

December 5, 2023
City Council, Cheviot, Ohio

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Council President Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:30PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer. Roll was then called, and the following members were in attendance:

Mayor	Sam Keller
President of Council	Kerry Smyth
Safety Services Director	Tom Braun
Council Ward 1	David Voss
Council Ward 2	John Hardig
Council Ward 3	Brian Smyth
Council Ward 4	Liindsay Jones
Council At Large	Kathleen Zech
Council At Large	Stefanie Hawk
Council At Large	Amy Richter

Mayor Keller introduced the new Safety Service Director, Mr. Steve Braun. Tom Braun will be staying until February to help Steve transition to his new position.

Iranetta Wright, Superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools addressed Council to discuss the Strategic Plan for CPS.

Motion to approve the minutes from the November 21 meeting was made by Mr. Hardig, second by Mrs. Richter. .

Reports of Standing Committees:

Mrs. Zech presented her report from the November 21 Laws, Rules & Ordinances Committee where discussion centered around was held around Mr. B. Smyth's proposed flag ordinance. She motioned to receive and file. Mr. Hardig seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Zech then commented that she does not support such an ordinance.

Mr. Voss presented his report from the November 21 Finance Committee where discussion was held regarding the purchase of tasers, cameras and drones for the police department using funds from the Criminal Acts Forfeiture Fund and any grant monies that may become available. Motion to receive and file was proposed by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mrs. Richter, and approved by all of Council.

Legislation:

ORD 23-21 To Amend Sections 30.17, 70.09 and 130.99 Of The Cheviot Code Of Ordinances To Update Court Costs For The Cheviot Mayor's Court. Mr. Voss read by title. This is the third and final reading. Mr. Voss motioned for adoption, Mr. Hardig seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ORD 23-22 To Amend The 2023 Annual Budget Appropriations; To Transfer Certain Funds; And To Declare An Emergency. Introduced by Mr. Voss, second by Ms. Hawk. Motion to suspend the rules was made by Ms. Hawk, second by Mrs. Zech. Motion to adopt was made by Mrs. Zech, second by Ms. Hawk. All motions carried unanimously.

ORD 23-23 To Amend Sections 114.01, 114.02 and 114.04 Of The Cheviot Code Of Ordinances Chapter 114: Mobile Food Vendors. Introduced by Ms. Jones, second by Mr. Smyth, and approved by all of council. This constitutes the first reading. Ms. Hawk requested that the language of the Ordinance be amended to limit where food trucks can park and how long they can stay in place. Food trucks are subject to an inspection by the Hamilton County Health Department and must purchase a parking permit. Ms. Hawk motioned to return the discussion to committee. Mr. Voss seconded. Ms. Jones called a meeting for Monday, December 18 at 7PM.

RES 23-19 To Authorize The Mayor To Enter Into An Agreement With The Safety-Service Director For Retirement Package. Intr. oduced by Mr. Voss, second by Mr. Hardig, and affirmative voice vote. Motion to adopt was made by Ms. Hawk, second by Mrs. Zech. Motion carried 5-2 with Messrs Harding and Smyth opposing.

RES 23-20 Resolution authorizing the purchase of Items for The Police Department Using Police Forfeiture Funds. Introduced by title by Mr. Voss. Motion for adoption made by Mr. Voss, second by Mr. Hardig and approved unanimously by council voice vote.

Administrative Reports:

-Mayor Keller called for Executive Session following tonight's meeting for discussion of a possible sale of some city-owned property. Also, a rate of pay needs to be established for the position of Safety Service Director.

In Early 2024, Erin will make recommendations for new rental rates for Harvest Home Lodge.

-Mr. Braun reports Q1 appropriations will be ready for the next meeting. The raised crosswalks on Harrison Avenue should be completed by the end of the week.

Public Recognition:

Kevin Leidecker, owner of NYPD Pizza made comments about the food truck ordinance, and is concerned that the new ordinance may create an area where the trucks can park wherever they want and stay as long as they want. Feels there should be some restrictions in place to prevent this. These concerns will be addressed in Ms. Jones's committee meeting on December 18.

Other Business:

-Mrs. Richter stated that although Mugs for Meals is a great event held to raise money for local food banks, she feels is disrespectful to have the banners of sponsors hanging on the fence in front of the cemetery. Other council members agreed, as did Mr. Leidecker.

-Mr. Leidecker also feels that the police presence at Mugs for Meals has been a detriment, although the presence of a firetruck can be viewed as a positive.


-Council recognized the presence of members and leaders of Boy Scout Troop 601 in attendance to observe a public meeting.

-Mayor Keller will be calling for Executive Session at the December meeting for discussion of the possible sale of city owned property.

At 8:55, Mr. Smyth, Mr. Hardig and Mrs. Richter motioned for Executive Session for discussion of the possible sale of city owned property.

Council reconvened at 9:25. Mayor Keller mentioned the members of the steering committee that will hold discussion of the master plan for Harvest Home Park. Those members are Erin Gassett, Caroline Statkus, Steve Braun, Steve Neal, Beth Dangel, Stefanie Hawk and Amy Richter. Seeing no further business before this Council, Ms. Hawk motioned for adjournment. Mrs. Richter seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:26.


Jenny M. Eilermann, Clerk of Council


Kerry Smyth, President of Council