

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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February 19, 2008

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	Deborah M. McKinney
Law Director	Mark G. Waters
Safety Service Director	Steven O. Neal
Council 1 st Ward	Ryan T. Zech
Council 2 nd Ward	James Babey
Council 3 rd Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council 4 th Ward	Greg J. Stautberg
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council at Large	Steven L. Braun

President McKinney called for the reports that would be presented. The minutes of February 5th, 2008 were approved.

Public Recognition on Agenda Items

No one from the public wished to speak.

Reports of Standing Committees

Mr. Zech read a report of the Parks & Playgrounds 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 called a meeting of the Parks & Playgrounds Committee for Thursday, February 28th at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Braun read a report of the Building & Annexation Committee into the record. Mr. Braun made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Braun called a meeting of the Building & Annexation Committee for Thursday, February 28th at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Stautberg called meetings of the Finance Committee for Thursday, February 21st at 6:30 P.M. and Monday, February 25th at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller thanked the Cheviot Eagles for honoring Al Mack at their Civic Appreciation Dinner and for their \$500.00 donation to the Honor Flights Program. Mayor Keller informed Council that Mr. Neal has performed some pre-work on cutting this year's budget, adding that the Finance Committee will need to cut over \$300,000 from the budget from last year. Mayor Keller thanked Mrs. Zech and her committee for all the work they have completed for the city's Realtor's Brunch.

Safety-Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal updated Council on upcoming road reconstruction projects as well as the Harrison Avenue project. Mr. Neal informed Council that the upcoming road projects will go out for bids in April and be awarded in May, adding that single projects will go out for bid in November and that final surface course for all road projects should be completed by the spring of 2009. Mr. Neal then gave Council an update on the work being performed at the 1st HUD house purchased by the City on Davis Avenue. Mr. Neal thanked everyone who attended the Civic Appreciation Dinner honoring Al Mack. Mr. Neal then informed Council that the Hamilton County Auditor is not indicating that the City owns the Cemetery on Harrison Avenue and that he has not seen the deed. Mr. Waters informed Mr. Neal that he has the deed and that the original owner of the property filed the deed with the County at the time of transfer. There was much discussion. Mr. Zech informed Council that the Recorder's Office may not have record of the deed as they do not collect taxes on the property and said he will look into any outstanding issues with the property. Mr. Waters informed Mr. Neal that he will bring the deed to him at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Keller asked Mr. Neal if the City has deeds for other City owned property. Mr. Neal informed the Mayor that he wasn't sure but would look into the issue. There was much discussion. Mr. Neal updated Council on his work on the budget, adding that along with the Police Chief and the Fire Chief, he has already cut \$235,000 from the budget from last year, which still leaves the City nearly \$100,000 short of where they need to be.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters informed Council that he has prepared an ordinance to renew the lease agreement with Hamilton County for the use of Cheviot City Hall by the County Courts to pass at the next meeting of Council. Mr. Waters informed Council that he has received a request from the Tax Commissioner to initiate some collection suits for delinquent taxes which will require Council's approval, adding that he will have the required ordinance completed for the next meeting. Mr. Waters informed Council that he is working with Mr. Braun on an issue regarding the future sales of the City's purchased HUD properties.

Public Recognition on Other Issues

No one from the public wished to speak.

Other Business

Mrs. Zech updated Council on Sign Ordinance enforcement as well as the City's Realtors Brunch scheduled for Wednesday, February 27th from 10:30 A.M. until noon at Harvest Home Park. Mrs. Zech thanked her committee for all their hard work. Mayor Keller requested that the information packets put together for the Realtors Brunch also be made available at City Hall. Mr. Zech wished Mrs. Zech a happy birthday.

President McKinney informed everyone that the Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 4th would be cancelled due to the Primary Elections.

Correspondence

A check for Franchise Fees from Time Warner Cable, a copy of Hamilton County's "Budget In Brief", a memo from the Fire Chief regarding new business permits, a letter from the Tax Commissioner requesting that penalty clauses for tax code violations be reviewed, four Property Maintenance reports, five Building Maintenance reports regarding the Sign Ordinance, a membership list for City Boards and Commissions, the 2007 Annual report from the Fire Department, and a newsletter from the Ohio Coalition for Open Government were received.

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 8:06 P.M.

Matthew D. McGowan
Clerk of Council

Deborah M. McKinney
President of Council