

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

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June 20, 2006

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	Michael J. Mestemaker
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	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
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	Charles L. Norman
Council at Large	Steven L. Braun

The minutes of June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 were approved. President Mestemaker called for the reports that would be presented. President Mestemaker then announced he would allow the Safety-Service Director to give his report first so he could leave and attend to business at the Cheviot Municipal Swimming Pool.

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

Mr. Neal informed Council that the City has received a grant from OKI for the replacement of traffic signals along Harrison Avenue in Cheviot. He then announced that bids would open on Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Gamble Avenue Improvement Project, to include the replacement of the retaining wall on City Municipal Lot #3. Mr. Neal requested a special session of Council for the purpose of awarding the contract on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Neal reminded Council and the public that street closures for West Fest would begin the evening of Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and he encouraged everyone who can attend the Festival to do so as the money raised goes back into the community. Mr. Neal informed Council that as of this meeting, 61 property owners have been sent notices regarding weeds and high grass, and of those, 14 properties have had their grass cut by the City, some multiple times. Mr. Neal added that 13 properties have been written up by the Acting Property Maintenance Inspector Tom Braun. Mr. Neal then informed Council that the City has finished marking sidewalks in Ward One and will begin replacing them. President Mestemaker asked Council if everyone would be available for a meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion, and it was decided the meeting would be held on July 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

President Mestemaker then introduced Fire Chief Donald Clark who recognized members of the Cheviot Fire Department Explorers Post that recently participated in an Explorers skills competition and finished in first place overall in the competition. Chief Clark introduced Ed Weber who spoke to Council about the Explorer program, their fundraising work and the possibility of seeking additional corporate sponsorship. Mayor Keller and Council commended the Explorers for winning their competition and for all their hard work in service to the City.

### **Recognition of the Public**

No one from the public wished to speak.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Keller informed Council that he will be attending a meeting, along with Mr. Norman and President Mestemaker, with officials from Green Township to discuss a potential Joint Economic Development Plan on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Keller then asked Council for a brief Executive Session before the end of the meeting to discuss the ongoing wage negotiations with the City's Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. Mayor Keller reminded everyone that West Fest is a big weekend for the City of Cheviot and the Cheviot-Westwood Community Association. He encouraged everyone to drink responsibly, and reminded everyone that people who have had too much to drink can approach any CWCA member, city official, or police officer for assistance in calling a cab. He also reminded everyone that parking will be at

a premium, and asked people to be mindful not to park in front of residents' driveways or on their grass. Chris Baker of CWCA mentioned that a shuttle will be available running from the Dillard's parking lot to the festival.

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

Mr. Waters informed Council that he received a 2<sup>nd</sup> letter from a company named Energy Alliances regarding cities and townships utilizing Natural Gas Aggregation to save money for their residents. Mr. Waters informed Council that for Cheviot to do such a thing, it would first have to be approved by voters. He informed Council that the City would have until August 24<sup>th</sup> to get the issue on the ballot for the November elections. Mr. Stautberg informed Mr. Waters that he has been in contact with representatives from the company to find out more information.

### **Committee Reports**

Ward 1 - Mr. Zech had no formal report. Mr. Zech wished everyone a safe and enjoyable West Fest, and mentioned that the Western Hills Press would have a special section on the festival in their next edition. Mr. Zech informed Council that the Parks and Playgrounds Committee did meet with the Police and Fire and Finance Committees regarding increased police patrols at Harvest Home Park and the Cheviot Municipal Swimming Pool. Mr. Zech informed Council that the Law Director now has the proposed Property Maintenance Code, and that he expects Council will be able to move forward on the issue soon. Mr. Waters informed Council that he is still looking into new State laws to make sure they will not affect the proposed Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Zech informed Council that he is still working on the proposed Cemetery project.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker read a report of the External Affairs Committee into the record. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion *To Authorize The Mayor To Enter Into An Agreement With The Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission For The Project Impact Cooperative* with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 06-09.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus read a letter from Police Chief Voss recognizing Police Officer Miller for his heroic actions helping residents escape a recent apartment fire in the City of Cheviot. Mr. Sunderhaus read a report of the Police and Fire Committee into the record. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion *To Establish Wages, Benefits, And Working Conditions Of Part-Time Fire Personnel; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion then carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 06-16. Mr. Zech made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Norman informed everyone that the ordinance they just passed will save the city money in the long run.

Ward 4 - Mr. Stautberg had no formal report, but wished to thank everyone on Council for their sentiments following the passing of his grandmother. He also extended his sympathy to his aunt following the passing of her mother.

Council at Large - Mrs. Zech had no formal report. Mrs. Zech gave the second reading of the proposed Sign Ordinance and called a meeting of the Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee for Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to review changes to the Sign Ordinance and set a Public Hearing on the issue.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no formal report. Mr. Norman informed Council that he has met with representatives of the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding the proposed elimination of all left side exits on I-75 in Hamilton County and was assured that the Hopple Street and Harrison Avenue exits will not be closed, but will be moved to the right hand side of the Interstate.

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

**Further Business**

Mrs. Zech made a motion to receive and file the May 2006 Treasurer's Reports with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

**Correspondence**

A listing of revised of Mayor's Court dates, six Property Maintenance Reports, a letter from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio regarding grants for safety improvements on local highways, a notification from the State of Ohio regarding Civil Service Exams, a letter from OKI regarding grants for the replacement of traffic signals, a letter from the Hamilton County Environmental Services as well as their Progress Report for 2005, and a letter from Seasongood & Mayer, LLC regarding Public Finance Investment opportunities were received.

Mr. Norman made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker and a third from Mr. Zech. The motion was approved 7-0 by voice vote.

Mayor Keller informed Council that he has received a renewal notice from Hamilton County General Health District for the contract to provide services to the City of Cheviot. The Mayor asked the Law Director and Council to review the contract before any action is taken due to some changes in the contract from previous years. President Mestemaker assigned the issue to the External Affairs Committee for further review. There was much discussion.

Council adjourned into executive session at 8:22 P.M. and returned at 9:27 P.M.

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 9:28 P.M.

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Matthew D. McGowan  
Clerk of Council

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Michael J. Mestemaker  
President of Council