

Work Session February 17, 2026

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
February 17, 2026**

The regular meeting of the City Council Work Session was held Tuesday, February 17, 2026. President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Rosso, Kovach, Morrow, Fogel, DeBottis, Petrucci, Gee, Cizl, Service Director Hastings, Law Director Ward.

Excused: Mayor Radeff, Finance Director Rummell

Attending: Citizens

PRESENTATIONS: President Rosso says I'd like to ask a favor of Council. I would like to amend tonight's agenda to have the gentleman here about the video to be allowed to do a presentation and what he's done so far.

*Motion by Morrow/Second by Cizl to add presentation to the agenda.

Victor Edwards, Owner and president of Technology Systems Integration states I've been in business for over 10 years. I've been working with the Lorain County Commissioners for about five years now. I do a lot of different technology installations, including networking, security, surveillance, Wi-Fi, and also audio video streaming systems. I've been out here twice now to take a look at your existing system. The equipment you have is pretty old and it's not offering the features for the streaming capability that you would like to have. So, I was asked to create a proposal and present both the equipment and the cost for what it would take to upgrade your existing system. President Rosso says this is upgrading all the equipment and hopefully being able to live stream our meetings over YouTube. Mr. Edwards says if you look at the proposal, originally, I had included 2 different kinds. There was a 1080p resolution system and a 4K resolution system. And the total cost was around 15,000 or 17 and a half. The difference between those 2 is primarily in the cameras themselves. In the addendum, I included a third proposal in order to reduce the cost of the system. We had a conversation whether or not the PTZ cameras were actually necessary. And instead of using a joystick to be able to control and aim the cameras using the PTZ, that stands for hand tilt zoom, I included stationary cameras instead, which would be installed, mounted, aimed, and that's it. Once they're installed, you can't remotely control them like you can with PTZ. That brought the budget down to 8,300. So that was a significant cost savings. The other significant cost savings was a change up on the audio system. Originally, when Aden came to me, he had asked to prepare a proposal that was as similar to what the county commissioners have as I could produce. So, I used the same brands, the same equipment, the same types of cameras and the price tag is what

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you see. He had asked if there was a cheaper way. So, I came back with a different brand. Instead of Allen and Heath, I had proposed a Behringer mixer. The Behringer mixer does not have as many channels. The quality is maybe not quite as good, but I installed the same digital mixer for Amherst Township and their video streaming system. and it's been running since 2021 without a problem. So, I feel like a \$4,000 savings on the audio equipment is a good idea. I think it would still do what we need it to do. So, that's how we took it from \$14,000 down to \$8,000 just by swapping the cameras and the audio mixer. I did wanna highlight the difference between the 4K and the 1080p. In the addendum on page 14, you'll see a resolution comparison. I just wanted everyone to understand what this means. When you're looking at that image, you'll see I have it marked as a 4K video frame, which is 3,840 pixels wide. 1080p full high-definition video is exactly half as wide as 4K. So, 4K is actually 4 times the resolution because it's twice as wide and twice as tall. What that means is you can take multiple 1080p images and nest them inside of a 4K video frame and still maintain their native resolution. So, when you're viewing this on a YouTube channel on a 4K monitor or even your smartphone, you can zoom in and you can still maintain that image fidelity, the clarity that you would expect out of 4K, because you're taking multiple lower resolutions and nesting them. This kind of achieved a solution that Aden had asked in order to try to reduce labor costs and the need for an operator to control the system at every single meeting by basically keeping the cameras on a picture in picture view full time. It would allow you to show everyone in the room at the same time and still maintain high image quality without having to switch back and forth between camera 1, camera 2, camera 3. Councilman Cizl asks just for clarification, the image that you have here, these are three 1080ps, all of them that you're putting together on a 4K monitor? Mr. Edwards replies correct. Councilman Cizl asks how would you get full council in the frame? Mr. Edwards responds I don't think it would make that much difference to put the camera at the back and just zoom out a little bit wider. You're not gonna get that extreme close up of everyone's faces, but I think you'll find that the video quality that these cameras produce is phenomenal compared to your existing system. Councilwoman Gee asks the system that you're talking about for the \$8,000 something, what does the person up here have to do? They normally have to start the recorders. What would they have to do to start turning this on? Mr. Edwards replies this system primarily is used for recording and streaming video, but you can also use it for audio only recording of the meetings. Councilwoman Gee says what I'm trying to find out is there's a different person for different meetings. How complicated will it be for that person to be able to start it? Mr. Edwards replies this was a topic that we discussed. We had searched for a 100% AI driven, fully automated video system. Such a thing does not exist to my knowledge. If it does exist, I don't think I'd be able to install it and you probably couldn't afford it. So, at this point, an AI driven system was kind of out of the question, but to answer your concern, I don't think it would be very difficult to hit the record button to start the

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video. The more complicated part in my mind is maintaining the YouTube channel itself, being able to create and schedule those videos on YouTube before each of the meetings. Councilman Morrow says I know there are subscription services for what they call semi-professional videographers, like Mevo's software that make it really easy by having a red button and then you can see all 3 of your videos and it'll say recording. Of course, that's a subscription service that you pay monthly to do it. I've seen other places where they've set up like OBS software or a derivative of that to where they've set in line a macro so that you can just get that. Is that something that you have a capability of doing with like the, and I'm assuming that you're probably gonna use OBS software for streaming it, because it's cheap and it's somewhat easy, but if you wanna make it ridiculously easy so that anyone can use it and that there's not much problem, I didn't know if that was a possibility. Mr. Edwards replies I did consider something like that. So OBS, open broadcaster software, it's not just cheap, it's actually free. That software is very, very good and it has some large sponsors like Nvidia. So, that project has grown leaps and bounds in the last 6 years and it's a very reliable, very stable platform for streaming on. It does have a little bit of technical savvy in order to set it up initially. Using it once it's set up is not that bad. To answer your question about the remote-control capability or the macros, that is the nice thing about a software platform is that you have the flexibility to use plugins and one of the things that OBS has is a remote control where you can use tablet, smartphone or a laptop and you can actually control what scenes are currently being recorded or streamed. So, you could have a tablet up here at the dais and you could choose which scenes and I feel like that would be especially helpful if you had a presentation and you would like that presentation to show up on this large television and also go out to your YouTube channel at the same time. You would need at some point to switch between the camera view and the slideshow and so that would require some user input. Councilman Morrow says my experience has been once you're taught that, it's extremely easy to do and so if we just had someone, whether it's a council person, a clerk or another technical savvy person and again, I don't really say that you have to be technically savvy, you just are shown once how to do it and it's relatively simple after that. Mr. Edwards says I feel that the management of the YouTube channel is actually more involved, because you have to go into the YouTube channel and you have to schedule every one of your live streams, add a title, a date, a description, a time. Councilman Morrow replies where the Mevo, and again, that subscription software, which isn't free, that we would pay monthly, it does a lot of that for you on that back end. You don't have to go into YouTube; you can just do it from the Mevo platform. That's something that if OBS wasn't working out for us, we could always move to that platform, I suppose. Mr. Edwards states because this is a software-based video streaming system, it offers a lot more features and benefits than like a solid state or a hardware-based video streaming system. You can run Microsoft Office, you can use a video editing software, you can stream to Facebook, YouTube, you have more

