

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
February 10, 2026**

This regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, February 10, 2026.
Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

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

Present: President Rosso, Kovach, Gee, Cizl, Fogel, DeBottis, Petrucci, Mayor Radeff,
Finance Director Rummell, Service Director Hastings, Law Director Ward.
Excused: Morrow
Attending Police Chief Kory, Building Official Gudat, Videographer, Citizens.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

Council - *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2026 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas all.

CORRESPONDENCE: Monthly report of court receipts January 2026- \$3,094.42.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse: Chairman DeBottis reviews the minutes of the February 2, 2026 meeting. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Safety:** Chairman Kovach reviews the minutes of the February 4, 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 February 3, 2026 meeting. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Ordinance:** Chairman Cizl reviews the minutes of the February 3, 2026 meeting. *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the report. Yeas All. **/Finance:** None. **/Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks Community Center:** None. **/Council Representative to the Park Board:** None. **/Representative to the Planning Commission:** None. **/Council Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals:** None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR/SAFETY: Mayor Radeff reports we recently found out that the police dept. was able to obtain a little over \$12,000 grant for body cameras. Making sure we continue to have good body cameras that work is very important. As was mentioned at the Safety Committee, today I actually spoke with Finance Director Rummell about approaching our bond council to get a bond together for that fire truck, because we know that that price is only held open until the end of the month. So, we're working on getting that together so we can get it to council. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. **/SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Service Director Hastings has no report. Councilman DeBottis says Mr. Hastings, I'd like to thank you and your crew. It's been a long, cold winter, and you have all done an outstanding job of keeping us going here. So, I just wanted to give thanks again. **/FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Finance Director Rummell reports the audit,

finance software and bond, I hope to have more information at the next meeting. I did speak to Mr. Morrow earlier today, and he is hoping to have a report for the next finance and audit meeting, a SWOT report analysis of the finance software, so that way we can have something to show you and discuss through with how we're going with the finance software. As Mrs. Gee noted, we do have 2 pieces in front of us for appropriations. Similar to last meeting where we had council #003, with an appropriation for OWDA, council #004 is a continuation of that. It's the next part of it. We've already received this money, so the goal with this appropriation is to move the money back into the account. So, like last time, I would ask for a suspension of the rules. Then council #005 does not need a suspension of the rules. This is the money we received for the splash pad. So, this can go to 3 readings, but eventually we hope to get that in so we can begin progress on the splash pad.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the report. Yeas All. /**LAW DIRECTORS REPORT**: Law Director Ward has no report.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: Rodney Bonner, 711 East Dr. states as most of you know, I'm also the commander of the VFW right across the street. It was brought to our attention recently that the city inspector wants to fine the VFW for our trash dumpster set. It's been there for, I believe, about 30 years, and it's too close to the road. Now, we did extend that cement pad 3 years ago at the request we got from the city, because they didn't like the fact that the trash truck was putting a big ditch on that side of the road. So, we extended it out to the road as requested. That's the only change we've made. In addition to that, we've also been told that it's being looked at to require us to get permits for our charity gaming, which when I came here, when I took over as a quartermaster for the post, I came to the city and asked if that was a requirement. I was told that is not. Now, we spend a lot of money to make sure we're legal on those machines, and I can assure you the thing that I want to make perfectly clear is if something like this happens, the veterans that I have at those meetings will not continue making the donations that we make to the city. These guys, most of them are Vietnam-era veterans, and they take stuff like that as a sign of disrespect, and I cannot do that without their support. Since June, we've given over \$100,000 between Sheffield and Sheffield Lake. Most of it has stayed within Sheffield Lake. I'd like to continue doing that. I want to make sure that we work with the city. We have some upgrades planned to our building next year, which we fully intend to get permits whenever we need to, just like every other time we've made an update since I've been there. I make sure that we come over and we get whatever it is we need. I'm not asking for special treatment for the VFW. I'm just asking for stuff that we haven't made changes to, for that to become a problem, I don't care for that, and I can assure you that the people who vote and control that funding over there will not care for that. I mean, we have 2 things right now we're just waiting for approval from for you guys to fund, 1 of them being a pavilion for the Veterans Park, and then another item for the Police Dept. I enjoy the ability to do that for the city, because I hope that that frees up the funds in the city to do things that the city might need to do to support other items. President Rosso asks you were talking about permits for charitable, are you talking about like if you have a steak fry or something or are you talking about the games? Mr. Bonner replies I'm referring to the machines that we have there that we have to get a license through the state. Councilman Fogel says I looked into a similar issue at the

