

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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January 15th, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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 1 st Ward	Mike J. Murray
Council 2 nd Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3 rd Ward	James E. Morganroth
Council 4 th Ward	Debra A. Gooch
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Michael J. Mestemaker
Council at Large	Charles Norman

The minutes of January 1st, 2002 were approved. President Keller called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

The Principle of Cheviot School, Miss Maria Bonavita presented the Cincinnati Public Schools Master Plan for Renovation. Miss Bonavita addressed how the plan will impact the City of Cheviot. The plan calls for the renovation of the school building, and not a replacement as originally stated. This will require the use of a "swing space" while the renovations occur over the course of a year. Mayor Laumann and several members of council expressed concern over the relocation of the students and staff outside of Cheviot for a year. She encouraged all members of Council along with those in the public to attend a meeting scheduled on Thursday, January 17th at 7 p.m. at Western Hills High School. A meeting was set at 11 a.m. at Cheviot City Hall on January 16th for members of Council, the City Administration, and Principle Bonavita.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 201 in Cheviot were recognized.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Laumann gave the annual State of the City Report to Council. Mayor Laumann reported that the City of Cheviot had been operating in the black since 1989. In 2001, there was a deficit of \$130,000 due in part to the lost estate taxes, riot preparations and police officer overtime, the attempts to establish a paramedic and payment of some long standing debts. The City lost income of \$180,000 due to changes the State made in the estate taxes. To protect the City from further unexpected changes, the Mayor suggested that the City Council establish a Legislative Committee to watch Federal and State laws and to lobby against those that would be harmful to the City of Cheviot. In addition, the Mayor suggested that the City consider replacing the parking meters, as many are in constant need of repair. The City is at full staff with the exception of the Fire Department which is one man short. Finally, the Mayor would like the City to look at raises based on a performance review instead of the customary cost of living increase.

Safety Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal had no report.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters reported that the Law Director's office did not receive money in 2001. Currently the Law Director is involved in 3 active collection suits that the Tax Office had turned over to him. There is a pending Law Suit in regards to the Zoning Board of Appeals decision for the cellular phone tower proposal on North Bend Road. There is a liquor license transfer hearing for Stormy's Bar which was continued to Friday, January 25th at 1:00 p.m. at the City of Cincinnati City Hall. Mr. Waters reported that there was no need to hire special council for the 2001 year. The Law Director also mentioned that he was able to get the City dismissed from a negligence suit filed earlier in the year and that there were 2 appeals from Mayor's Court that were upheld by the Hamilton County Court of Appeals. Finally, Mr. Waters looked over the Tax Code and found several inconsistencies that should be corrected. Mrs. Zech acknowledged that the Laws, Rules and Ordinances Committee were looking in to it.

A motion to introduce an ordinance *to Authorize the Acceptance by the City of Cheviot of Certain Real Property to be Conveyed by Hamilton County; and to Declare an Emergency* was introduced by Mr. Murray; second was by Mrs. Zech. The motion carried by a 7-0 voice vote. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Mestemaker; second was by Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by roll-call vote. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Morganroth with a second by Mr. Murray. The motion carried with a 7-0 roll-call vote and ORD 02-02 was adopted.

Committee Reports

Ward 1 – Mr. Murray had no report.

Ward 2 – Mr. Dinkelacker had no report, but he did want to remind everyone that the CFA Cheviot Shoot-out Grade School Basketball Tournament would start on Friday, January 18th at 5 p.m. at the Cheviot Field House.

Ward 3 – Mr. Morganroth had no report.

Ward 4 – Mrs. Gooch had no report, but called for a Finance Committee meeting on January 29th, 2002 at 7 p.m. at Cheviot City Hall.

Council at Large – Mr. Mestemaker read the Streets and Sidewalks committee report into record. There was some discussion over where the repair of Smith Road would start and end, and also which section of St. Martins Place was to be repaired. Mr. Neal and Mr. Mestemaker defined the areas that will be repaired in 2002. A motion to receive and file the report was made by Mr. Mestemaker with a second by Mr. Murray. The motion passed with a 7-0 voice vote. Mr. Mestemaker then made a motion to introduce a resolution *to Authorize and Direct the Safety Service Director to Advertise for Bids for the Street Improvement Project for the Year 2002; and to Declare an Emergency* with a second by Mrs. Zech. The motion carried with a 7-0 voice vote and was assigned as RES 02-01.

Council at Large – A report of the Laws, Rules and Ordinances committee was read into record by Mrs. Zech. A motion to receive and file the report was made by Mrs. Zech with a second by Mr. Mestemaker. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mrs. Zech made a motion to introduce an ordinance *to Authorize the Execution of a Linked Deposit Loan Program Agreement; to Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Linked Deposit Loan Program Agreement; to Authorize Relate Matters; and to Declare an Emergency* which was seconded by Mr. Murray. The motion carried 7-0 by a voice vote. The ordinance was assigned ORD 02-03. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Dinkelacker with a second by Mr. Mestemaker. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion carried 7-0. Mr. Murray made a motion to adopt with a second from Mrs. Gooch. A roll-call vote was taken and the motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Zech also commented that American Legal Publishing had completed the codification of the ordinance books, and that they included the State of Ohio title 8 and 13 codes at no charge to the City. She also notified

Council that Mr. Murray had added the Cheviot Tax Codes to the City's website. Finally, Mrs. Zech mentioned that the codifications will be accepted at a later point in time.

Council at Large – Mr. Norman read a report from the Building and Annexation committee into the record. Mr. Norman made a motion to receive and file with a second from Mr. Murray. Mr. Norman made a motion to introduce an ordinance *to Amend Section 150.05(E) of the Cheviot Code of Ordinances; and to Declare an Emergency*; second by Mrs. Gooch. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. The ordinance was assigned as ORD 02-04. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Dinkelacker with a second by Mr. Mestemaker. The motion passed 7-0 by roll-call vote. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Morganroth with a second by Mrs. Gooch. The motion passed 7-0 by roll-call vote.

Further Business

Mr. Keller verified that all members of Council had received their financial disclosure statement which is to be filed with the Ohio Ethics Commission. A motion to receive and file a report from the Tax Commissioner and a report from the Recreation Commissioner was made by Mr. Dinkelacker. Mrs. Zech pointed out a correction that needed to be made to the Tax Commissioner's report where figures from 2000 had been transposed with figures from 2001. Mrs. Zech seconded the motion after the corrections were made. The motion passed with a 7-0 voice vote. Mr. Murray made a motion to receive and file the Mayor's Courts Receipts from December 2001; second by Mr. Mestemaker. Motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Correspondence

An Invitation to participate in the Neighbor to Neighbor discussions was sent to all members of Council. The meeting will be held at Cheviot City Hall on Wednesday, January 31st, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. A letter was received from the Ohio Department of Commerce regarding a liquor license transfer hearing. The clerk discussed with the Law Director and the Police Chief. A letter of appreciation was sent by Mrs. Sue Owens. She wanted to thank several members of the Cheviot Maintenance, Police and Fire Departments for help when she recently fell.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Morganroth, with a second by Mr. Norman. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Ryan T. Zech
Clerk of Council

Samuel D. Keller
President of Council