

## **MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO**

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February 7, 2006

The regular session of Council was called to order at 7:33 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of prayer. Roll call was taken and the following were found in attendance:

Mayor	Samuel D. Keller
President of Council	Michael J. Mestemaker
Safety Service Director	Steven O. Neal
Council 1 <sup>st</sup> Ward	Ryan T. Zech
Council 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council 4 <sup>th</sup> Ward	Greg J. Stautberg
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Charles L. Norman
Council at Large	Steven L. Braun

The minutes of January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 were approved. President Mestemaker called for the reports that would be presented and announced that there were three resolutions and one ordinance before Council.

### **Recognition of the Public**

No one wished to address Council.

### **Safety-Service Director's Report**

Mr. Neal notified Council that the City was starting the process for accepting bids for Property, Casualty, Automotive, and Blanket Liability Insurance Coverage. He said those bids would be open in early April and that the City is currently providing information to two companies, a number he hopes will increase. Mr. Neal also updated Council on his efforts to have the Cheviot Fieldhouse recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. He said the Ohio Historical Society is requesting additional information, and that he is seeking the information through the City's Council Minutes archives. He is also hoping to access the Western Hills Press archives for more information, and will keep Council up to date on his progress. Mr. Neal then informed Council that he and Public Works Superintendent Tom Braun have met with the Director of the Solid Waste Management District about Cheviot's yard waste pickup program, and was told that the City should be able to secure a \$30,000 to \$40,000 grant to continue the program. He said he would keep Council informed on the progress of this effort. Mr. Neal informed Council that the City is continuing to move forward with the Property Maintenance Inspectors, and that he has contacted the owners of the Hillenbrand Nursing Home and Frank's Nursery & Crafts properties to inform them that if they do not move those properties by March they will be the first properties to come under the property maintenance inspections. Regarding the appropriations for these efforts, Mr. Neal said that he is 80% complete and should have it finished by the next regular Council meeting. Mr. Neal then informed Council that he and Public Works Superintendent Tom Braun would be attending a meeting with OKI on 2/14 regarding ODOT grants for the replacement of traffic signals. He then informed Council that on 2/15 the Cheviot Eagles Hall of Fame will be presenting their Civic Award to Public Works Superintendent Tom Braun; doors open at 6pm, dinner is at 7pm, and the cost per person is \$8. He encouraged all who can to attend.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Keller informed Council that the City did receive official confirmation regarding the \$150,000 grant for the Darwin Avenue Project. He also informed Council that the City has begun the contract negotiations with the FOP, and that he hopes to complete those negotiations in a timely manner and move directly on to negotiations with the Fire Department and the Public Works Department. He also met with a group of City Employees and indicated that Health Care is one of the biggest concerns they discussed. He informed Council that he has done extensive work on a package with the City's Health Care provider and there is a plan to convene a committee consisting of representatives from the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department, and the City Administration to set the plan up.

Mayor Keller informed Council that he and Law Director Mark Waters have met with the FOP and received their initial proposal, and that they are scheduled to meet with them again on 2/22. He will keep Council informed on the progress of the ongoing negotiations.

### **Law Director's Report**

Mr. Waters did not forward a report.

### **Committee Reports**

Ward 1 - Mr. Zech read a report of the Internal Affairs Committee into the record. Mr. Zech made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Zech updated Council on his continued communications with the Cheviot-Westwood Civic Association as their liaison, and announced his intention to attend their next meeting. Safety Services Director Steven Neal then informed Mr. Zech of a house on Everett Avenue that has been a long-term problem in violation of the Building Code and how he intends to deal with it. There was much discussion, and Mr. Neal indicated he will be meeting with the Building Department and the Law Director to further discuss how best to deal with the issue.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report, but did call an External Affairs Committee meeting for 2/16 at 6:30pm to discuss the Economic Development Plan. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion *To Request Advanced Payment Of First Half, 2005, Real Property Taxes; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 06-01.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus read a report of the Police & Fire Committee into the record. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Ward 4 - Mr. Stautberg had no formal report.

Council at Large - Mrs. Zech read a report of the Laws, Rules and Ordinances Committee into the record. Mrs. Zech made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman read a report of the Building & Annexation Committee into the record. Mr. Norman made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Norman made a motion *To Approve The Provision Of Accounting Services To The City Of Cheviot By The Local Government Services Section Of The State Auditor's Office; To Increase The 2006 Annual Budget Appropriations To Fund The Accounting Services; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 06-03. Mrs. Zech made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Norman made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote.

Mr. Norman then made a motion *To Authorize The Safety-Service Director To Advertise For Bids For The Maintenance And Repair Of The Exterior Of The Cheviot Fieldhouse; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 06-02.

Council at Large - Mr. Braun had no formal report. Mr. Braun made a motion *To Authorize The Safety-Service Director To Advertise For Bids For The 2006 Street Improvement Project; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 06-03.

**Further Business**

Mr. Sunderhaus pointed out a recommendation by the Tax Commissioner in his report that the City look into hiring a Development Director. President Mestemaker assigned the Building & Annexation Committee to look into the issue. Mr. Sunderhaus then made a motion to receive and file the 2005 Tax Commissioner's Report with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

The Treasurer's Report for 2005 was not received by some Council members. Copies will be distributed to these members of Council before the next regular Council meeting. Mr. Zech made a motion to receive and file the Mayor's Court Receipts for January 2006 with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Mr. Sunderhaus requested an explanation of the new Committees for interested members of the public. Mr. Zech explained that the Internal Affairs Committee was created to alleviate some of the pressure that had been put on the Finance Committee as well as a few other Committees regarding employee issues and others that fall under the City's jurisdiction. The External Affairs Committee was created to combine the Schools and Sewers Committees, as well as handle any other issues which did not fall specifically under the City's jurisdiction. This was done because in the past these Committees had been underutilized. President Mestemaker recommended that any member of the public that had any questions about these or other Committees contact a member of Council for more information.

**Correspondence**

Upcoming Mayor's Court dates were announced to Council. A letter was received from Community Services West thanking the City for its recent donation. A newsletter was received from the Ohio Collation for Open Government, as well as two Legislative Bulletins from the Ohio Municipal League.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Zech with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

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Matthew D. McGowan  
Clerk of Council

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Michael J. Mestemaker  
President of Council