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ability, including, you can have redundant data storage, you can automatically have scheduled backups that take your video files and upload them to the cloud or to a network-attached storage drive for safekeeping. Those are features that you wouldn't find on a hardware video switcher. It's just a Windows PC and you can do anything you want with it. Councilman Fogel asks you would be able to come out and make changes right? Mr. Edwards replies of course. Just for everyone's knowledge, I'm the owner, but I'm also the salesperson, the installer, the technician, the troubleshooter. So, you have one person to go to and there's no finger pointing. I can take care of everything for you. Councilman Fogel asks could the live streaming be setup remotely? Mr. Edwards responds in a way, yes. You could use a remote desktop application to log into that streaming computer, but you can also manage the YouTube channel from any computer. Councilman DeBottis asks does it have the capability to offer residents to interact in real time? Mr. Edwards replies the YouTube channel can. So, YouTube offers commenting as well as live chat. President Rosso says I'm not quite sure that would be something we would want because we don't allow people to talk from the audience. Now, why would we let them do any interaction on a live stream? I don't know how that would work. Councilman DeBottis says I just had a vision of if we were able to do that, like during citizens commentary. We say, hey, the first 3 people to log in, we could broadcast it here, they could ask questions and we could answer them. Mr. Edwards responds that's actually a whole nother discussion there. You can use the same system for an interactive teams meeting. You can have a two-way interactive video call on this screen and you can talk and see the person on the other end. So, if you wanted to host a virtual conference, you can, but that's not YouTube. That would be like Microsoft Teams. Councilman DeBottis asks in your opinion, how often would you say the equipment needs to be upgraded? Mr. Edwards replies because this is a Windows-based system and because the system is connected to the internet, there are an increased chance of a cybersecurity attack. So, anytime something connects to the public internet, it needs to be updated more frequently. With a hardware-based video switcher like that one, the manufacturer designed it and that's it. There's no chance for an outside threat or attack and it doesn't change; it doesn't need updating. But whenever you start interacting with the internet, with the cloud, with YouTube, there needs to be updates on a fairly regular basis in order to continue to provide the same internet connectivity and streaming services. Windows has a bad habit of implementing hardware requirements that will create planned obsolescence. For instance, Windows 10 went end of life, Windows 11 took over. They created an artificial deadline on when a certain generation of hardware could no longer be used. Could that happen again when Windows 12 comes out? Absolutely. I feel pretty confident that the system that I built you would last a minimum of 6 years without changes. After 6 years, at that point, you start to encounter some things. Eventually the Windows-based PC would need to be replaced. Now, that's only \$2,400 thereabouts. So, you don't have to scrap the entire system to replace that one

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component. President Rosso asks we can stream live and record at the same time? Mr. Edwards replies yes. President Rosso asks when we're streaming and even recording, this would be both video and audio, right? Mr. Edwards replies yes. President Rosso says I thought you said just video. Mr. Edwards states the police chief had asked me, his concern was data retention and the amount of capacity for... each video file will take up space on a hard drive and he's concerned if every single meeting is 4K video resolution, he may have to purchase additional data storage in order to continue to accumulate all these videos. So, he proposed the idea of only recording audio for certain meetings. President Rosso asks we're using these microphones, because we're not gonna change the microphones, right? In today's world, our clerk takes the card out of here, puts it in downstairs and listens and transcribes the minutes. Will we still have something that she can listen to to transcribe the minutes? I mean, even if it's just we leave this here or something like that, or does she have to sit down and watch the video each time? Mr. Edwards responds you can have redundant recorders. YouTube will automatically create a transcript and closed captioning for the video. And you can actually copy that text directly from the YouTube channel and use that at least as a starting place for your minutes. Councilman Morrow says when you live stream to YouTube, it automatically keeps a permanent copy there. After the live stream is done, you have a copy that's out there on the net and then you can back it up to wherever you want to. If you wanna back it up to your Google Drive, you can back it up to your Google Drive or your OneDrive or anything like that. It'll automatically optimize those files and make them as small as possible without losing too much of the quality. The big thing is if you save them here on a hard drive, they're gonna be big files that aren't necessarily optimized, correct? Mr. Edwards replies no, that's not exactly true. By using an NVIDIA 5070 graphics card, we can directly encode the video stream into an H.265 high efficiency video coding or an AV1 format, which is the same thing that YouTube uses. That would require about 60% of the space of like an H.264 codec. So that would give about 3.3 gigabytes per hour for your file size. I strongly believe that you should always record and stream simultaneously. The reason is if you had a hiccup in your internet connection, that video file will continue to be recorded to the hard drive, even if you lose internet. Then that gives you a backup copy, which can be uploaded to YouTube later. The other thing I'll say though is YouTube is a free service and I'm not a legal person, but I would assume that YouTube is under no obligation to preserve your files forever. If YouTube decided that they wanted to free up some storage space, they could potentially delete all of your videos. Councilman Morrow says I just look at when you start to store stuff on site, you have all of that retention if you do it to tape, whether or not you do it to disk, okay, now does this deteriorate and everything like that, where if you do it to the cloud and you pay for the service for the backup, then you have multiple redundancy that we couldn't or really wouldn't be able to afford. Mr. Edwards replies I'm not sure I would say couldn't afford. I mean, even a one terabyte, one

