

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

Page 1 of 3

January 4, 2005

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	James E. Morganroth
Law Director	Mark G. Waters
Safety Service Director	Steven O. Neal
Council 1 <sup>st</sup> Ward	Michael J. Murray
Council 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council 4 <sup>th</sup> Ward	Debra A. Gooch
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Charles L. Norman

Mr. Mestemaker had called ahead and informed Council that he had a work meeting. Mrs. Zech made a motion to excuse Mr. Mestemaker with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 6-0. The minutes of December 21, 2004 were approved. President Morganroth called for the reports that would be presented.

### **Recognition of the Public**

No one wished to address Council.

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

Mr. Neal wanted to announce that he thought that the Cheviot Public Works Department did a great job with the recent snow storm. For the public's information, a Snow Emergency means that vehicles parked on Westwood Northern Blvd., Harrison Avenue, North Bend Road, and Glenmore Avenues will be towed if parked on those roads. He recommends that if a vehicle can be moved off other streets during snow, this will help in snow removal. He commended the Public Works department again. Mrs. Zech mentioned that a resident of Green Township stopped her to say that Cheviot residents are lucky because we had great snow removal. Mrs. Gooch also mentioned that all the members of the Public Works and Garbage Departments should be commended. Mr. Neal did report that one of the Police cruisers has broken down and that the estimated cost of repair is \$5,000. He reported that this car will be parked until a new one can be purchased or the money to fix it can be raised.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Keller reported that he too was impressed with the work that the Public Works Department did during the snow storm. He mentioned that he received many calls of thanks and compliments on the good job that the City's Public Works did. He passed on his thanks to Tom Braun and his employees. Mayor Keller mentioned that the snow removal was done with a reduced schedule and that the clean up may have been better if the City could have afforded a full schedule. Mayor Keller talked about the Police cruiser that broke down and suggested that a replacement is a better investment than a repair. A new cruiser should cost around \$20,000. Mayor Keller suggested that ALL of the City vehicles have been pushed to their limits.

### **Law Director's Report**

Mr. Waters informed Council that he is required to give a State of the City Address at the first scheduled meeting of the year. He stated that he already gives Council an update to his office's activity at most regularly scheduled Council meetings. Mr. Waters reported that there were no new lawsuits filed against the City of Cheviot in 2004. He mentioned that a new Clerk of Courts was hired in 2004 and that the transition was very smooth and that the new Clerk, Sue Morganroth has done a very good job. In addition, in 2004 the City began to employ a magistrate instead of using the Mayor for Mayor's Court.

The cost to use a magistrate full time is almost the same as using one for half of the time. Mr. Waters stated that the monies that are collected by Cheviot are handled by the Tax Office and the Clerk of Courts, and that he did not intake any monies. In the coming year he has a few collections cases to file. Finally Mr. Waters addressed the recent activity with liquor licenses, including the City's objection to the renewal of Stewarts Irish Pub after the sales of illegal drugs from that establishment last year.

Mayor Keller took a moment to explain that lately that it feels like he has given a state of the City address the last few weeks at each meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Ward 1 - Mr. Murray had no formal report. He mentioned that SORTA, which runs METRO bus is considering canceling Sunday bus service. They have a meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2005 from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M. in rooms 242-243 at the Cincinnati Convention Center. Mr. Murray also took a moment to remind residents that Monday, January 10 is the last day to register to vote. Finally he mentioned that the Snow Emergency Routes are now posted on Cheviot.org.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report. He explained that April of 2004 was the last time he received an update from the Metropolitan Sewer District on Water in Basement Issues. He stated that he is looking to get an update on the repairs and amounts that have been spent on Cheviot.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus wished everyone a happy, healthful, and prosperous new year. He informed Council that the Paramedic service had begun on January 1 as scheduled. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion *To Amend Section 33.26 Of The Cheviot Code Of Ordinances; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mrs. Gooch. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD05-01. Mr. Murray made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to adopt with a second from Mrs. Gooch. The motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote. Law Director Mark Waters explained that a wage increase was not worked into these adjustments because of budget concerns, but that wage increases could be done at a later time.

Ward 4 - Mrs. Gooch made a motion *To Transfer Funds; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES05-01.

Council at Large – Mr. Mestemaker was not present, but Mrs. Gooch took care of an Ordinance which was in his committee. Mrs. Gooch made a motion *To Approve The Contract With The City Engineer; To Authorize The Safety-Service Director To Sign The Contract On Behalf Of The City; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD05-02. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Murray made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Norman. The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Dinkelacker asked if the City had shopped the cost of engineering around to other companies. Mr. Neal explained that CDS seems to be inline with what others are charging, but that he hasn't shopped around. Mr. Waters explained that there is no law that requires Cheviot to bid for engineering services, but that there is no law that states that we must contract with CDS.

Council at Large - Mrs. Zech had no formal report. She instructed Council that there were some questions about the Hamilton County Codes that were passed at the last meeting. An email was sent to Charlie Meyer and she forwarded the response to all of Council. Mr. Meyer also informed Mrs. Zech that they should begin working on the Zoning Code shortly.

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

### **Further Business**

Mr. Murray made a motion to receive and file the December 2004 Mayor's Court Receipts with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

**Correspondence**

There was no Correspondence.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Zech with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

---

Ryan T. Zech  
Clerk of Council

---

James E. Morganroth  
President of Council