

As we gather today, and every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you to make Cheviot as great a city as we all know it deserves to be.

First, I would like to say, Welcome, to all of you. I have emailed all of you the Committee Assignments and Standing Rules. For those that have been on Council prior to today, I am happy to tell you that not much has changed on these. I talked to everyone, and read all of your emails and after taking everything into consideration, it made the most sense to keep everyone where they have been. This wasn't done for convenience. I truly believe that everyone is in a good place to maximize their talents and expertise for the benefit of Cheviot. Don't make too much of who is chair and who is just a voting member. I believe its important for everyone to chair one committee, but also for each of you to be in four of them. You all are, and you'll have ample opportunity to make an impact.

The one thing that is added was Wage Negotiation. We have 3 contracts to negotiate this year. I would like Mr. Voss and Ms. Zech to sit in on these with Mayor Keller for the purpose of maximizing the chance that the terms will be accepted by Council when it comes time to vote on it. Their experience and reputation among the rest of council will certainly aide in this effort.

You've also received the Standing Rules. I studied them closely and at this time I don't see a need to make any changes. Its my understanding that it has been largely unchanged for many years and, being my first year, I want to get a feel for it before tinkering with it. Please read it over and try to get to know it well. Also, notice that the first paragraph the Standing Rules references "Robert's Rules." I cannot stress enough the importance of learning Robert's Rules. This is for YOUR benefit. Knowing Robert's Rules gives you power on Council to have your opinions heard. Not knowing it will cause you to miss opportunities to take action when you need to most, and possibly lead to the embarrassment of being out of order. Just to let you know, I am still learning Robert's Rules, which is why from time to time, you'll see Mrs. Eilermann or Mayor Keller whisper instructions to me. Don't feel pressure to do it perfectly. We will help you.

We have some new faces, but even though I've been here since April, I am finally feeling like I'm getting the hang of this. I cannot express enough gratitude for everyone's patience as I learn all the different processes and rules that we use to make what we do happen. And I would like to personally thank Mayor Keller for offering and giving great advice to me along the way.

I've never really took the time to express much about myself and my background that makes up the principles that guide my thoughts and decision making.

I am a student of the philosophy of those who inspired our nation's founding. The idea that brilliant people came up with a working system of self-governing that could replace over 1000 years of sometimes benevolent, and sometimes despotic dictatorships and monarchies is an endless source of fascination to me.

It's important to understand how our particular American form of government works in order to do what we do properly and well. This system we use wasn't conjured up in a few weeks, or even a few years. It took decades. Our Founding Fathers were inspired by the writings of many before them, but the most influential was a book written by Charles Montesquieu called "The Spirit of the Laws." It was written in 1748, 43 years before we fully ratified our Constitution. In it, Montesquieu meticulously describes for the first time in history how three equal but separate branches of government work, and

why it is needed to preserve liberty. Our founders used this blueprint for the Constitution that we all swore to uphold and defend in our oath.

Each level of government, Federal, State and Local, all use the same architecture. There is a Legislative, Executive and Judicial branch of government. It may seem like an elementary lecture, but I can't overemphasize the importance of the powers and limitations of these branches. As Montesquieu wrote, "When legislative power is united with executive power in a single person, or in a simple body of magistracy, there is no liberty, because one can fear that the same person who creates tyrannical laws will execute them tyrannically."

We are the Legislative body of Cheviot. We make the rules, laws and ordinances. The Mayor is the head of the Executive body of Cheviot. He enforces the laws that we create. I want all of our laws aggressively enforced. I also want City Council to give our Mayor the tools needed to serve the city as best he can.

Last week the Mayor mandated that people wear a mask to enter the municipal building. I totally understand why he wants to make this happen. We all want to do what we can to stay safe and healthy. But I worry that at this time he lacks the ordinance to enforce such a measure. Our Law Director, Mrs. Rohr was very helpful in pointing me to where I might find something. I looked as best as time would allow in the Cheviot Code of Ordinances. The mayor has the power to implement any rule he sees fit for employees of the executive branch. These would be municipal workers and first responders. As for residents who are not executive employees, the only two things I could find were, 35.07 which states,

"The mayor shall perform all the duties prescribed by the bylaws and ordinances of the city. He shall see that all ordinances, bylaws and resolutions of the council are faithfully obeyed and enforced," and 35.04 which states, "The mayor shall make such recommendations as he deems wise, in writing, to the council for the welfare of the city."

With that being said, at this time I have no choice but to see the mask mandate as a *recommendation* not bound by any current law, and therefore, optional, until and unless I become enlightened to the law that exists that allows this.

I have spoken to most Council members about this and there are several supporters of the mandate. In keeping with my pledge to follow the rules and procedures of our City Government, I recommend that any member of Council who wishes to see a mask mandate, motion for it. If seconded, I would then gladly send this to the Laws, Rules & Ordinances Committee as required by our Standing Rules. This is the process to give our mayor the power to enforce mask wearing.

I want to be clear – what I have just said isn't about masks. It isn't about our honorable Mayor. This is merely an example of kind of bleeding over of separate branches of government that we are all bound by our oath to avoid and correct when we think we see it.

The roles of the separation of powers and checks and balances are the key principles of American government. As our Founders believed, it is the thing that preserves our liberty. As President of Council, I plan on continuing to take it as seriously throughout my tenure, and I hope you do as well.

Thank you all so much and let's have a great 2022.