

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

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August 15, 2006

The regular session of Council was called to order at 7:33 P.M. following a Public Hearing on a potential gas aggregation plan for the City. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of prayer were held. 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 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

Mr. Zech made a motion to excuse Mr. Dinkelacker with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote. The minutes of July 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 informed Council of a letter he wrote to Mayor Keller requesting that the City of Cheviot enter into agreement with the Hamilton County Development Company for the purpose of administering the Community Reinvestment Area. Mr. Neal said that after meeting with the HCDC, he decided that it was beyond the scope of his position and that the City could not afford to do it on its own. He said the County has agreed to the sum of \$3,000 to be used to administer to the new nursing home as well as anyone else who might be interested in participating in the CRA. Mr. Neal advised Council that road repairs will begin before the end of August, and that all four streets involved with this project will be done before the end of the year. Mr. Neal reminded everyone that the Cheviot Municipal Swimming Pool will close on August 20<sup>th</sup>. He said he would like to wait another month or so to meet with the Parks and Playgrounds Committee to discuss some issues that developed there through the course of this year. Mr. Neal informed Council of a meeting taking place on August 16<sup>th</sup> with a representative from OKI to discuss the possibility of grants for streetscape improvements in the business district. Mr. Neal added that he and Mr. Braun will be meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup> with a team from ODOT, as well as city engineers, to discuss the upcoming traffic-signal project. Mr. Neal announced that to this date, there have been 50 Property Maintenance orders written and 73 high grass and weed notices written on properties around the City. He added that 20 properties have had their grass cut by the City resulting in \$5,870 in billing to the owners of the properties. Mr. Neal then informed Council that 40 properties have had their sidewalks repaired by the City and that of the 40, 23 have not paid the City for the service. Mr. Neal said that the deadline to add the repair costs to tax bills is approaching, and that anyone who has not paid by that date will have the amount added to their tax bills at that time. President Mestemaker then excused Mr. Neal from the remainder of the meeting to attend to some business at the Cheviot Municipal Swimming Pool.

## **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Keller had no formal report, but did request a brief Executive Session to update Council on wage negotiations with the Police, Fire, City Administration and Public Works departments.

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

Mr. Waters informed Council that he has completed work on the ordinance authorizing the City to join the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, as well as the resolutions necessary to get tax levy renewals placed on the November ballot. Mr. Waters informed Council of a seminar taking place on August 31<sup>st</sup> on the TIFF program. Mrs. Zech reminded Mr. Waters that a copy of the ordinance authorizing the City to join the HCRP would need to be delivered to them as well. Mr. Waters added that he is still addressing some concerns with the proposed Sign Ordinance, but that it should be completed by the beginning of September. Mr. Zech asked for an update on the proposed Property Maintenance Code. Mr. Waters informed him this would be addressed after the Sign Ordinance was completed.

### **Committee Reports**

Ward 1 - Mr. Zech had no formal report. Mr. Zech informed Council that he is still working with CWCA on the proposed Cemetery Project, and that they will be meeting soon to further discuss the issue. Mr. Zech made a motion *To Submit To The Hamilton County Board Of Elections A Proposed Tax Levy Renewal To Be Voted Upon By The Electors Of The City Of Cheviot At The Next General Election; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 06-16. Mayor Keller then informed Council that he has stopped the City's Recreation Commissioner from renting any City owned facilities after December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006 to allow Council time to determine under what circumstances, after that date, City facilities will be allowed to be rented by non-residents. Mayor Keller said he has taken this action in response to feedback from the Police Chief, as well as other members of the City Administration, regarding non-residents using the Cheviot Municipal Swimming Pool. Mayor Keller informed Council that he has only allowed the large festivals that use Harvest Home Park to rent the Park after that date. After some discussion, President Mestemaker assigned Mr. Zech and Mr. Braun to co-chair a committee consisting of every member of Council, as well as members of the City Administration, to address the issue.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker did not forward a report.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus had no formal report. Mr. Sunderhaus did announce that since Council passed the ordinance pertaining to wages for Fire Department personnel, the Fire Chief has been able to add four part time Paramedics to the Department.

Ward 4 - Mr. Stautberg had no formal report. Mr. Stautberg reminded the public that a Public Hearing regarding a potential gas aggregation plan for the City was held earlier in the evening. Mr. Stautberg said there may be a problem with the cost to get this issue on the November ballot, and that the City is currently discussing this with Energy Alliances to determine the best way to move forward. Mr. Stautberg then expressed condolences to the Bischoff family on the passing of Kristofer Bischoff.

Council at Large - Mrs. Zech had no formal report, but did update Council on a meeting that took place regarding Project Impact with the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission. Mrs. Zech informed Council that the Committee will meet again on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 P.M. in the Fire Department and encouraged everyone to attend. Mrs. Zech then gave the fourth reading of the proposed Sign Ordinance. Mrs. Zech announced that once the Sign Ordinance is finalized, she will be calling a Public Hearing on the issue. Mrs. Zech then wished her daughter a happy birthday.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no formal report. Mr. Norman made a motion *To Transfer Funds; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 06-17.

Council at Large - Mr. Braun had no formal report. Mr. Braun made a motion *To Submit To The Hamilton County Board Of Elections A Proposed Tax Levy Renewal To Be Voted Upon By The Electors Of The City Of Cheviot At The Next General Election; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 06-18.

**Further Business**

Mr. Norman made a motion to receive and file the July 2006 Treasurer's Report with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file the July 2006 Mayor's Court Receipts with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

**Correspondence**

Nineteen Property Maintenance reports, a Registration Form for the one mile race and 5K run/walk for the Harvest Home Fair, a copy of the *Our Neighborhoods* newsletter from the Alliance for Chemical Safety, the letter from Mr. Neal to Mayor Keller requesting that the City enter into agreement with the HCDC, registration information from the Ohio Municipal League for their annual conference, and a copy of the *Voice of the Mill Creek* newsletter from the Mill Creek Watershed Council of Communities were received.

Mrs. Zech made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus and a third from Mr. Stautberg. The motion was approved 6-0 by voice vote.

Council adjourned into executive session at 8:00 P.M. and returned at 8:30 P.M.

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 8:31 P.M.

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Matthew D. McGowan  
Clerk of Council

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Michael J. Mestemaker  
President of Council