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drive subscription for \$100 a year, I don't think that's excessive. Councilman Cizl says Rick, you mentioned that we aren't gonna replace the microphones and I think we had a discussion either in the meeting yesterday or amongst us. In order to record minutes and whatever else, there's the option of push to talk microphones where you can, it's actually recorded, it's only recorded when you press. So, it really has nothing to do with the microphone in itself, but that would be another option. President Rosso replies but that's not in the quote. Councilman Cizl says just for everybody's review, you were looking at recording and streaming all meetings that we have. So, we're talking 12 meetings a month. Councilman Fogel says and mayor's court. Councilman Cizl asks about the county cameras and Mr. Edwards replies they are 1080p, but nested in a 4k resolution frame. The other nice thing about having a 4K is if you have text documents on screen, it's a lot easier to read them in 4K than this 1080p. Councilman Cizl asks just for clarification, going to what we're doing now, and like Aden mentioned, we can avoid the labor costs of hiring a videographer for 2 meetings a month, which is \$1,200 a year. Obviously, if you're looking at going multiple meetings, how many, would that be, Rick, if we were gonna do all, about 12 meetings a month? President Rosso replies yeah, but we're hoping not to have a videographer. Councilman Fogel says so, we eliminate the videographer, which is about \$1,200 a year, and then the Vimeo subscription, which is about \$350 a year. So, about \$1,400 to \$1,500 a year. President Ross asks If we eliminate the Vimeo subscription, will we lose all the history that's out there? Councilman Cizl replies you can download them. The streaming is a great option to go, everyone's doing streaming. I would be really interested in seeing if, do you have any idea with your county commissioners, the viewership, in order to stream to the home so people don't have to come and sit at the meetings? I know with Vimeo, that's one of the advantages, we can go back and look at how many hits we had each meeting, obviously some are multiple people. Every time I log in, that's another hit. But I would be interested, if we're streaming for the community, to be able to watch shows, I would be interested in knowing how much is actually utilized. Councilman Fogel replies you'd be able to tell how many live viewers we're watching, how many views total. I think you can go into your YouTube account and look at the algorithm and see how long they watch the videos for on average. About the microphones. I know we had talked about the microphones, and I think it is a suggestion that maybe we do the review system first, see how the microphones perform, and if it's not high enough quality, then we can add microphones. President Rosso says this is really being driven, in my opinion, our equipment now, it's 20 years old. At some point, we gotta address it. Brief back and forth about starting by taping all meetings or just council. Councilwoman Gee says you pointed out that this is a small business and it's local. So, every time we have a problem, you'll be the person we see. I really like that idea. A local business, a small business, and knowing who we're dealing with every time, that's a nice added touch. Councilwoman Petrucci asks after the initial setup and the cost, what is the

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ongoing monthly cost going to be? Mr. Edwards replies for me, there's no monthly subscription at all. If you needed help as far as training or service, repair, upgrades, that would be on a time and material basis. The way I prepared this quote for you, it's entirely transparent. All the prices you see are retail pricing. There's no markup in here. I would simply estimate at the bottom the labor costs based on how long I think it takes to install the system. So, if you called me and you needed a new sound system or new microphones, I would simply give you a quote for what that time and material would be. Councilman Morrow says just one more thing, and this is on your page 11 addendum quote, and I've done some of this work before in the past. I haven't done any of it recently, but I've always been a big proponent of having one extra camera on hand, maybe even if it's one of the lesser quality, in case one of them goes down, because sometimes if you're looking to get a quality camera, it could take 2 weeks to get a camera delivered to you if it's not in stock. So that's something, even though we're a three-camera system, it might behoove us to have a fourth one on hand in case one of them breaks down. Or is that something that you might keep one on hand at your place? Mr. Edwards responds I don't typically stock these, because they are rather expensive. 2 things I'll say is PTZ Optics is a good quality brand. They have American-based tech support out of Pittsburgh, PA. The company that I typically purchase from is Sweetwater Sound in Indiana, and they can ship these overnight. So, within a day or two, you have a replacement part. The one thing about these cameras is that, on the addendum, the budget video system proposal, that is the cheapest camera that PTZ Optics sells. So, \$950 is the cheapest they have. You can always get cheaper. You can always find somebody that's willing to sell you a cheaper product. But the reason I really like these is because PTZ Optics has partnered with NDI to provide network-based video transport. And what's really nice about that is a single Ethernet cable will do everything. It'll power the camera, it'll control the camera, and it'll send the video signal.

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

ROADS & DRAINS: Chairman DeBottis reports Council #002, the Browning and Ferris contract for refuge was passed in our last council meeting. Also, sewer credits for 545 Irving Park and 712 East Dr. were both denied. Mr. Hastings said that we are scheduling open bids for phase 5 of the connectivity trail. **/SAFETY:** None. **/BUILDINGS, LANDS, VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT:** Chairwoman Petrucci states with nothing on our agenda, the March meeting will be cancelled. **/ORDINANCE:** Chairman Cizl will be absent at the March meeting. Decision made to cancel. **/FINANCE:** Chairwoman Gee reports at our next meeting we are going to have a short presentation from Councilman Morrow, and our finance director will be able to speak on the facts of what we have researched and looked into for the finance department. **/PARK BOARD:** None.

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

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MAYOR: Mayor Radeff is excused. **SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Service Director Hastings reports I'm working with the law director to present legislation to purchase a splash pad package on the state bid through our source well contract. We're also working with the law director on legislation to approve a donation from VFW for the construction of a shelter pavilion at Memorial Park. Today, we had a water break, the second one of the season, which is statistically very good. I wanted to thank Councilman DeBottis for calling me this morning early to report it. That was repaired without incident and no boil alert. Councilwoman Gee asks that gas leak in Ward 1, is there anything the city can do to kind of push the gas company into coming sooner than in a couple of weeks? Service Director Hastings replies I already have. You'll see activity in a week. They have a severity of gas. Obviously, we encourage residents to call anytime they smell gas. But they did come out, they categorized these things based on the emergency, based on that kind of, and they call it a category two, which is not imminent. However, our fire dept. has been called several times. While they do have probably hundreds of these in that classification, due to the concern of the residents, city council and so forth, I called today to have it expedited, and they were receptive. Councilwoman Gee asks when it comes to the parks, have we ever looked into combining forces with metro parks with some sort of partnership? That might be a way of getting, for example, the beach and the pier, possibly help financially with getting that behind the community center. Service Director Hastings responds I can tell you that I've personally thought of it, although I don't recall any conversations with the administration. You know, I do look to the success of Cascade Park in Elyria, Lakeview Park in Lorain. These are big parks, but they've successfully been handed over to the metro parks who brings their funding and so forth. So, to answer your question, I think it's certainly viable to explore the option. I would have to contact the director, Jim Ziminek and find out the process. We'd have to obviously get the go ahead from the mayor's office and so forth. Councilman DeBottis asks you said you have a contact for the gas company for escalating the (gas leaks)? Do you just need an address if we have a resident? Service Director Hastings replies you can contact me anytime. Councilman DeBottis says there's one on East Dr. The leak has been there for 1-2 years. He asked me to come out and smell it. The gas company's been there. They keep telling him that it's a low priority and it could be 1-2 years before they fix it. Service Director Hastings replies forward me the address and I can reach out. Councilwoman Petrucci asks do we have a community composting pile or area where residents can bring, I guess, their banana peels? Service Director Hastings responds no, we do have a yard waste dumpster, but not a composting pile. We actually take our material to Kurtz Brothers. However, this year I connected with a soil farm. Hopefully moving forward in our leaf collection, we can utilize their

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services, but just true composting, we don't offer that. **FINANCE DIRECTOR:** Finance Director Rummell is excused.

