

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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March 6, 2007

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:

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 4 th Ward	Greg J. Stautberg
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Charles L. Norman
Council at Large	Steven L. Braun

Mr. Zech made a motion to excuse Mr. Sunderhaus with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote. The minutes of February 20th, 2007 were approved. President Mestemaker called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

Steven Forbeck of Wilmar Drive asked Council about the status of several City issues, including the vacant Frank's Nursery Building, the Sign Ordinance, the Cemetery Project, renovations at the old Hillenbrand Nursing Home building, incentives for businesses to relocate to and stay in Cheviot, and the goals for Project Impact. Mrs. Zech informed him that the Sign Ordinance is in effect and that some businesses have already corrected violations, while notices are being issued to businesses that are still in violation. There was much discussion. Mr. Neal informed everyone that the renovated Nursing Home is scheduled to open on April 1st, and then updated everyone on the status of the vacant Frank's Nursery building. There was much discussion about this issue, as well as ways to encourage businesses to stay in Cheviot and the goals for Project Impact. Mr. Zech updated Mr. Forbeck on the Cemetery Project.

Lisa Wibbelsman of Westwood-Northern Boulevard came to Council to complain about neighbors who are repeatedly breaking the law and creating a nuisance. Ms. Wibbelsman informed Council that she and her neighbors have contacted Police numerous times, but they either don't show up or just issue warnings to the occupants of the nuisance property. Mr. Neal stated that he would direct the Police Chief and Building Commissioner to write a letter to Council addressing this issue, as he has heard about the problems at this property before. There was much discussion. Mr. Norman stated that he would like an answer from the Police and Building Departments regarding this issue before the next meeting of Council. President Mestemaker asked Mr. Neal to request that the Police Chief be present at the next meeting of Council to discuss this issue.

Safety-Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal reminded everyone of the first time home buyer program offered by the City on Wednesday, March 14th at 7 P.M. at the Cheviot Fieldhouse.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller did not forward a report.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters informed Council that he has received a request for information regarding the bidding process for the City's insurance coverage and will have an answer by the next Council meeting. Mrs. Zech asked Mr. Waters a question regarding the status of a few Ordinances that Council is working on. There was some discussion.

Committee Reports

Ward 1 - Mr. Zech had no formal report. Mr. Zech informed Council that both the Parks and Playgrounds and Internal Affairs Committees did meet and gave an update on each meeting, but due to a computer crash he does not currently have the Committee reports available. Mr. Zech updated Council on the Cemetery Project. Mr. Zech presented the new Property Maintenance Code for its third reading with a second from Mr. Stautberg. Mr. Neal informed Council that the City should be hiring someone for the vacant Parking Enforcement/Clerk of Courts position soon, and that he believes the Administration will be requesting a pay increase so that each position has the same pay rate at the next meeting of Council.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report. Mr. Dinkelacker updated Council on the most recent Project Impact meeting.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus did not forward a report.

Ward 4 - Mr. Stautberg had no formal report. Mr. Stautberg made a motion *To Approve A Contract With Integrys Energy Services, Inc., For Consulting Work To Enable The City Of Cheviot To Obtain P.U.C.O. Certification As A Governmental Aggregator; To Approve A Second Contract With Integrys Energy Services, Inc., For The Supply Of Natural Gas To The Citizens Of Cheviot Under The Government Gas Aggregation Program; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 07-05. Mrs. Zech made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Braun. The motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote. There was some discussion before Mr. Zech made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Stautberg informed Council that Mr. Neal will now be the primary contact for the City for the Gas Aggregation Program.

Council at Large – Mrs. Zech had no formal report. Mrs. Zech called a meeting of the Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee for Tuesday, March 13th at 7 P.M. Mrs. Zech informed Council that the City's Ordinances need to be codified, and that American Legal has offered a discount on the cost to the City to provide this service. Mrs. Zech asked members of the Finance Committee to consider making funds available to get this completed.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no formal report. Mr. Norman made a motion *To Amend The First Quarter, 2007, Appropriations; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 07-06. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to adopt with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Norman called a meeting of the Finance Committee for Tuesday, March 13th at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Braun asked if Resolution 07-03 would be addressed tonight; President Mestemaker informed him that due to when it was submitted, it would be addressed at the next meeting of Council.

Council at Large - Mr. Braun had no formal report. Mr. Dinkelacker reminded everyone that the next Project Impact meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28th, 2007 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fire Department meeting room.

Further Business

The Clerk informed everyone that he will have copies of the new Agenda for Council in their mailboxes before the next meeting of Council.

Mr. Zech made a motion to receive and file the February 2007 Mayor's Court receipts with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

Correspondence

A copy of *Cities and Villages* Magazine from the Ohio Municipal League and a copy of a letter from the Building Commissioner to a local property owner in violation of the sign ordinance were received.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Zech with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Matthew D. McGowan
Clerk of Council

Michael J. Mestemaker
President of Council