Shoreway Shopping Center. I didn't see anything in the ordinance that required a setback from the street. All I saw was a requirement that the dumpster be hidden from sight, either with vegetation like bushes or with a fence. So, Inspector Gudat, is there any particular ordinance that they're in violation of? Mayor Radeff replies this is the first time I've heard of this. Mr. Bonner says I'm not going to stay here and tell you that I know for a fact. I'm just telling you this is what we've been made aware of. How accurate it is, I have no idea. President Rosso says We'll follow up, get an accurate information, and we'll let you know.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Councilwoman Gee says yesterday, VFW invited all the seniors. They gave us the building free of use. We had a dance and an early Valentine's Day dinner. We actually even had a quartet playing for us. I'd like to thank everybody that was involved. It was quite an enjoyable time. Roughly close to around 50 people attended. We are going to look forward to doing dinners there more often.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

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 Kovach/Second by Gee FOR ADOPTION.

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

Ordinance Passes #6-26

COUNCIL #002- THIRD 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.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Cizl FOR ADOPTION.

Councilman Fogel says I just want to start off by saying that as a council member, my responsibility is oversight and protecting the public interest. I did not seek out controversy, but I did come across a publicly available photograph from November 7, 2023, taken at the Mayor's Victory Party, showing Mr. Dan Givens of Republic Services in attendance. Republic Services is not a casual acquaintance or a private citizen in this context. It is a city vendor with a direct financial relationship to Sheffield Lake, negotiating contracts that affect every household in our community. In reviewing publicly available campaign finance records, I also found a \$50 campaign contribution from Mr. Dan Givens of Republic Services to the Mayor made in March prior to the primary election. That contribution is legal and a matter of public record and I am not alleging wrongdoing. However, when residents see a sequence of events, a campaign contribution before an election, attendance at a victory celebration, and later a proposed no-bid contract with that same vendor that includes annual rate increases and reduced bulk services, it stops looking incidental. It becomes an optics and public trust issue. This is not about parsing legality. Residents look at the totality. Political support, social proximity, and a no-bid procurement process create the appearance of an inside track, whether intended or not. That appearance erodes confidence in local government. Our obligation is not only to act ethically, but to look ethical. Residents deserve assurance that negotiations are conducted at arm's length, that alternatives are meaningfully explored, and that council is fully engaged in protecting their interests. Had council been united and focused solely on our constituents' fiduciary interests rather than the mayor's political donors or supporters, we could have sent this proposal back and forced a better contract. We are being asked to believe this is the best deal available. If that is true, it should stand on its own. Keep the 5-year term, but give the city an option to opt out after 12 or 24 months. If the deal is as good as advertised, Republic Services will be back