LAW DIRECTOR: Law Director Ward has no report.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: -*Business regulation code- Councilman Cizl says we're submitting to council for their review. The fee is the only thing that's unresolved. President Rosso says so, now my question is, what's the question on the fees? I mean; I thought that's why we sent it back. Councilman Cizl replies basically, for council to come up with, since we're the only city in the area that doesn't have licenses, I believe, for council, what do you think is a fair amount? And I think the mayor indicated that, obviously, it's very flexible, \$75. It's less than everybody else's charging, but just to get council's opinion. I'm sorry, this says 90, but I think he mentioned at the last meeting, 75 would be fine. So, we just submitted it as they presented it, that's all. President Rosso states we talked about this and we had 2 questions. First, do we want to set up a business licenses process and if we do, then do we want to charge? I think the discussion we had was creating this licenses and this process doesn't cost the city anything. We don't have to add people. We don't have to do anything. So, I guess I thought this was gonna go back to ordinance and say, hey, is everything else okay and let's just take off and not charge anything? Then if we find out a year or two down the road that there's an issue and it's costing us, we could address it then. I expected this to come back pretty much unchanged with no fees. Councilman Morrow says I have so many issues with this. When it was first introduced and talked about, it was talked about as registration, not as licensing. Registration is just an acknowledgement that you exist where licensing tells you whether or not you can exist or not and it empowers the mayor. It doesn't have any specificity on it. It's written so vaguely that it could be interpreted many different ways. It does not say shall be issued upon compliance, you know, in 701.03. It does not say shall be issued if objective criteria are met. It says shall be approved by the mayor or his designee and when the government approvals required and discretion exists, unless the law cabins it, and this doesn't cabin it. So, there's discretion there. So, if the mayor got mad at somebody and didn't like them, didn't like the way they looked, he could just deny them. He doesn't really have to give a reason. It's so poorly written that it could be, you know, abused so dramatically. I got like 4 pages here about how poorly that this legislation is written and the dangers. President Rosso asks does council as a whole want this to go back to ordinance and Mr. Ward take a look at and clean up the language or do we wanna just leave it on work session so we don't keep bouncing back and forth until it's cleaned up? *Motion by Gee to keep in work session with consideration of removing the fees if the majority of council wants no fees. That gives it the time for the law director to review the language in it. President Rosso says that's fine, but

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we don't need a motion or a second. We're not gonna vote on anything. Mr. Ward, could you take a look at this? I'm not quite sure if, you'd probably have to talk to Mr. Gudat and see if we can clean it up somewhat. Then we will review it next month. Councilman Morrow says I think tonight we should vote on whether or not we wanna have fees or not because that dramatically changes this about whether or not they can enforce something, whether or not they can penalize something. President Rosso replies we can't vote on anything. We can take an informal poll. Councilman Cizl says this came to us because of a problem in the city and I'm wondering if there's no fees connected to having a license. It goes back to the problem that the city had, not knowing that there's a business. President Rosso responds the problem the city has is they weren't registering. Having a fee doesn't mean they'll register. Councilman Fogel says I think having a fee is gonna discourage some people from registering, especially the home-based businesses. Councilman Morrow says let's not forget that registration and licensing are 2 different things. Registration, I'm fine with that. I don't believe that it should cost us anything, or if so, it's a very low cost, like \$5 or something like that. Licensing means that they can come and take your license away and stop your business from operating. That's exactly what this says in here. I don't believe that there is a problem that licensing would solve that we have. We don't have that type of a problem. We have a registration problem, not a licensing problem. President Rosso asks what's everybody's feeling about fees? Should we have fees going forward or not? Councilman DeBottis says last meeting, I was totally against even having the verbiage home occupation business of any type and no fee for that at all. I gave my reasons and I asked Building Inspector Gudat, would he be able to enforce home business fees? He said, no, absolutely not. So, I am totally against anything to do with fees and or having it to where home businesses even have to register and then eliminating the \$90 for the commercial business, but I'm okay with them registering. Informal poll of fees: Gee-no, Kovach-no, Cizl-yes, DeBottis-no, Fogel-no, Petrucci-yes, Morrow-no. President Rosso says so, that's 5 to 2 to say no fees. I say we write it up as zero fees and then we'll discuss it at next work session. Councilman Fogel says I did ask in the beginning of this if the licensing or the registration would be subject to an administrative appeal. I don't see that in this legislation. I see there's an appeal process through the mayor, but not, I meant an administrative appeal through the court, through the common pleas court. Law Director Ward replies the mechanism for the appeal as Councilman Fogel referenced would be an administrative appeal through chapter 2506 of the Ohio revised code that would have to be filed in the common pleas court. That would be the path to appeal a decision by the board of appeals, as it's noted, in the draft business regulation code here, section 701.07 specifically. Councilman Morrow says when you're looking at that, we have a new board of appeals, and everyone, I think except for one person, is appointed by the mayor. So, you really don't have any oversight that's there that is by separation of the powers that should be by us. I

