

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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February 21, 2006

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	Michael J. Mestemaker
Law Director	Mark G. Waters
Safety Service Director	Steven O. Neal
Council 1 st Ward	Ryan T. Zech
Council 2 nd Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3 rd Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council 4 th 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 February 7th, 2006 were approved. President Mestemaker called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

No one from the public wished to speak.

Safety-Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal reminded Council that the City was accepting bids for Property, Casualty, Automotive, and Blanket Liability Insurance Coverage, and that the City was advertising for bids for the renovation of the outside of the Cheviot Fieldhouse. He is also continuing to gather information on the history of the Cheviot Fieldhouse at the request of the Ohio Historical Society. Mr. Neal informed Council that they are specifically requesting information regarding the flagpole in front of the building, how many other WAP (Works, Progress, and Administration) projects the City had going on at that time, and when exactly the name was changed from the Cheviot Recreational Building or "Cheviot Fieldhouse" to the Cheviot Memorial Building. Mr. Neal let Council know that he will keep them informed about his findings, and also requested that any member of the public who may know this information contact him. Mr. Neal then informed Council that bids for the road projects will open in April, with the exception of the Gamble Avenue Project which will open in July. Mr. Neal complimented Mr. Steve Braun for joining him, Public Works Superintendent Tom Braun, and the City Engineers as they walked the streets to look into certain issues around the City, most notably the condition of the retaining wall on the City lot on Gamble Avenue. There was much discussion about this issue, and Mr. Neal informed Council that he has directed the City Engineers to have a Structural Engineer evaluate it further, and recommended Council look into it as well. After further discussion about this issue, Mr. Zech asked Mr. Neal if the water main work near Fearman Avenue would affect the recent resurfaced street. Mr. Neal informed him that it shouldn't, and asked if the metal plate on North Bend Road had been removed. Mr. Zech said that it had been, and Mr. Neal credited Public Works Superintendent Tom Braun for getting it taken care of.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller reminded Council that he and Law Director Mark Waters have begun the contract negotiations with the FOP, and that from there they plan to move directly on to negotiations with the Fire Department and the Public Works Department. Mayor Keller then requested that Council adjourn to executive session following the regular meeting to update Council on the ongoing negotiations. He then informed Council that he has spoken to the owners of the old Hillenbrand Nursing Home property regarding the possible sale of that property pending the outcome of a lawsuit against the owner. He will keep Council updated on the progress of this issue. Mayor Keller and Mr. Neal are currently talking to other vacant property owners and plan to begin moving on these soon. Mayor Keller reminded the public that the City is working on appointing a Housing Authority for the City of Cheviot to work on minimum housing standards and upkeep of properties, and that work on this should be completed by early spring.

Mr. Sunderhaus then made a motion to move to Executive Session following the regular meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters had no formal report, but did inform Council that he is currently working on the ordinances forwarded to him by the Laws, Rules, and Ordinances committee.

Committee Reports

Ward 1 - Mr. Zech had no formal report, but did call a meeting of the Internal Affairs Committee for Wednesday, March 1st at 7pm to discuss the minimum housing standards. Mr. Zech also thanked everyone who helped out with the CWCA Shootout and congratulated Public Works Superintendent Tom Braun for receiving the Civil Appreciation Award from the Cheviot Eagles. He then gave Council an update from the recent CWCA meeting he attended and wished Mrs. Zech a happy birthday.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report. He did inform Council that the meeting regarding the Economic Development Plan would be rescheduled for before the next Council meeting, and thanked everyone who helped out with the CWCA Shootout.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus had no formal report. He also congratulated Public Works Superintendent Tom Braun for receiving the Civil Appreciation Award from the Cheviot Eagles and wished Mrs. Zech a happy birthday. Mr. Sunderhaus then informed Council that the City's Fire Department had a site visit on February 15th by the Academy of Medicine regarding the City's Paramedic Service and that they received full certification from the organization. He also informed the public that the Cheviot Fireman's Association has come out with a Personal Emergency Card, which can be used to list personal medical information in case of emergency. These are available from several sources including City Hall.

Ward 4 - Mr. Stautberg had no formal report.

Council at Large - Mrs. Zech had no formal report.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no formal report, but called a meeting of the Finance Committee to discuss the 2006 budget for Wednesday, March 1st following the Internal Affairs Committee meeting. He encouraged all on Council to attend. Mr. Norman also wished Mrs. Zech a happy birthday.

Council at Large - Mr. Braun had no formal report, but wished to thank everyone who sent condolences following the passing of both his father and his uncle.

Further Business

Mr. Neal informed Council that the Police Chief has expressed concern about a possible increase in traffic on Western-Northern Boulevard due to the recently approved Legacy Project in Green Township. Mr. Neal recommended that Council contact the pertinent parties in Green Township to express this concern. After much discussion, President Mestemaker asked Mr. Dinkelacker and the External Affairs Committee to look into the issue. Mr. Neal said he would look into the issue as well. Mr. Waters then suggested Council look into the possibility of establishing a Joint Economic Development District with Green Township to recoup some of the expense associated with upkeep and increased patrols of Western-Northern Boulevard due to the anticipated increase in traffic. There was much discussion.

A notice of a requested transfer of a liquor license was received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. The transfer involved a change in ownership of Cheviot Cafe. Police Chief Voss had no objections to the change. Council did not see a need for a hearing on this transfer, and Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to proceed without requesting a hearing before the Liquor Control Board with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. Also, a notice of a change to a liquor license was received from the

Ohio Division of Liquor Control. The modification involved the ownership of O&J Oil. Police Chief Voss had no objections to the change. Council did not see a need for a hearing on this change and Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to proceed without requesting a hearing before the Liquor Control Board with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Mr. Zech made a motion to receive and file the 2005 Treasurer's Report with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Correspondence

A Legislative Bulletin from the Ohio Municipal League, a CDS Messenger Newsletter, and a Building Report were received. A cancellation notice for upcoming Civil Service Exams was also received.

Council adjourned into executive session at 8:04 P.M. and returned at 8:49 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 8:50 P.M.

Matthew D. McGowan
Clerk of Council

Michael J. Mestemaker
President of Council