here in 5 years. At this time, I move to table this item until Councilman Morrow is present to give Republic Services an opportunity to revisit the bulk limits and to give council the time it needs to sort this out and properly protect the public trust. Councilman DeBottis seconds the motion to table. So, we have a motion and a second to table Council Number 02. Now I'm going to open it up for discussion. Councilwoman Gee asks did you receive the contact from Jon Stewart? Mayor Radeff replies yeah, I already responded. President Rosso says this should be strictly about tabling this ordinance. Councilman Cizl asks didn't we move to adopt and a second for that? Before he tabled it? President Rosso replies yep, sorry, I screwed that up. So, actually then, yes, we have a motion and a second for adoption. We can't make a motion to table and second it unless you want to withdraw it. So, if you don't want to do that, then we'll discuss more and then we'll vote on whether or not to accept it. I'm going to let Pat talk. Service Director Hastings states I was just going to comment to the city council that Mr. Given is about the fourth regional manager I've worked with. I don't find a lot of merit in what's being portrayed this evening. I deal with this full-time, all the time, have for decades, and I confidently make a recommendation that this city council accept the agreement. The idea that we can go out and get quotes is a little skewed. This is a million-dollar contract, and you would have to do it through a public bid. When you pursue that, you lose the MOU that is on the table today, and then we are susceptible to the public bid that would follow. I explained in detail the consortium, the idea that we would pay \$5,000 to join it, and that does not have a guarantee that we would even be accepted to it. So, I would just conclude that I confidently say that this is a solid contract, and I believe my recommendation is based on 40 years of service to this city. President Rosso says I was cleaning out my basement the other day and ran across a folder that had council stuff in it, and I had the report from the previous service director, Len Smith, from 2011, which was one of the years we renewed the contract. In 2011, it moved up with 4.5%, so we're a little cheaper. Our garbage rate was \$18.50. If we pass this, we're going to go to \$23.69. Over 15 years, we've seen a \$6 increase, \$5.20 increase in our garbage, which doesn't seem unreasonable, and as Mr. Hastings had pointed out, we've been doing this. I would be far more concerned with Mr. Fogel's concern if we were going with a new vendor outside of one that we haven't dealt with for the past 40 years, but that's the only statement I'm making. When I looked, I said, wow, over the 15 years, we've only went up \$5. As I go to the grocery store, it goes up \$5 from each week. Councilman Cizl says Pat, you've been communicating to council about this contract since April? Service Director Hastings replies at least a year, closer to 18. If you get down into the deep math, you don't really see a 4% increase in 2026, because you don't start until the fifth month. Councilman Fogel says my issue wasn't with the increase. My issue is with the bulk and no defined limit on bulk; 4 items. I never had an issue with you, Pat. I know that you've been with the city for 40 years, and I trust your judgment. I just want to make sure that this is all on the up and up and everything's clear. There's been a lot of cheerleading for this contract from the administration, and I'm just a little confused when I see Mr. Givens at the mayor's victory party. It's concerning. It doesn't look good. So, I thought if we could table this, we have until May 31st, I think. President rosso says but right at this point, the vote's going to be whether or not to approve it.

ROLL CALL FOR ADOPTION: Kovach, Cizl, Gee, Petrucci.

Nays-Fogel, DeBottis. Councilman DeBottis says I'd like to make a statement on my vote. I would like to start off by thanking Mr. Hastings for all the time and effort in negotiating this proposed refuse contract. I, as a council person, ran my campaign on 3 promises; transparency, fiscal responsibility, and the voice of the citizens of Sheffield Lake. I do not consider this to have been fair to put Mr. Hastings in this situation regarding this million-dollar contract. Just as Council President Rosso recently stated under roads and drains, we didn't want the service director making a call regarding money, quote, unquote. I speak for myself and no other council person. We should consider an ordinance that requires any contract over a certain dollar amount to require 3 competitive bids. I feel in doing so, we would fulfill transparency and fiscal responsibility in this area. Therefore, for council #002 regarding Browning Ferris Industries of Ohio, my vote is no.

Ordinance Passes #7-26

COUNCIL #004- 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 Kovach FOR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES.

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

*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl FOR ADOPTION.

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

Ordinance Passes #8-26

COUNCIL #005- 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.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, *Motion by DeBottis/Second by Cizl to adjourn at 7:41 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 February 10, 2026.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Richard Rosso

MAYOR

Rocky Radeff