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mean, it should be a city council appeal, not a mayoral or executive, it should be a legislative appeal board, because if you have everybody that's appointed by the mayor, well, then you really don't have any independent oversight. It should be all 3 of them from city council so that you have proper oversight, you have proper separation of powers. Why not just, you know, put it to one of our other ones like the zoning board of appeals? But there again, you know, it's all executive. We don't really have an independent review. President Rosso replies I'm not sure zoning board of appeals can handle anything but zoning requests. Does the word registration vs licenses impact the intent of what Mr. Gudat was trying to accomplish? We don't know the answer to that yet. Councilman Cizl says this isn't unique to a city, from what I gather. I think all cities have some type of business licenses. So, for Sheffield Lake not to have a process in place is pretty unique. I'm hearing that some of us don't wanna have it at all. We're not creating something from scratch here. We're doing what all the other cities do and they've been doing it for years. You have a license to exist. Like I made the analogy, we have to have license, you know for ethics when we become council. There're certain rules that we have to follow. Businesses do too. Councilman Fogel asks Mr. Ward, how does it work in Amherst? Are businesses registered or are they licensed? Law Director Ward replies that's a fairly complicated question because the business code is very robust. So, I think if I were to have some guidance from council in terms of which path do you wanna go down, registration versus licensing, I can revise the draft accordingly. Councilman Fogel asks what are the benefits of either one? Law Director Ward responds I think Councilman Morrow can correct me if I'm wrong, but I think what he was getting at is that if you draft this in such a way that it is a registration requirement, there's not a discretionary element to it. In other words, when a business owner submits the requisite paperwork to the city, they either submit it or they don't. If they submit it, then they're registered. If they don't submit it, then they're not registered as opposed to what's been referred to as licensing, where there is a discretionary component to it. I don't know that it's really my role to give policy recommendations, but that's the difference. Councilwoman Petrucci says I don't think that it was ever meant to be big brother trying to be the gate keeper of who comes in and who doesn't. I think we just wanna know who's in the city operating what kind of business. I don't think that anybody wants to just determine whether or not, oh, we already have a massage parlor, a legit massage parlor. We don't want another one. I don't think anybody wants to, like I said, be the gatekeeper. That was never the intention. We just wanna know. Councilman Morrow says I look at it as a benefit to not have licensure. I believe in registration. I believe that that's fine. I believe that's what we would all believe is reasonable. When you get to licensure and you get to this ability to shut down businesses and you're not being specific in your legislation that's written, and again, this is probably the poorest piece of legislation I've ever seen written anywhere, that, you know, it just, it makes the mayor a king. I mean, that's the way that it's legally

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written. It makes the mayor a king to be able to shut down anything at any time that he wants and he doesn't have to give a reason for it. Now, yeah, it can be appealed, but now you've got your business shut down and you're waiting maybe 10 days to get it appealed. I mean, I don't know anybody that would, if they saw this, that they would actually want to risk opening a business here, especially if they might disagree with the politics of the way that the city's run. Councilman Fogel says I do agree with Cindy that I don't think this was designed to be a gatekeeper and that's the reason why it shouldn't be licensing. It should be registration, because registration is just keeping track of the business, knowing who's in that particular space. For example, in Avon and Avon Lake, they don't allow dollar stores. So, there's no dollar stores in Avon or Avon Lake, but who makes that decision? In this case, it would be the mayor. And do we want to have dollar stores? Does the mayor want to have dollar stores? I mean, it becomes arbitrary at that point. Licensing is discretionary. President Rosso asks let's say it's registration, okay? You have to register. Should we make it mandatory that you have to register and if you are not registered, and it's no cost, you can't operate? Councilman Fogel replies yes and if you're not registered and you're operating, you get a fine. Councilman DeBottis says I agree with Cindy, as far as not being big brother, and that's why we should do registration. Just remember, I don't think anyone here is accusing anyone that they may or may not do, but we have to remember for future generations that once this is written, that we may have someone in power that would take full advantage of it being a license, and then we're stuck. So here, again, we leave that out of the equation, and I agree with Cindy. We keep big brother out of it, and we still require them to register, and if they don't, there's a fine. Brief discussion about businesses and state regulations, etc. Councilman Morrow says I think all this came about because of the massage parlor incident. Now, as far as I know, in a lot of communities, if you're not a licensed Maso therapist by the State of Ohio, they can say, hey, you're not allowed to open up a massage parlor of any type. So, if we don't have that ordinance on the books to say, hey, we're not allowing any massage parlors here unless every massage therapist is a licensed, registered Maso therapist, and this is above board, and we don't have sex workers going on inside of our city. To me, that solves that problem, and the going for the business licensing to try to regulate sex workers inside our city, to me, is just kind of ridiculous. I do believe registration is fine. I just don't see what value we bring to the city with licensing. Law Director will speak with Building Inspector for next meeting.

*Safety Service Letter Removal- Councilman Morrow states it's the safety levy letter that's on the website. I think that it's uncalled for. I interpret it as being illegal as being up there, because it's attacking political opponents with the city's funds and resources. I'd like it removed before it has to become a legal issue. I think that it's uncalled for. I'd rather see stuff like I think it was Antonio Baez or Officer Baez who did this lifesaving work where I asked that would that be put on the website? They said that it would and I've not seen it up there. I would rather see positive

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things put up there rather than negative things. President Rosso replies I've read this and all it is, is the facts of what was in the legislation above it. Councilwoman Gee asks has anybody contacted the mayor and Cathy Moore, which Cathy is who works on the website, and said please remove these 2 items? They are already past date anyhow. The levy never came to form. There's no reason for them to be on there. Instead of making paperwork to make a resolution, can't we just ask for them to be taken off the website? President Rosso responds I think that's the point that they won't take them down, but I'm not sure either one endorses a levy or a vote. They just state facts. There's nothing to vote on for either one of these. Councilman Morrow says not about a levy that happened and the legal interpretation and guidance that I've gotten is that that is illegal. The interpretation, because it talks about a levy, whether or not that levy is up now or not, it talked about a levy that had transpired, and then plus it is, they're backhanding political opponents for not voting for that levy. You're not allowed to talk positively or negatively about it. You have to be 100% neutral when you're talking about stuff like that. President Rosso replies my opinion, I don't think it's endorsed. Councilman Petrucci asks are we talking about the same thing that came out in the mail? In the water bill, I think. I don't remember that being swaying. I thought it was just a stating of facts. Councilman Fogel asks can we get Mr. Ward's opinion? Law Director Ward replies candidly, I have not seen the mayoral communication that's referenced in the resolution. The concern I have with the resolution itself, is that it has numerous legal conclusions about the meaning of various Ohio revised code provisions and how they may or may not apply here. I think that setting aside whether or not the communication at issue violates those provisions, I think making pronouncements about how the Ohio revised code applies goes beyond the authority that's afforded to a council under the charter and Ohio law. President Rosso says if council decided to take some action, the law dept. would have to write up the appropriate resolution. All legislation comes from the law dept. Councilman DeBottis says when that flyer came out in the water bill, I was upset over it and I voiced my opinion when it did. I don't think that any city resources, especially during an election on top of it, stating, you know, whatever facts or non-facts that there were should be used. Would that eliminate this if we were to do something like that to where that could not happen again? President Rosso replies if you take that and you can prove that there was something non-factual in there, or non-factual that was used to sway votes, then they can never put that in. I don't think that's the case in either one of these. He was just stating, here's what happened. Nothing in there was wrong. It comes to do we have the authority to do it, because it's just fact and not swaying an election since neither one of these are on the ballot. Council does not maintain that website. Councilman Morrow says the other one, the FAQ's, it's like we would never raise taxes. You can't make that statement. That's a very positive statement for something that is gonna be, was to be a bond issuance. He can't, I mean, that's preposterous. Decision made to have law director look into and give opinion on both.

