MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

The regular session of Council was called to order at 7:32 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of prayer. Roll call was taken and the following were found in attendance:

Mayor	J. Michael Laumann
President of Council	Samuel D. Keller
Law Director	Mark G. Waters
Safety Service Director	Steven O. Neal
Council 1st Ward	Michael J. Murray
Council 2nd Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3rd Ward	James E. Morganroth
Council 4th Ward	Debra A. Gooch
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Charles L. Norman
Council at Large	Michael J. Mestemaker

The minutes of December 17, 2002 were approved. President Keller called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

No one in attendance wished to speak. Several Boys Scouts from several troops were in attendance. Pete Lees from Troop 641, St. John Dry Ridge was working on his Communications Merit badge. Ryan Clark and Greg Rass of Troop 24, St. James White Oak were working on their Communications Merit badge as well. Mike and Matt Pittman of Troop 201, Cheviot Methodist Church were also working on their Communication Badges.

The Mayor requested an executive session. Mr. Mestemaker made the motion to adjourn to executive session, with a second from Mr. Murray, and a third from Mrs. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Council adjourned to an executive session at 7:40 P.M. Council re-adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Safety Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal reported that the water main repair on West St. Martins will begin on January 8. Mr. Mestemaker asked if Mr. Neal had looked into adding a traffic light to the intersection of Westwood Northern Blvd. and Washington Avenues. Mr. Neal said that the expected cost to add one there would be 40 to 60 thousand dollars. He advised that a traffic count would be the next step. Mr. Neal suggested that the city should look into more enforcement and the possibility of adding signage to advise drivers that a stop sign is ahead. There was more discussion.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Laumann reported that the two most important issues were discussed in the executive session. As for the priorities of the upcoming year, the mayor suggested that the financial outlook of the city is the most pressing issue. Wage negotiations are going to be a critical part of that.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters began by explaining to the Boy Scouts in attendance what an executive session is used for and why it is not a violation of the State of Ohio sunshine law. Mr. Waters reported that in 2002 there were 3 collection suits in which 2 were tax collection cases where a total of $12,961.06 was paid to the tax office. All three cases were successfully completed. Mr. Waters stated that the largest case that he handled was the cell tower lawsuit in which SBA Communications ultimately had its suit against Cheviot dismissed. Mr. Waters also commented that currently that the William Schulte appeal is currently pending (this is the impounded car re-imbursement case). As for pending cases, Mr. Waters received a notice from lawyer Arnold Levine pertaining to incident in October involving a search warrant and a mislabeled apartment. Currently Mr. Waters is working with Police Chief Voss on this case. Currently no lawsuit has

been filed, but the other parties are investigating the possibility. Mr. Waters also mentioned that wage negotiations will be the other major project that he will be working on this year.

Committee Reports

Ward 1 - Mr. Murray had no formal report. He thanked the Cheviot Maintenance Department for the good job of removing snow and ice during the recent snow falls.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report.

Ward 3 - Mr. Morganroth had no formal report. He mentioned that the Police Department purchased a portable Speed Limit Sign with money from the Crime Prevention Fund. The sign is on a trailer and shows drivers the current speed that they are traveling.

Ward 4 – Mrs. Gooch made a motion *To Correct Resolution No. 02-22; And To Declare An Emergency.* Mr. Murray made the second. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES03-01. Mrs. Gooch then made a motion *To Increase The Rates Of Part-Time Police Officers, And To Declare An Emergency*. Mr. Mestemaker made the second. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD03-01. Mrs. Zech made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Morganroth made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Murray made a motion to receive and file the Finance Committee report, which had been tabled at the last meeting. Mr. Mestemaker made the second. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Council at Large - Mr. Mestemaker had no formal report.

Council at Large - Mrs. Zech made a motion *To Amend Section 36.03(A) Of The Cheviot Code Of Ordinances; And To Declare An Emergency*. Mr. Murray made the second. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. The motion was assigned ORD03-02. Mrs. Gooch made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Morganroth made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Norman. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mrs. Zech thanked Mr. Waters for working on this Ordinance so quickly. It was required by state law to be in effect by the end of January.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no formal report.

Further Business

Mr. Mestemaker made a motion to receive and file the December 2002 Mayor's Court Receipts. Mr. Dinkelacker made the second. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Morganroth with a second from Mr. Norman. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

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Ryan T. Zech
Clerk of Council

Samuel D. Keller
President of Council