

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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March 18, 2008

The regular session of Council was called to order at 7:31 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 19th, 2008 were approved.

Public Recognition on Agenda Items

No one from the public wished to speak.

Reports of Standing Committees

Mr. Stautberg read a report of the Finance Committee into the record. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Stautberg read a second report of the Finance Committee into the record. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Stautberg read a third report of the Finance Committee into the record. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Stautberg read a fourth report of the Finance Committee into the record. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Babey. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions

Mr. Zech made a motion to introduce an ordinance *To Approve A New Lease Agreement With The Board Of Hamilton County Commissioners; To Authorize The Safety-Service Director To Sign The Agreement On Behalf Of The City; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 08-02. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Babey made a motion to adopt with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to introduce an ordinance *To Approve The Provision Of Accounting Services To The City Of Cheviot By The Local Government Services Section Of The State Auditor's Office; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 08-03. 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. Sunderhaus made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Babey. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to introduce an ordinance *To Transfer Funds; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 08-04. Mr. Babey made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Babey. The motion carried 6-1 by roll call vote, with Mr. Zech voting no. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to introduce *An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Current Expenses And Other Expenditures For The City Of Cheviot, State Of Ohio, During The 2008 Year ending December 31, 2008 And Declaring An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 08-05. Mr. Babey made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. After some

discussion, Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 6-0-1 by roll call vote, with Mr. Zech abstaining. Mr. Stautberg made a motion *To Authorize The Law Director To Bring Collection Lawsuits Against Certain Delinquent Taxpayers; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 08-04.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller thanked Mr. Stautberg, the Finance Committee, Council and the Administration for all their hard work on this years budget, adding that the cuts made were necessary but acknowledging that they would be very hard on the city. Mayor Keller said that between cuts in Federal and State revenue sharing, declining tax revenues and declining income of city residents, he does not see an end in sight. Mayor Keller requested to meet with the Finance Committee Chairman after the meeting to discuss Administration efforts to curb the City's financial difficulties. Mayor Keller said that City Council will face even more tough decisions in the future, adding that the City will need to look at ways to generate additional revenue because the budget cannot be cut any further without cutting City Services, adding that this will likely be the last Council meeting televised on local access cable as a result of the current budget. Mayor Keller emphasized the great job Council and the Administration are doing to keep the City operating, but reiterated that the City will need to generate additional revenue or scale back City Services as it is not possible to operate at the current levels with any additional budget cuts.

Safety-Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal stated that he has worked for the City since 1981 and that this is the most dire appropriations ordinance he has ever seen, adding that he felt that the Finance Committee did a great job with what they had to work with. Mr. Neal informed the public that by law, the City cannot operate at a deficit, adding that some City Services (such as money for building improvements and new City Equipment, Center for Local Government membership, the repainting of lines on city streets, money spent on Harvest Home Fair, etc.) will already be cut out as a result of this year's budget. Mr. Neal stated that the remaining City Services will continue as best as possible. Mr. Neal informed Council that the Hamilton County Commissioners will be voting on the recommendations of the County Engineers regarding funding of upcoming road projects, adding that the money the City has for its share is required by law to be used for road construction. Mr. Neal stated that other local cities are looking into requiring permits for rental properties, adding that he thinks it would be a good idea for the City to look into.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters informed Council that he has brought the deed for the Cemetery on Harrison Avenue to Mr. Neal to be filed. Mr. Waters informed Council that he received a contract from Mr. Neal for the County to perform maintenance of the city's fire hydrants and that he will prepare an ordinance for the next meeting. Mr. Waters added that is reviewing a proposal for changes to the City Tax Code as well as a proposed ordinance which would allow the City to generate additional revenues through certain police runs, both of which he will report on at the next meeting.

Public Recognition on Other Issues

No one from the public wished to speak.

Other Business

Mr. Babey called a Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting for Monday, March 24th at 6:30 P.M.

Mr. Zech a Parks & Playgrounds Committee meeting for Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 P.M. Mr. Zech stated that if anyone is interested in having a booth at the Westside Streetfest this year they should call the CWCA at 389-WEST, adding that CWCA will sponsor a city-wide yard sale later this year. Mr. Zech informed the public that tonight's meeting will be the last broadcast of Cheviot Cable Access.

Mr. Dinkelacker informed everyone that he will contact Hamilton County to see when the upcoming meeting of Project Impact can be rescheduled for due to the passing of Caroline Statkus' son.

Mrs. Zech informed everyone that the Realtors Brunch was a huge success and thanked everyone for attending, adding that the information received from the questionnaires filled out by the Realtors in attendance will be referred to committee for discussion. Mrs. Zech reminded everyone that political yard signs must be removed seven days after an election and that the next time they can go up is after Labor Day. Mrs. Zech then reminded everyone that contributions in memory of Caroline Statkus' son can be made to the City's Shade Tree fund.

Mr. Neal informed everyone that a second First Time Homebuyer's Seminar will be held on Wednesday, April 2nd at 7 P.M. at Harvest Home Lodge.

Mr. Stautberg updated everyone on the City's Gas Aggregation Program and informed everyone of his intention to set up quarterly meetings with the City's Auditor and the Finance Committee.

Mr. Braun called a meeting of the Building & Annexation Committee for Thursday, March 27th at 7 P.M.

Mayor's Court and Treasurer's Receipts

Mrs. Zech made a motion to receive and file the January 2008 Treasurer's Report with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file the February 2008 Treasurer's Report with a second from Mr. Braun. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file the February 2008 Mayor's Court receipts with a second from Mr. Babey. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Correspondence

A newsletter from CDS Associates, a memo from the Fire Chief regarding new business permits, a copy of *Cities and Villages* magazine, and an update on Sign Ordinance enforcement as well as a report on licenses and permits issued by the City from the Building Department were received.

Mayor Keller reminded everyone that Financial Disclosure statements are due on April 15th.

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 8:16 P.M.

Matthew D. McGowan
Clerk of Council

Deborah M. McKinney
President of Council