

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO  
April 23, 2024**

This regular meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, April 23, 2024.  
Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

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

Present: President Rosso, Stark, Kovach, Gee, Cizl, Wtulich, DeBottis, Petrucci,  
Mayor Radeff, Finance Director Fallis, Law Director Graves, Service  
Director Hastings.

Excused: None.

Attending: Chief Kory, Members of the police dept., Citizens, videographer.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

**Council** - \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2024 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas all.

**Work Session**- \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:** Mayor Radeff submits Suzanna Stark for the position of full time dispatcher. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to approve the appointment. **ROLL CALL:** Kovach, Cizl, Gee, Wtulich, DeBottis, Petrucci.

Abstain: Stark

Mayor Radeff submits for Melody Perkins for the position of part time dispatcher.

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Cizl to accept the appointment. **ROLL CALL:** Cizl, Petrucci, Wtulich, Kovach, DeBottis, Gee.

Mayor Radeff submits Jonathan Lanzer for position of Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Wtulich to approve the appointment. **ROLL CALL:** Kovach, Stark, Wtulich, Gee, Cizl, DeBottis, Petrucci. Yeas All.

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**CITY COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer and Refuse:** Chairman Wtulich says we will have a meeting at 6:45 on May 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss sewers. **/Safety:** None. **/Buildings, Lands, Vehicles & Equipment:** None. **/Ordinance:** None. **/Finance:** None. **/Council Representative to the Joyce Hanks Community Center:** Representative Gee reports today we had mind challenge at the center and had a wonderful turnout. There were over 8 sponsors from Northern Ohio. We have two more rounds. For the May calendar there are 15 days of children’s activities, 9 days of yoga, 9 days of art groups, 4 senior events, 5 knitting events, 4 business groups, 4 AA meetings, book club, fly fishing, card crafting and the Fire Dept. will be having a CPR class May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. **/Council Representative to the Park Board:** Representative Kovach reviews the minutes of the April 15, 2024 meeting. **/Representative to the Planning**



**Commission:** None. /**Council Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals:**

Representative Petrucci reviewed the minutes of the April 18, 2024 meeting.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**MAYOR/SAFETY:** Mayor Radeff reports we just put a new fuel pump in one of the cruisers and as we were trying to do a pursuit, something else blew so we had to get that towed away. Last week we had a good amount of issues with cars and were down to two fully functioning police cars at that time. Since then, most of them have been repaired. We are talking about bringing in a new ordinance allowing a policy for workers of the city to donate sick time hours to people in need. I think it's a great policy. We met with our insurance company about our new policy. The price did come in a little bit less than what we anticipated from last year and it will add cyber security. The police chief and I met with VFW and AMVETS and are finalizing the hometown heroes banner project. This would put banners of people who served that are from Sheffield Lake and we will probably open it up to people in Sheffield Village as well. Families would donate some money and some would be donated by both AMVETS and VFW and we would put the banners on light poles on Lake Rd. I met with the Metro Parks and are continuing to clean out the ditch. A lot of people have asked about the path owned by the Metro Parks that is just gravel. I did confirm and they are willing to move forward with paving that and making it a permanent path. They said they would put that on for their 2025 projects. President Rosso asks who is our insurance agency now? Mayor Radeff replies it is still Custis, but they are working with a new group. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All. / **SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Service Director Hastings reports in reference to Council #019 and the annual bid we do that is before council this evening, we did affix the target road list. I would also note that we are still under construction on Warwick where they poured concrete curbs today. Our residents our displaced out of their driveways for about five days and I appreciate their patience. The city has funded Alameda repairs and a new water line that is currently in engineering. Pride Day is Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> and we will be here from 8-2pm. Councilwoman Stark asks do we know when the potholes will start being fixed? Service Director Hastings replies we transitioned from cold mix to hot mix production and are right in that transition period. I have it scheduled for next week assuming the plant is running. Councilman DeBottis asks when we pave a street, on the outer edge as far as sealing the pavement, we don't do that? Service Director Hastings responds if it has a concrete curb, yes. It is spec to have a tack emulsion put down, but if it doesn't, it would be bermed, not sealed. Councilman DeBottis says for example, like on Holl. Service Director Hastings replies that should have been done by our crews. When we do the big projects like on Harris, Irving Park, etc., that is part of the contracted bid. When we do the annual bid and it is on a curbed street, then we do the crack sealing in house. Last year I did not rent that equipment, this year we will be so I'll revisit that street. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the report. Yeas All. / **FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Finance Director Fallis has no report. Councilwoman Gee asks what is the length of time you will be able to get back to the records request for me? Finance Director Fallis replies I can speak to you after the meeting because I don't know which one that is. Councilwoman Gee says I will resend it. / **LAW DIRECTORS REPORT:** Law Director Graves has no report.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY:** *Daniel Wilson, 716 Lafayette Blvd.* says I'm not sure this is the place for this, I might have to go to a different meeting. I have a proposal/idea for something on the Lincoln Trail. I walk my dog on it every day, I love it. I'm a bird watcher and it's a great birding area. My idea is there is a wooded section south of the connector trail that goes out to Lafayette. I was wondering if it would be possible to put some sort of boardwalk through those woods. It's really wet back there. I've been to other parks where they have a raised boardwalk through the woods and I thought that would be neat. Mayor Radeff responds this would be a good one to discuss at Park Board.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Councilwoman Gee says I have way too many concerns still on Council #017. I hope we can discuss it more prior to voting on it. President Rosso says it is up for a third reading tonight and council as always has the ability to table legislation if there's further discussion required, vote it up or vote it down. Keep in mind that the intent is not to continually table it until we get an unreasonable amount of time, it's just so we can get questions answered. Mayor Radeff says I urge that there is some sort of vote on it tonight. We have had three readings and a work session. That is the point of the work session, to answer questions. We answered every one that was given. Law Director Graves says time is of the essence with summer around the corner and the need to get moving on recreational programs. If council had some recommendations, we could bring revised legislation for the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

