

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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February 20, 2007

The regular session of Council 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	Samuel D. Keller
President of Council	Michael J. Mestemaker
Law Director	Mark G. Waters
Safety Service Director	Steven O. Neal
Council 1 st Ward	Ryan T. Zech
Council 2 nd Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3 rd Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council 4 th 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 February 8th, 2007 were approved. President Mestemaker called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

Mr. Mike Murray and Ms. Deborah McKinney expressed kudos to the City Maintenance Department for doing a great job with snow and ice removal on the City's streets during the recent bouts of inclement weather.

Safety-Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal informed Council that Ms. McKinney has offered to do wills for the City's Police and Firemen at no cost and thanked her for providing the service. Mr. Neal said that since his last Council meeting, there had been three snowstorms and one major fire in the City, and that the Public Works and Fire Departments each did an outstanding job responding to these emergencies. Mr. Neal informed Council that one issue being discussed at Project Impact meetings is having a first time home buyer program offered in the City of Cheviot, so the City will be sponsoring an event in conjunction with Cheviot Savings Bank on March 14th at 7 P.M.; the event will be open to anyone who is looking to buy a home in Cheviot or elsewhere. Mr. Neal informed Council of an upcoming forum on stabilizing neighborhoods through secured housing being presented by the Hamilton County Homeowner Preservation Group that he will be attending with the Police Chief. Mr. Neal informed Council that former Mayor Laumann held his first Property Maintenance Court, and that he thought the former Mayor did an excellent job. Mr. Neal reported to Council that he is finishing his work on the City Budget and will be forwarding his information to the Finance Committee Chairman and requesting to meet with the committee soon. Mr. Zech asked a question about how certain levy money will be used that Mr. Neal said is addressed in his budget request.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller echoed the remarks of Mr. Neal regarding the excellent work the City's Maintenance Department has done during the recent rash of wintry weather and noted that he has received many emails and calls from residents expressing the same. Mayor Keller informed Council that he has made a request to Clara Palmer of Community Services West to clarify services being provided to Cheviot seniors. Mr. Neal added that during a Snow Emergency the City urges residents to remove their automobiles from all City streets, though only on Harrison Avenue, North Bend Road, Glenmore Avenue and Western-Northern Boulevard are they actually required to do so. He also informed everyone that the City does have emergency procedures in place for large-scale power outages.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters informed Council that he has reviewed the Joint Economic Development Agreement submitted by Green Township and that it is fine as to form, adding that the various political and monetary

issues are up to Council to decide upon. Mr. Waters informed Council that he has also reviewed the contract with WPS Energy Services, which Mr. Stautberg will address in his report.

Committee Reports

Ward 1 - Mr. Zech had no formal report. Mr. Zech presented the new Property Maintenance Code for its second reading with a second from Mr. Stautberg. Mr. Zech called a meeting of the Internal Affairs Committee for Tuesday, February 27th at 6 P.M. to discuss the City's Insurance, followed by a Parks and Playgrounds Committee at 6:30 P.M. to discuss the Cemetery Project as well as Harvest Home Park/Swimming Pool rules. Mr. Zech informed everyone that the Cheviot Entertainment District is holding a Mardi Gras celebration this evening and thanked everyone who helped with the Cheviot Shootout Basketball Tournament. Mr. Zech echoed the sentiments of everyone regarding the City's snow removal efforts, adding that he received compliments from both residents and non-residents alike. Mr. Zech then wished Mrs. Zech a Happy Birthday. Mr. Neal asked Mr. Zech a question about the Property Maintenance Code, which Mr. Zech informed him is currently being addressed with the Law Director.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report. Mr. Dinkelacker informed everyone that the next Project Impact meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28th, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fire Department meeting room. Mr. Dinkelacker then thanked everyone who helped with the Cheviot Shootout Basketball Tournament.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus had no formal report. Mr. Sunderhaus reminded everyone that the Cheviot Eagles will be presenting their Civic Appreciation Award to Mayor Keller at their Hall of Fame & Civic Appreciation Dinner on February 21st and encouraged all to attend. Mr. Sunderhaus then thanked Mr. Dinkelacker for all his hard work running the Cheviot Shootout Basketball Tournament.

Ward 4 - Mr. Stautberg had no formal report. Mr. Stautberg provided an update on the progress of the Gas Aggregation Program, informing Council that WPS Energy Services will be merging with another company and that the contract could not be signed until the merger has been completed. Mr. Stautberg informed Council that representatives from WPS have assured him that the contract that has been offered to the City will not be affected by the merger. Mr. Stautberg reminded everyone of a meeting immediately following this Council Meeting to discuss the possibility of starting a new committee recommended by Project Impact, and of the CWCA meeting scheduled for February 21st.

Council at Large – Mrs. Zech had no formal report. Mrs. Zech also offered kudos to the City's Maintenance Department for their efforts during the recent inclement weather.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no formal report. Mr. Norman made a motion *To Amend The 2007 Annual Appropriations; To Transfer Funds; And To Declare An Emergency*. There was some discussion before the motion received a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 07-04. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Norman informed Council that meetings regarding the Budget will be starting soon.

Council at Large - Mr. Braun had no formal report. Mr. Braun wished Mrs. Zech a Happy Birthday. Mr. Norman informed Council of Mr. Braun's continued attendance at OKI meetings.

Further Business

Mr. Zech made a motion to receive and file the January 2007 Treasurer's Report with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mrs. Zech made a motion to receive and file the January 2007 Mayor Court receipts with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Correspondence

A Legislative Bulletin from the Ohio Municipal League and a letter to Council from Police Chief Voss was 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 7:55 P.M.

Matthew D. McGowan
Clerk of Council

Michael J. Mestemaker
President of Council