

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

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February 17, 2004

The regular session of Council was called to order at 7:30 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
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
Council at Large	Michael J. Mestemaker

Mr. Mestemaker made a motion to excuse Mr. Norman and Mr. Murray made the second. The motion passed 6-0. Mr. Norman walked into the Council chambers a few minutes later. The minutes of February 3, 2004 were approved. President Morganroth called for the reports that would be presented.

### **Recognition of the Public**

Ms. Cathleen Combs of 4047 Washington Avenue addressed Council to ask why in the proposed Dog Ordinance that current dog owners in Cheviot were not grandfathered in. Mrs. Zech explained that grandfathering in would not solve the developing problem since several people in Cheviot already have too many dogs as it is. Mrs. Zech also explained that this was discussed at the public hearings, and that most in attendance were not in favor of grandfathering in. Ms. Combs asked what to do if she runs out of time before she sells her house. Council gave several options, but Ms. Combs did not like most of those options. There was much more discussion.

Mr. Ed Schweitzer of 3811 Westwood Northern Blvd. addressed Council with a list of complaints ranging from cars parked in no parking zones, to number of Police Department patrols in a given hour, to cars parking on lawns, as well as several other complaints. Council took his suggestions under advisement. Mr. Neal agreed to look into some of the complaints.

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

Mr. Neal had no formal report.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Keller asked Council for an executive session immediately following Council. He explained that Fran Kloepfer will resign her position as Clerk of Courts because she has been offered a position elsewhere. Mayor Keller stated that she gave 3 weeks notice and that he has already made arrangements with Fran to train a replacement. She will spend one full week training the replacement and then will stay on part-time for approximately 10 hours a week for up to 6 months. A replacement has been hired already. Mr. Keller passed on his thanks to Fran for her many years of service to the City of Cheviot. Mr. Murray seconded the mayor's motion for executive session with a second from Mrs. Zech. Mayor Keller reported that he and Mr. Neal met with Cross & Associates, a firm which researches insurance costs for the City of Cheviot, to discuss the City's Insurance rates. Hamilton County invited the City to join in with the Hamilton County benefits pool, but the rates the County has offered are higher than what is currently offered by Cheviot. Finally Mayor Keller reported that he is still trying to get accustomed to the position as Mayor and that he's been working many late nights getting accustomed to the position.

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

Mr. Waters left before the Council meeting began because he was ill. He left no formal report.

### **Committee Reports**

Ward 1 - Mr. Murray had no formal report. He also mentioned that he will not be calling a Parks and Playgrounds Committee meeting as the problem he wanted to discuss has worked itself out.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report. He did mention that the finals of the CFA Cheviot Shootout were on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> and began at 6 P.M. Mr. Neal added that kudos should be given to Ryan Zech and all the volunteers at Cheviot Cable Access for a good production.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus had no formal report. Mayor Keller commented that Mr. Sunderhaus finally got a name plaque.

Ward 4 - Mrs. Gooch made a motion *To Amend The First Quarter, 2004, Budget Appropriations; To Transfer Funds; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD04-09. Mr. Murray made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Mestemaker. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Norman. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mrs. Zech questioned if the Law Director line item increase was for the codifications; Mr. Neal responded that it was for the outside law council which is handling the Federal lawsuit involving the Cheviot Police Department. Mr. Neal explained that the other changes have to do with a late invoice for sidewalk repair which was done last fall. Mayor Keller mentioned that the third item is for the cost of legal advertisements for the Civil Service Commission which are seeking a replacement for the Police Department as Officer Denny has given notice and will be leaving shortly and for the Fire Department as the list of eligible candidates has expired. The exam for both lists will be on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Finally, Mrs. Gooch called a meeting of the Schools Committee on Monday, February 23 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss the proposed changes to Cheviot School. She also called a meeting of the Finance Committee immediately following the Schools Committee to discuss the appropriations.

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

Council at Large - Mrs. Zech read a report of the Laws, Rules and Ordinances Committee into record. Mr. Murray made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. Mrs. Zech presented the Dog Ordinance, ORD04-05 *To Amend Sections 90.02, 90.03, And 90.99 Of The Cheviot Code Of Ordinances*, for its third reading and made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Mestemaker. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mrs. Zech went on to thank the Cheviot Eagles for the Civic Appreciation Award that they gave her. She wanted to say that she appreciated the honor and she also thanked Mayor Keller for the proclamation.

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

### **Further Business**

Mayor Keller reported that the Civil Service Commission would hold the exam for the Police Department on Saturday, March 20, 2004 at 9 A.M. at the Harvest Home Lodge. The applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 36 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED and should register to take the test at Cheviot City Hall between the hours of 8:15 A.M. and 3:45 P.M. The Civil Service Commission is also holding a test for the Fire Department on Saturday, March 20, 2004 at 12 P.M. (noon) at the Harvest Home Lodge. The applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 36 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and should register to take the test at Cheviot City Hall between the hours of 8:15 A.M. and 3:45 P.M.

Mr. Murray made a motion to receive and file the January, 2004 Treasurer's Report with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Mr. Morganroth reminded Council and the public that the next meeting was cancelled due to the election on March 2. The next scheduled meeting is March 16, 2004.

**Correspondence**

An Ohio Municipal League report was left in everyone's mailboxes. A building department report was also placed in everyone's box.

The meeting adjourned into executive session at 8:30 P.M.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Zech with a second from Mr. Norman. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 P.M.

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Ryan T. Zech  
Clerk of Council

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James E. Morganroth  
President of Council