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*Corrective Resolution Council Members- Councilman Morrow this was Rocky issuing me from the, as the law director, issuing me, threatening that he was gonna take me to court and charge me with 4 felonies. Councilwoman Petrucci asks are you still being threatened to be taken to court? Councilman Morrow responds he never rescinded that and should the mayor act as the law director for the city? I argue that Ohio law says that he cannot act as the law director. We can empower him, but even the law director can't empower him to do law director duties. President Rosso says I did see in the paper that the mayor said that the website changed and he was fine with it. Councilman Morrow replies he sent a registered letter to me threatening me with four felonies. He never sent me a registered letter saying that he was giving that up and that it was improper for him to do it in the first place. Decision made to have law director give opinion. President Rosso states the next one is the same thing. Councilman Morrow says this one specifically talks about the threats. Whether or not he was allowed to do what he did. Councilwoman Gee says no disrespect to anyone. John, I know how bad you hurt. I know how bad I was offended when something happened to me. Okay, this is in the past. We need to move on to what our residents are counting on us to do. When we've got so many things about things from the past, I'm not saying they're not important, but when they're tying up a lot of our workers' time looking into them, do they really matter as much as what the residents need? We were all elected by the people to serve all the residents. There're things we need to address, and I'm not meaning any disrespect. Please don't think I am, but I have sat up here patiently. I've heard how things were done in other cities just for me to call those cities and find out no such thing ever happened. I've gone through looking and looking at cases to see what's going on. I researched the refuge contract. Then I sit up here, and we're going on and on about things that, yes, the mayor has offended me. Will it be the first time? Nope. Is it gonna be the last time? Probably not, but I move on with it. Each one of us at one time or another has disagreed with each other. That's what we should be doing up here, because we should be listening to what our constituents want. Not always do they all want the same things, but we've gotta let go of the personal things, too, at the same time in order to be able to work for the residents. I'm anxious to find out when we're gonna start working in 2026 for the residents. Councilman Morrow replies I took an oath to uphold the laws of the State of Ohio when I took this job, and I don't look at this as just an offense to me. He could do this to any other person in the city. Maybe he has. Maybe people are too afraid to speak up. I see a lot of people are like, oh, we're not gonna give anything to the city unless it is anonymous, because we're afraid that we're gonna have retaliation against us, and that's what I'm saying is wrong. We should not have that type of a hostile atmosphere here in this city. We wanna bring the city together. People gotta be able to feel free to give their opinion without worrying whether or not they're gonna be retaliated against. I gave an opinion, and I was retaliated against. He said that he was gonna use the full force and effect of the city of Sheffield Lake to take

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me for four felonies. That would scare most people to death and wanna move out of this city. That is not kosher, no way, no how, should not slide. At the very least, he should come back and say, I was wrong, let's bury the hatchet, let's shake hands, and let's get the work of the city done. He has not done that, and I worry for all of my constituents that that would happen again, because he has not shown any contrition. He's not said, oh, I'm sorry. He's not shown anything like that. So that's why I'm here. I'm representing the people. I wanna make certain that this doesn't happen. I hate that it's taking up so much time, but we should all address it. We should all be shocked and horrified that something like this had happened. Like I said, it's illegal for the mayor to act as the law director. It's pretty dang clear. It'd be just very easy for the mayor just to apologize. Councilman Fogel says he's a constituent, not of mine, but of yours, and Mark's, and Steve's, the mayor's. So, I don't think that just because he's on council now that he should waver. I think that he makes a great point that this could happen to him, or me, or you, that it could happen to anyone. Other people may not have the resources or the determination that we have. I know my situation, if I was anyone else, I probably wouldn't be sitting here right now. So, I think we should do everything that we can to prevent this from happening in the future. President Rosso asks Mr. Ward if you take a look at the cease and desist letter, I guess the real question is, did the mayor act as the law director when he sent that out? Or did he just sign something the law director proposed? If the mayor didn't act as a law director, then this is a moot point. If he did act as a law director because he signed a cease and desist order that went out, then we should address it. Councilman Morrow replies I mean, no disrespect to Mr. Ward here, but the mayor could fire him if he wanted. President Rosso responds he cannot. This is a good time to tell you this, Mr. Ward. Our charter says if the mayor tries to fire any director, they have the right to appeal the council, and yes, Aden, the council could agree with the mayor, but he can't arbitrarily fire someone for doing something, and that person comes back with his council and says, look, I did nothing wrong. I was doing this, and the mayor told me I had to do something I didn't feel right about, and a council can override the mayor's removal of that person. So, he cannot just arbitrarily fire someone because they don't agree with him.

*Council Rule #30- President Rosso says this is regarding ordinances and resolutions, and the word sponsor, where Mr. Morrow is saying that the mayor doesn't have the authority to sponsor an ordinance or a resolution. I'll be honest, I don't know where this format came from for the top part for ordinances or resolutions, where it has the council number, then the sponsor, then the ordinance number. So, does this all go away if we change the word sponsor to recommended? Councilman Morrow replies should the executive branch be involved in the legislative branch like that? Is that a bit incestuous? That's the reason why we have separation of power. President Rosso replies the service director has ordinances and resolutions that we need to pass, and he sponsors them. We can't wait for them to go

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through ordinance all the time. If we change it from sponsor to recommended, because it does say he can recommend legislation, does that make this problem go away? I don't know of any legal reason why we can't change that one word.

Decision made to get opinion from law director. Councilman Morrow says I just look at this as a separation of powers issue. It's the same reason what you learn in elementary school as the reason why we have three branches of government. And I think that, you know, allowing, you know, this would be like President Trump being able to bring legislation before Congress rather than him having to go and ask somebody to sponsor it for him. I believe that it should be sponsored. I look at things that, you know, if we had more of the city council people sponsor the legislation, you're gonna have more buy-in for it and more understanding of it.

*Charter amendment and bond- Councilman Fogel says Unless we can separate the bond condition from that, then we can just... President Rosso replies they have no intention of even having a bond, or doing a bond for that this year. Councilman Fogel says if we can't sever that, then just withdraw the whole thing. I'll bring it back later on.

