

# **MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO**

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January 6, 2009

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 <sup>st</sup> Ward	Ryan T. Zech
Council 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	James Babey
Council 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council 4 <sup>th</sup> Ward	Greg J. Stautberg
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council at Large	Steven L. Braun

President McKinney delineated from normal proceedings to allow Judge Pat DeWine to swear in Charles L. Norman as City Treasurer. Mr. Norman thanked everyone and said he looks forward to working with Council. President McKinney called for the reports that would be presented. The minutes of December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 were approved.

## **Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions**

Mr. Stautberg made a motion *To Request That The Hamilton County Auditor Make Advance Payments Of Taxes To The City Of Cheviot Pursuant To Section 321.34 Of The Ohio Revised Code; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 09-01.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Keller had no formal report.

## **Safety-Service Director's Report**

Mr. Neal advised Council of a letter he sent to OPWC opposing the decision not to fund Phase II of the Harrison Avenue Road Construction Project at this time. Mr. Neal informed Council that he will continue to fight this decision and will keep Council informed on the process. Mr. Neal informed Council that Cheviot has been allotted \$300,000 through the Federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and that he is currently in the process of completing the necessary paperwork. Mr. Neal informed Council that he plans to use some of the funds to demolish condemned properties on Darwin Avenue and Harrison Avenue. Mr. Neal informed Council that a property on Bank Court has come up on the HUD list of properties available for purchase to the City, adding that the price is currently listed as \$15,000; Mr. Neal said he has contacted a realtor and added that this property may be eligible to be purchased using Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds. Mr. Neal advised Council of a few issues with the city owned property at Bruestle Avenue, adding that a bid has been made and an appraisal of the property is currently underway. Mr. Neal informed Council that once the sale is complete, the City is ready to move on to the Glenmore Avenue property, adding that he has already scheduled a first time homebuyer's seminar for the spring. Mr. Neal informed Council that although the Cheviot Fieldhouse has been listed on the National Registry of Historical Place, the City still has not received the letter making it official; Mr. Neal then updated Council on the progress of securing a plaque for display at the Fieldhouse.

## **Law Director's Report**

Mr. Waters reminded the Clerk of Council that a certified copy of Resolution 09-01 would need to be delivered to the County Auditor and offered to deliver it to the Auditor's Office. Mr. Waters gave his Annual Report to Council. Mr. Waters reminded Council that wage negotiations with Police, Fire,

and Public Works Unions would take place in 2009 and added that he expects them to be tough given the City's budget. Mr. Waters added that he would like to complete an anti-solicitation ordinance and aggressively pursue any outstanding debts owed to the City in 2009. Mr. Waters updated Council on a Workers Compensation case involving the City and recommended to Council that the new Treasurer be allowed to give his Annual Report at the next Council meeting. Mayor Keller said he would email his Annual Report to Council, and thanked Mr. Waters and the Cheviot Republican Party for quickly appointing Mr. Norman as Treasurer following Mr. Dorenkemper's resignation.

### **Public Recognition on Other Issues**

Charlie Zech of Bruestle Avenue came to Council to express his concerns about a property located near his home, as well as concerns about the current occupant of the property. There was much discussion. Mr. Neal said he would investigate the matter.

Bill Clark of Alta Vista Avenue came to Council on behalf of St. Martin's Parish to request that the City support their efforts to prevent the traffic signal at the intersection of Harrison Avenue and Lovell Avenue from being removed.

### **Other Business**

President McKinney informed Council that the State of Ohio requires that two members of Council be appointed to serve on the State Fire Marshall Fiscal Section, and nominated Mr. Sunderhaus and Mr. Dinkelacker for the positions with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. President McKinney then reviewed the City Action List with Council. There was much discussion.

Mr. Stautberg called a meeting of the Finance Committee for Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. to discuss the budget, the waste collection fee, and levy renewals. There was much discussion.

Mrs. Zech called a meeting of the Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee for Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. to discuss the City's Taxi Cab Ordinance.

Mr. Braun updated Council on the proposed Bruestle Avenue Subdivision and informed Council that he is meeting with a construction service to discuss options for the demolition of the Darwin Avenue property.

### **Mayor's Court and Treasurer's Receipts**

Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file the December 2008 Mayor's Court Receipts with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. Mrs. Zech made a motion to receive and file the November 2008 Treasurer's Report with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

### **Correspondence**

A report from the Tax Commissioner to Council, a listing of new business permits issued by the City for December 2008, a letter from the State Auditor regarding online data collection form procedures and one property maintenance report were received.

Mayor Keller advised Council that Mr. Dorenkemper will be honored before the February 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

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 8:18 P.M.