

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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March 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
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 21st, 2006 were approved. President Mestemaker called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

No one from the public wished to speak.

Safety-Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal provided Council with a list of the bids which have been received for the restoration of the Cheviot Fieldhouse. This information is on file at City Hall. Mr. Neal estimated the total cost of the project at \$21,500 including the cost of paint, which the City will provide. Mr. Neal informed Council he is still working on getting the Fieldhouse listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings so the project will qualify for State and/or Federal money, but he did recommend that Council award the bid to Brian Brothers Painting & Restoration of Piqua, Ohio which was for \$17,499 once Council passes the appropriations for the project. Mr. Neal informed Council that he passed along to Councilman Braun an engineering letter he received pertaining to the retaining wall located at the Gamble Avenue parking lot which recommended either repairs totaling \$60,000 or adding a modular wall at a cost of \$39,000. Mr. Neal recommended the modular wall be included when the City puts the Gamble Avenue project out for bids later this year. Mr. Neal informed Council that he and Public Works Superintendent Tom Braun will be attending a meeting with the Solid Waste District to attempt to obtain a \$20,000-\$30,000 grant to assist with the City's yard waste collection program, and that he will let the Finance Committee know the outcome of the meeting. Mr. Neal informed Council that he and Recreation Commissioner Theresa Sunderhaus have met with the different baseball organizations regarding ball field permits for the Fieldhouse. Mr. Neal has asked the Parks and Playgrounds Committee to look into the permit process to resolve discrepancies between the costs for permits and the time frames they are valid for. Mr. Neal then addressed recent citizen complaints about pickup/drop-off and parking issues at Cheviot School. Mr. Neal has instructed the Police Department to issue citations to parents who drop off or pickup kids in front of the fence on Harrison Avenue. He also informed Council that the City has changed the "Bus Loading Zone" signs to "Student Drop Off" signs on McFarren Avenue to clear up confusion for parents dropping their kids off for school. Mr. Sunderhaus then requested references from the companies bidding on the Fieldhouse Project. Mr. Neal said he would take care of it.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller reminded Council that contract negotiations with the FOP are ongoing, that they are making progress, and that he will be meeting with the City's insurance carrier to draft a final proposal for Health Care under the new contract. He has also received the initial proposal from the Fire Department, and once the insurance issue has been resolved, the City will move forward on negotiations with the Fire Department and the Public Works Department. Mayor Keller said he recently attended a meeting of the Economic Development Committee, which was also attended by members of Council, the City

Administration, and members of the Cheviot Business Community, and that he was very impressed by their progress. He challenged Council to create an Economic Development Task Force consisting of himself, Mr. Neal, two members of Council, and two members of the Community Association. The Mayor also said he would like Council to allocate funds to assist this effort, and that he intends to ask the Community Association to help fund it as well.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters had no formal report, but did inform Council that the ordinance regarding Mayor's Court expenditures, as well as the Sign Ordinance, is still in the works and that he hopes to have both completed shortly. There was some discussion about the ordinance regarding Mayor's Court expenditures. Mr. Waters informed Council that Ohio House Bill 226 permits Mayor's Courts in cities to impose expenditures on defendants to cover additional Court costs incurred by the Mayor's Court for interpretive fees, serving subpoenas, etc., and that it will require an ordinance for the City to begin to do so.

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. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Zech then called a meeting of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee for Tuesday, March 14th at 7pm to discuss the issue regarding ball field permits and the proposed cemetery issue from CWCA. Mr. Neal requested an update on the status of the creation of a Property Maintenance Inspector for the City. There was much discussion. Mr. Zech informed Mr. Neal and Council that there is still much work to do on the issue, but that progress is being made as quickly as possible.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report. He did update Council on the preliminary meeting of the External Affairs Committee, City Administration, and members of the Business Community regarding the Economic Development Plan. There was much discussion. He informed Council that meetings will be ongoing and that he will keep Council informed on their progress.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus had no formal report. He did wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Ward 4 - Mr. Stautberg had no formal report.

Council at Large - Mrs. Zech had no formal report. She did inform Council that the City needs to codify its ordinances passed since 2003, and that she has been in contact with American Legal who has offered the City a discount plan to do it this year. Mrs. Zech also informed Council of an upcoming presentation by the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission on how to revitalize vacant housing stock, as well as a program they offer that will help address the exodus of population from the County's "first-ring" neighborhoods and how to reverse it. She recommended anyone that can attend try to do so. She also wished her granddaughter a Happy Birthday.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no formal report, but called a continuation of the Finance Committee's meeting of Wednesday, March 1st to discuss the 2006 budget for Tuesday March 14th at 6pm.

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

Further Business

Mrs. Zech made a motion to receive and file the February 2006 Mayor's Court Receipts with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to receive and file the January 2006 Treasurer's Report with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Correspondence

Information about Ohio University's Executive Leadership Institute's Programs for the upcoming year, as well as a Legislative Bulletin and the *Cities and Villages Journal* from the Ohio Municipal League 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 8:01 P.M.

Matthew D. McGowan
Clerk of Council

Michael J. Mestemaker
President of Council