Councilman DeBottis asks unfortunately, the mayor's not here, but I don't know if Mr. Hastings or someone can answer. Senior bus transportation, what phase of the talks are we at there? What did we, I guess, what stage are we at? Have you found out, are there grants? Have we got any actual costs of what the buses would be, new and used? How many drivers would be needed? These are all things that I discussed previously, and I know that the mayor said that he was working with the village for some type of co-sponsorship with them. Service Director Hastings responds I'm not assigned to that task. I can tell you I've been included on some emails on the ODOT sponsored grants, but admittedly, I'm not very involved in that project. Councilman DeBottis says I just don't want it to get stuck in this committee for another year.

President Rosso replies when we spoke about it originally, we talked afterwards, this is probably a year process, if not longer. So, as long as they're working towards it, but I think you're absolutely right. They can update us when they're making some movement. Councilman Morrow says sometimes you get projects moving, you have to give direction so that we get timely updates on it. Maybe it's like, hey, we need to have a rough feasibility study done on this. Then we can say, okay, you know, go ahead and move. Like right now, I know like the FTA has grants for senior transportation that are out there that by March, they're not gonna be there anymore. We're beyond being able to apply for something like that right now. I think giving some direction so that we get feedback in a timely fashion that this doesn't, you know, fall between the cracks and, you know, it never gets acted upon. That's something that I would worry about, because it just seems like it's been such a long time since this was introduced that we haven't heard anything back as to what they've been working on. President Rosso replies he's already given one update, if not two. Councilman Fogel says we could form a subcommittee on council, and then we could research the information. Do we absolutely have to have

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a grant for this? How much are we paying our grant writers? President Rosso replies until we know what we want, it's hard to look for the grant. I believe who he's working with at the county is the ones that take care of providing all that. Councilman Fogel asks can we get a copy of his file? President Rosso replies its public record. We can ask for an update at the meeting Tuesday.

NEW BUSINESS: In house engineer- President Rosso says Jon, you had asked a question about would it be cheaper to hire an engineer vs. if there would be economic advantages to having an in-house engineer with all the engineering studies that we pay for that are out of house that we're paying for. Pat, I think we talked at one time and right now, you're working with like 13 different engineers on different projects. Service Director Hastings responds probably a half dozen right now. We run QBS, it's a qualification based system where we put out an RFQ. Engineers from all over send us their qualifications. Every ODOT project I have, I advertise, we score them. President Rosso says I don't know what the cost of an engineer is, I gotta say it's \$100,000 in salary at least. Councilman Morrow states I looked that up and what the average is for the State of Ohio. It's actually only \$85,000. In places like Cleveland and Columbus, \$100-140,000. President Rosso replies so, we're probably talking \$125 with benefits roughly. Right now, using the way we do it, we have 13 projects going on. I don't know if one engineer could handle 13 projects at one time. Councilman Morrow responds I'm not saying that we wouldn't not ever use another outside engineer. Of course, we would because an engineer has specializations to a degree. That was just my observation is looking at, we're getting over \$300,000 a year in engineering costs on the budget. Does it make sense? I think we owe that to the citizens just to run the numbers, whether it is or not, just to do that. If that's something that we need help with or that's something that I would be willing to step up to the plate, work with Pat to run those numbers and see if that's something that would make sense for us or not. President Rosso says why don't you guys provide him whatever information he needs. Jon, you run the numbers and come back and say, hey, I ran the numbers. Councilman Morrow says If that's okay with Pat, or if you (Pat) want to do it, go ahead and do it. Service Director Hastings replies honestly, I don't have time. The city historically lacked in engineering. The reason you see the value you do now is because of the tens of millions of dollars. Most of the roads that you drive on were tar and chip. They were cut in, they were poorly designed, not engineered. I don't operate that way. That's why you see the cost that you see today. I mean, maybe if council wants to hire somebody to do a study on that, I certainly don't have time. I've been here 14 hours today, you know. Councilman Morrow replies I understand you're a busy guy, and this is just something that's nice to have to be able to show that we're being good stewards of the tax dollar. Service Director Hastings replies I don't deny that. I'm just, you know, you can hire firms to do rate studies. You can hire firms to do engineering studies. I don't have enough time in my day. I'm not being

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argumentative. I'm trying to reverse the history of the City of Sheffield Lake, and that is that we've lacked engineering. President Rosso says I think Mr. Morrow's just saying, hey, if I have questions, can you give me a couple answers and go with that? Service Director Hastings responds yeah, absolutely. Councilwoman Gee says t's 9 o'clock at night, and like Mr. Hastings just pointed out, he's had a 14-hour day. Do we really need to have Mr. Hastings sit through old business and new business at our meetings now that they're starting to run longer time? President Rosso replies technically, he's not required to be at work session at all. Service Director Hastings states the charter requires me to be at city council, but I believe strongly in working as a group for the betterment of the city. *Municipalization of the power grid/utility- Councilman Morrow says that's where we could partner with a couple of non-profit organizations and have a municipal electric utility. I believe Amherst is one of the cities that had done this a few years back, and it essentially brings more, or traditionally brings more money into the city that can be used to maintain the electrical infrastructure that we have. That's one of the things that we have right now. My background being in energy, we see where we have, where they're saying that they're renewing our telephone poles by putting a steel rod and a strap around the base, yet the entire poles rotted out or busted up, but that's good for another 25 or 35 years. A lot of times, these utility companies, if we let them get away with murder, they'll get away with it, and just threatening to municipalize the electric grid here so that it's underneath us, but we would actually have a non-profit that operates it, and it's a pretty common thing to do for municipal energy companies. Decision made that Councilman Morrow will get more info and come back. Councilman Morrow says I have some motions that I'm gonna make at the next city council meeting that I kind of want to give a heads up and possibly have some discussion beforehand. One of the things that I want to look at is the possibility of getting a drainage and infrastructure study done. There are capital budget requests that need to be in by March 12th. It's probably too late for submitting something to get a drainage and infrastructure study done, hydrological survey, so that we can see whether or not our groundwater and the lack of maybe maintenance on our drainage ditches is causing more of the flooding than what we have as necessary. Decision made to add to roads and drains agenda. Councilman Morrow the drainage right of ways. I mean, that was one of the discussions that we had here. I'm not sure if it was Mr. Hastings or someone else that had said that, we've tried in the past to maintain our drainage ditches and that the homeowners come out with guns and saying that this is private property. I lived down in the New Orleans area and obviously drainage is a big issue down there. I've looked at some of their codes. I don't know if they would directly apply to the State of Ohio, since Ohio law is so different from Louisiana law, but it seems like we should have the right to be able to maintain the drainage ditches so that we could potentially avoid some of the flooding that we have here. Service Director Hastings says we actually have that legislation for that right-of-way. Councilman Morrow replies I'm looking at, like down in Louisiana

