

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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April 02nd, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of prayer. Roll call was taken and the following were found in attendance:

Mayor	J. Michael Laumann
President of Council	Samuel D. Keller
Law Director	Mark G. Waters
Safety Service Director	Steven O. Neal
Council 1 st Ward	Michael J. Murray
Council 2 nd Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3 rd Ward	James E. Morganroth
Council 4 th Ward	Debra A. Gooch
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Charles L. Norman
Council at Large	Michael J. Mestemaker

The minutes of March 19th, 2002 were approved. President Keller called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

No one wished to address Council.

Safety Service Director's Report

The Parking Commission held a meeting on April 1, 2002 to accept bids for the purchase of new electronic parking meters. POM was the only bid received. There is a need for 240 meters at \$152.66 a piece along with one POM electronic communicator for \$660.00. The total expected expense is \$37,298.40. Mr. Neal plans on discontinuing the \$5,000 annual service contract with the company that currently maintains and repairs the meters. That along with the added revenue from properly working meters should offset the expense of the new meters. Mr. Mestemaker asked where the money for the meters is coming from, to which Mr. Neal responded that the parking budget is where the finances are coming from. Mr. Murray made a motion to receive and file the parking committee report. Mr. Mestemaker made the second and the motion passed 7-0. Mr. Murray made a motion *To Accept the Bid of POM, Incorporated for the Provision of New Internal Mechanisms for the City's Parking Meters; And to Declare an Emergency*. Mrs. Gooch seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned ORD02-11. Mrs. Zech made a motion to suspend the rules and Mr. Dinkelacker seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. A motion to adopt ORD02-11 was made by Mrs. Zech with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Neal updated Council about the water works projects in and around Cheviot. Applegate Avenue is about 95% complete; the pipes for Bridgetown Road have been delivered and Mr. Neal expected traffic problems through the summer; Meyerfeld and Taft Avenues were still in their design phases; water main replacement on Robb Avenue is expected to begin in July and will include a full road width blacktop replacement; and the design for West St. Martins should be finished by May 1st so that the City can start the bidding process in mid-May. Mr. Neal also reported that a 500 ft. section of West St. Martins starting at June St. and going west will need to be totally re-constructed. This is expected to increase the cost of the project. Mr. Neal reported that the construction company has completely leveled the old Centennial Bank site and that Auto Zone expects to open by May 26th. In addition, Auto Zone agreed to move their sign 12ft. to the East to make room for the City's Nativity Scene. Mr. Neal publicly thanks Auto Zone for the effort. The new playground equipment for Harvest Home Park arrived and the City will install it once the ground dries out. Finally, Mr. Neal reported that yard waste will once again be picked up every week on the day after garbage is picked up. There was some more discussion about the Glenmore Avenue water main.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Laumann announced that Officer Schuckman was sworn in as a Green Township police officer. As a result, the City of Cheviot is accepting applications until April 15th for the opened position in the Cheviot Police Department. The Civil Service Commission has the Applications in the Cheviot Administration offices. The Mayor reported that the Health Insurance premiums will increase on May 1st. According to the contract the City has with it's employees, the 30.35% increase will affect the employees and not the City's budget. Mayor Laumann offered to make copies of the report from Cross and Associates available to Council. There was much discussion from many members of Council. Finally the Mayor addressed that due to the losses the City potentially faces he suggest that the City consider billing for EMS runs. According to a recent report by the Fire Chief, the City of Cheviot is one of the last Cities in the region to start charging for EMS service. The Mayor recommends "soft billing" which is the billing of insurance companies, and not aggressively seeking payment from those that can't pay. After much discussion, Mr. Keller asked Mr. Morganroth to take this matter into the Police and Fire Committee for discussion.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters reminded Council that he had the Cell Tower hearing on Monday, April 8th at 10 A.M. He also announced that the Ohio Liquor Control Board approved the license for Panhead Charlie's, Inc. Mr. Waters recommended that Council speak with Police Chief Voss if they wish to appeal the Liquor Control Board's decision.

Committee Reports

Ward 1 - Mr. Murray read a report of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee into record. In summary, the report discussed the problems at Harvest Home Park. A few changes like lighting, security upgrades, and better monitoring will be made. Mr. Murray also stressed that he does not want the public to think that the City is rewarding the trouble makers at Harvest Home Park by lighting the basketball court and painting lines on the court. Mr. Keller added that the City will take these privileges away if the problems continue. A motion to receive and file Mr. Murray's report was made by Mr. Morganroth with a second from Mr. Mestemaker. The motion passed 7-0.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no report. He did mention that the CDM MSD report has started to come in, but that he has not received all the updates yet.

Ward 3 - Mr. Morganroth had no report.

Ward 4 - Mrs. Gooch had no report.

Council at Large - Mr. Mestemaker had no report. Mr. Mestemaker made another request for a report from the building department. A meeting to discuss this matter was set for Monday, April 8th in Cheviot City Hall at 7 P.M. or when Mayor's Court was finished.

Council at Large - Mrs. Zech had no report. Mrs. Zech reminded the public that the City would host another Arbor Day Celebration in Harvest Home Park on April 26th at 11 A.M. There was some discussion pertaining to this event.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no report. Mr. Norman did mention that he and Mr. Mestemaker toured the Blue Ash Recreation Center. Mr. Mestemaker described what they saw, and added additional comments. Mr. Norman also mentioned that he spoke to several business owners on Harrison Avenue and they asked if the garbage pick-up time could be moved later in the day. There was some discussion, and Mr. Neal said he would look in to it.

Further Business

Mr. Keller mentioned that a new business, Peddles on the Right, moved into Cheviot. Peddles on the Right is a NASCAR and racing memorabilia shop and will have their Grand Opening on Monday, April 8th. Mr. Keller received a letter from Time Warner Cable informing the City that the FCC ruled that Road Runner is not a cable service, so in the future Time Warner would not pay franchise fees to Cheviot for those that use Road Runner. A letter from the Citizens for Great Parks asked voters to approve a May 7th 1 mil levy which is for Hamilton County parks. Mr. Keller stated that he supports the levy. A motion to receive and file the Mayor's Court Receipts for March 2002 was made by Mr. Mestemaker with a second by Mr. Murray. The motion passed 7-0.

Correspondence

Information from the Hamilton County Public Library was sent to Mr. Murray and forwarded to the Clerk for filing; it will be available to all members of Council. A notice from the Ohio Department of Commerce was sent to Council to inform the City that the application for Panhead Charlie's, Inc. was approved. Finally, the Ohio Liquor Control Board sent notice that there are changes in the process of appealing a Liquor license request.

There was a motion to adjourn by Mr. Morganroth with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Ryan T. Zech
Clerk of Council

Samuel D. Keller
President of Council