to offset that by bringing some of that in-house. Maybe looking at investigating, expanding the road dept. capability so we can do more in-house without letting out to bid stuff for some of our road projects. I don't know if that's been considered either, but it's just something that, if you have looked at that in the past, Pat, you know, something I'd be interested at looking at. This was one thing I had a couple of residents email me about; participating in the crimemapping.com or LexisNexis Community Crime Maps, and making that easily accessible so they can see where crimes happen, how many crimes over time, and also where an easy centralized place. I know that there's a place to be able to see where the sexual predators live and stuff like that, but they just wanted to have one place that you could go to. The other thing was one of the things that I think that we should look at to bring more funds into the community is the municipalization of our power grid, our utility here, to see if we can take that over. There are companies called American Municipal Power and American Public Power Association that do that for the city. They do all the big heavy lifting. They do the maintenance and everything like that and rather than us paying for First Energy's shareholders, then the city essentially gets that profit from there. So those are nonprofit organizations. We would get the profit, and then that could be used to build things like maybe a new police dept. or a fire dept. or a field house or what have you, through that savings. President Rosso says the one about the roads, let's talk about that at roads & drains. Service Director Hastings states Bramhall Engineering does serve as our city engineer. I don't know if you knew that designation. Councilman Morrow replies yeah, I did. I've worked with cities like Clyde, Norwalk, where they have their own engineer that probably earns between \$90-100,000 a year. They do farm out some of the engineering, but it looked like there could be considerable savings there for the city if we did bring in an engineer and have that in house.

Service Director Hastings replies I just want to make sure you were aware of that designation. I'm currently working probably with 5 different engineering firms. It really, quite frankly, reflects the fact that we've done \$30 million in projects. I think 10 years ago, that engineering fee was 1/3 of what you see today. Councilman Morrow responds and since it's so high, I've got to ask that question and try to see if we can save the residents some money. President Rosso says it will be added to work session.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

COUNCIL #102- THIRD READING- 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.

*Motion by Gee/Second by DeBottis to table until February 10, 2026.

ROLL CALL TO TABLE: Gee, Cizl, DeBottis, Petrucci, Morrow. Yeas All.

COUNCIL #109- THIRD 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.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl FOR ADOPTION.

Councilwoman Gee says there was a resident named Pat Fogo; she waited a lot of years to see this legislation pass. She passed a month ago. It's nice to see this legislation passing. Thank you.

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

Ordinance Passes #3-26

COUNCIL #111- THIRD 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.

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

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

Ordinance Passes #4-26

COUNCIL #002- SECOND 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 #003- FIRST READING- AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, INCREASE, AND/OR DECREASE OF CERTAIN FUNDS WITHIN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO, AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl FOR ADOPTION.

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

Ordinance Passes #5-26

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, *Motion by Cizl/Second by DeBottis to adjourn at 8:26 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 27, 2026.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Richard Rosso

MAYOR

Rocky Radeff