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

**COUNCIL #017- THIRD READING-** AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 969.02 REGARDING COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER AND ESTABLISHING THE POSITION AND RATE OF PAY FOR THE POSITION OF RECREATION DIRECTOR FOR THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE.

Lengthy discussion on Council #017 with the following highlights:

Councilwoman Gee says I'm confused as to why we need to do in a rush combining these two. I understand this is the third reading, but I still am at a loss why we need to pay someone more money to find volunteers to do programs. If anyone has noticed lately, social media is full of our own baseball leagues trying to find volunteers. Everything I turn to; volunteers are hard to find. I fear that by paying a rec director this sum of money vs. what we are already paying for the community center director, I feel if we are combining the two jobs, increasing the pay, is this rec director going to come before us in a couple months saying I can't find volunteers, I need to hire people? President Rosso replies there is nothing in this legislation that mentions volunteers. The job description is what is in 162.02, that is the only requirements that define this position. That job description that got through Park Board to council is something they were discussing and proposing. Job descriptions are really defined by the administration, but are in this duties of the recreation director. If at some point they wanted to hire more people, they would have to go through the administration. Councilwoman Gee says we currently have an employee that has been a faithful/loyal employee that has done a good job and has yet to be told whether she is going to have her job or not. Her job is being replaced because we are combining two things together and raising the pay? Why aren't we doing two separate jobs? Mayor Radeff replies you just argued we are paying too much, but now you are asking me to pay for two positions. Councilwoman Gee says no, I'm saying why are we going to end the employee we have right now to add an employee that the pay goes anywhere from \$15-25,000? President Rosso says one thing to

remember; whatever that range ends up, part of that money, the \$6,900 we currently pay the civic center manager. So, subtract that \$6,900 from whatever we are paying this new position to combine jobs. The rec director if we separate the jobs, then I say you lower that range by \$7,000. Councilwoman Gee asks on the books, what did we originally have until we change it to this? What was the rec director position? President Rosso responds we don't have a rec director position today, that's why this legislation is establishing it. Councilwoman Gee says it also says the director of recreation's pay is \$3,800 per year when we had one. Law Director Graves says that was established by some very old pay ordinances. President Rosso says and this legislation changes that/updates that pay ordinance to be the \$15-25,000. Councilwoman Gee says then you look at the manager's duties; ask the current manager if any of those are duties she does not do. If we can't go by the job description the mayor put out on the webpage, and we can only go by the manager's duties in this ordinance, can someone please explain? Mayor Radeff responds this is just combining those duties. In the end, any position that I appoint, if they don't have a description, the duties are what we decide they are. You are getting really tied down on a job description that is there for guidance and can be expanded/lowered. This is about getting a position that will help the city overall, getting programming, this is something that has been talked about for years. I'm combining the positions because it is going to save money overall and the two positions are going to function similarly together. I'm creating a position that is going to encompass more responsibilities. If you want two separate ones, it's not impossible. Again, who ever holds both the positions is decided by administration. You keep referring to employees, but leave that to the administration to decide who is working here and who is not, it's not a city council thing. Councilwoman Gee asks what is your plan? What is your future? Mayor Radeff replies we have discussed this at multiple meetings and you didn't ask any of these questions. We have consistently talked about this. Councilwoman Gee says a week ago you were at the community center and discussed in length and we were pleased with the discussion. Then the very next meeting here, it wasn't the same thing you said. My question is, we aren't changing any programs at the community center, that's what you said, right. Mayor Radeff responds yeah, we will be adding them. It's not just the community center, there are other places like the parks, etc. to do programming. Service Director Hastings says the community center is at a critical transition right now. For the better part of 35 years, the Office on Aging worked out of there and a lot of the programming was senior related. They were the heartbeat of that building. We are at a transition now where the building, at no fault of the current manager/anybody in the city, is essentially empty every day. There are groups in there in the evenings, but as a functioning building, I say it's lacking considerably. The idea is to use the community center as a catalyst for an improvement in recreation, which quite frankly, is the highest regard on the community survey. Councilwoman Gee asks the survey was 350 people? Mayor Radeff replies 463. Councilwoman Gee says that is a small percentage of our community, we have over 9,000 residents. I do believe that we do have a need for the recreation. Service Director Hastings says in 40 years of being here with the city, I can only recall Poggemeyer Group as being the only group to have a more successful community survey with 900 participants. It's very difficult to get participants for these surveys. The response we got now, was fantastic. Councilwoman Gee says I don't understand why we need to make this one position. Is there something we're planning to have done this year? Mayor Radeff responds yeah, more recreational programming. Councilwoman Gee asks for example, what? Service Director Hastings replies that would be the purpose of the recreation director. Service Director Hastings gives a brief history of the position. Service Director Hastings says recreation is huge. Our housing market is high demand and we need stuff for families. We are relying right now on a volunteer program. When you consider best management practices and what you see in neighboring communities and the success they have, there's leadership. That's what the administration's goal is. Councilman Cizl says I totally agree we need a recreation director. I'm very sympathetic to putting someone out of work. I did reach out to the mayor and expressed my point of view. I don't see the logic of why we are putting someone out that is doing an existing job just to combine it with another one. I agree with the goal, but my hesitation is why we are combining both those positions. I would like to keep the positions separate and revisit it and see how successful the recreation director is and move from that point. Councilman DeBottis says one of my concerns is the \$10,000 swing. Do we need to have that big of a swing in hiring? Mayor Radeff replies