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where I lived, they would use gabions all the time in the drainage ditches to improve the water flow so that it left quicker. A lot of times it's like we need to add some more drainage ditches, because we have so much more concrete that's been poured for driveways and stuff like that. That's why I was looking at getting a hydrological survey and drainage water levels and everything, getting one of those done to see whether or not we might need to have some more retention ponds, maybe some more drainage ditches in the city. The next item I have is the master plan for the city. I wanna make the motion at the next meeting to make it null and void since we don't have any of the backup data from the community survey. President Rosso replies the only thing I would warn about, and Pat, you can correct me on this, is we have to have a master plan in order to apply for grants. Service Director Hastings replies well, you don't have to, but you won't get the grant. Did you public record request the information on that prior one? Councilman Morrow says I looked for the community survey information. Service Director Hastings replies I know a little bit about what you did. I'm not a big social media guy, but when I read about that, or your inquiry, I thought to myself, I wonder if he reached out for the data on the previous one, or the data on the... the reason I ask, I was curious if there's a retention requirement. Councilman Morrow replies that's another request that I have then, is what was the record retention requirement of that? Obviously, you would think that you would have to retain that for more than one year. But to me, we have no supporting data for the community survey plan at this point in time. Now, do we say we're gonna keep this, but in 60 days, we're gonna have a new master plan done, or 90 days, we're gonna have a new master plan done? President Rosso says master plans have to go through the planning commission and believe me, it's not gonna be 30 or 60 days. I have no problem with saying we need to do another master plan, but it's gotta go through planning. Councilman Morrow says just a couple more things. So, one of the things is I wanna recommend that we get the law director, Westlaw's co-counsel, if we don't already have that package. It's an AI product. If you ask it a question, it comes back with all the authorities, so it's almost like a second opinion. So, we would have assurances to back up what you have and vice versa by actually having the Westlaw co-counsel. President Rosso asks the law director to look into it and see if it will be of any benefit to him. Councilman Morrow says the last thing that I wanna look at is the hours for the law director, what he spends on the executive branch, what he spends on the legislative branch. Don't necessarily need everything broken out, but I would like to see, I think anybody wants to see what they're getting for their money. So, I think it's being good stewards of the taxpayer dollar that we should say, you know, okay, I work 20 hours for the executive branch, I work 10 hours for the legislative branch, and at least that would be, you know, part of your reports when we have that. I think that's something we should ask of any employee, you know, what are you working on? President Rosso replies you're the only part-time director we have right now. I don't know the answer to that either, if that's gotta go through

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the mayor, probably would be a good place to start, and I'm not quite sure how to quantify. Councilman Morrow says I mean, most lawyers already, they charge by the hour, they normally will provide an hour. President Rosso replies ours is a salary. Councilwoman Gee says we have one law director, he's part-time. There's no way he can say right off the top of his head a lot of the things that have been asked of him tonight. But, let's say Cindy calls the law director, then let's say Romolo calls the law director, Mark calls the law director, I call the law director, Pat calls the law director, the finance director calls the law director, the mayor calls the law director, and then Brandy calls the law director. Okay. Each one of us might know how long we talked to the law director, but we don't know how long the rest of those talk to the law director. For him to start keeping track of how many minutes he's spending with which branch of Sheffield Lake's government, as long as he's doing Sheffield Lake's work, isn't that what we hired him for? Councilman Morrow responds I'm just looking at this from an employer, employee point of view. Did this person work 100 hours, 1,000 hours, 2,000 hours during the year? I think that's pertinent. I'm not coming down on anybody, but this is something that's common for lawyers and attorneys to do. Councilwoman Gee says I respect what you're saying, I really do, but currently, he's gonna be working how many hours on what you want. Okay, what about all the rest of us up here? President Rosso says really the question comes down to try to figure out how many hours a week among the law directors working for the city. Let me review it with the mayor, too, and then get there to try to get a rough number. Councilman Cizl says if I were a city manager, that would be my responsibility, but I'm just a council member. If I'm not mistaken, the law director was recommended by the mayor that we approved, yes or no vote. It's not our job to look, we can do this, but it's not our job to be evaluating them on a weekly basis and checking out their time clocks and stuff like that. President Rosso says I think it's a legitimate question. Does a law director over the course of a year making what he makes put in 1,000 hours or 100 hours? That's all we're trying to get to here. Councilman Cizl says he works with us, but I guess I don't understand the structure of, he's recommended by the mayor, but I feel like we're managing him instead of the mayor? President Rosso replies we're not managing anything. We're just trying to get a feel for the number of hours of parttime position work. Councilman Cizl says I call that management, but ok. Councilwoman Petrucci says I think it's managing too. A couple weeks ago, someone was, I don't remember who, trying to dictate which seat he was sitting in. I mean, come on. Again, this is not, we're not third graders. This is not third grade. This is a man who has a law degree, who went to school for more years than all of us. President Rosso responds no one's questioning his work ethic, his qualifications, or anything, but we're paying X amount of dollars a year for a position. Councilman Fogel says I did question the seating. I don't think this is management. I think this is oversight, which council absolutely has oversight of every city employee, okay? He was referred by the mayor. Council voted to appoint him. So, council essentially

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appointed him. I don't think he's doing a bad job, okay? But at the same time, we don't need to have a mayor and a law director who are talking to each other during a meeting. My opinion was that he violated the Open Meetings Act. The mayor disagreed with me. I asked Mr. Ward what his opinion was of that, and he said if it would make me comfortable, he would move. He never answered that question, but he did move, so there's no problem. President Rosso says what we're talking about now is just getting some hours on a monthly basis of the number of hours the law director is working for the city. Councilman Fogel asks is there a minimum amount of hours? President Rosso replies no, there's nothing. He could come back and say he worked one hour in the last month. There's nothing we can do about it. Now, that's not the case. Brief discussion on previous law directors, etc.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

COUNCIL #005- SECOND 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.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach /Second by Cizl to adjourn at 9:18pm. 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

MAYOR
Rocky Radeff

I, Brandy Randolph, duly appointed Clerk of Council of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of WORKSESSION of February 17, 2026.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Rick Rosso