if you want to pick a price, I'm gonna say the choice is going to be \$20-25,000. That's pretty cheap for what we are asking and what we think we can get out of the position. President Rosso says just for the recreation, you are really just costing us \$13-18,000. Councilman Wtulich says the last 10 years I've been on here, I think we have made huge progress in parks, roads, drains, etc. and I think the next move for the city is we need to make more recreational opportunities for the people. That's part of what the mayor ran on and won; this is the start to that to happen. Councilwoman Petrucci says I see this position as being two separate positions. I think the community center manager has a very distinct and specific job description. I think a rec director, there's no end to. What's happening at the community center, it's running really well. Yes, there's time during the day when it could be utilized more, but I see that the rec director would not have to be bogged down with the bookings, etc. and really just focus on creating new rec activities for all members. Mayor Radeff also our thought was this rec director doing both duties gives him a room at the community center, he will have a pulse on people coming in and renting it and also when they are trying to create new programming for the center, they are in charge of the schedule. It gets rid of a communication issue. President Rosso asks is your feeling that the recreation director doing both positions would be sitting in that office full time? I mean more on site vs. remotely. Mayor Radeff responds they will be more on site than what is now, yes. Again, it's going to be based on the programming. President Rosso says that room that's there obviously could handle two people. Mayor Radeff replies I'm not opposed to two people, you're just looking at spending more money. I'm still going to be asking for \$20-25,000 if we keep them separate. The expectation was that was gonna be the price for the rec director, but we felt we could combine those duties and save money that way. If you want to get qualified people to do the position, you can't just pay them minimum wage.

\*Motion by Gee/Second by DeBottis to Table Council #017. President Rosso says this is now only tabled until our next council meeting. Councilman Wtulich asks how much money do we have budgeted for this? Mayor Radeff replies we have the money already appropriated for the community center and we have the money to appropriate for the rec director.

ROLL CALL: Gee, DeBottis, Cizl, Kovach, Petrucci.

Nays- Stark, Wtulich.

Tabled

Short discussion if another meeting prior to the next council meeting is necessary. Council chooses no, and decides to get a new piece of legislation separating the positions.

**COUNCIL #019- FIRST READING-** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR AND TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST AND BEST BIDDER FOR THE PURCHASE OF PREMIUM NO LEAD GASOLINE, REGULAR NO LEAD GASOLINE, PREMIUM LOW SULFUR DIESEL FUEL, #304 LIMESTONE, #57 LIMESTONE, #8 LIMESTONE, #1 & #2 LIMESTONE, AND ASPHALT PLACEMENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE 2024 ROAD SECTIONS TARGET LIST, AND THE DECLARING OF AN EMERGENCY.

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

ROLL CALL FOR SUSPENSION: Wtulich, Kovach, Petrucci, Stark, Gee, DeBottis, Cizl. Yeas All.

\*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl FOR ADOPTION.

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

*Ordinance Passes #17-24*

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this council, \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Wtulich to adjourn at 8:17 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.

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**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 April 23, 2024.

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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
*Rick Rosso*

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**MAYOR**  
*Rocky Radeff*