

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

Page 1 of 3

November 16, 2004

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:

Acting Mayor	James E. Morganroth
President of Council Pro-Tem	Kathleen S. Zech
Law Director	Mark G. Waters
Safety Service Director	Steven O. Neal
Council 1 st Ward	Michael J. Murray
Council 2 nd Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3 rd Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council at Large	Charles L. Norman
Council at Large	Michael J. Mestemaker

Mr. Mestemaker made a motion to excuse Mrs. Gooch with a second from Mr. Norman. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote. The minutes of October 19, 2004, November 4, 2004, and November 10, 2004 were approved. President Pro-Tem Zech called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

Nicky Galvez of 3527 Darwin Avenue approached Council to ask if the levy affects the 2005 budget, why were the cuts made to service now. He also wanted to know why there was no notice sent to residents for canceling service. He went on to discuss that he was worried about leaves clogging the storm drains. Acting Mayor Morganroth explained that most of these things were explained in articles in the local papers. Mrs. Zech explained that leaves can be bagged and taken with regular trash. Mr. Galvez asked again why the cuts were made instantly. Mr. Neal explained that cuts had to be made now to keep Cheviot with-in budget and that when explaining the Levy before the City did not want to make it sound like a threat to the residents. There was much discussion about clean up and safety issues with leaves. There was much discussion about how the City will advertise and explain the levy if it were to be placed on the ballot again. Mr. Galvez stated that he feels that the City Council is to blame for the problems and they haven't done a very good job.

Mr. Dave Miller of 3950 Davis Avenue approached and explained that he had never had a problem before but that he is angered by the letter that the Mayor put out. He explained that he didn't get any notice and that the only thing he saw about the levy was the *Western Hills Press* endorsement. When asked he did mention that he received a notice that was left on his door. He wanted to know why taxes in Cheviot are so high. Acting Mayor Morganroth explained that most of the property taxes go to the Drake Levy, Cincinnati Schools, the Zoo, and other county agency levies that voters approved and that only 10 to 12 % of the property tax money goes to Cheviot. There was much discussion about income and property taxes. He also wanted to know why the levy wasn't advertised. Mrs. Zech explained that the City didn't have much time and that we did what could be done in the amount of time. Mr. Miller also asked for the City to make more cuts before the City attempts another levy. Mrs. Zech explained that the cuts have already been made and that cutting City services is the next option. Mr. Neal explained the changes that the State of Ohio made to inheritance tax which helped create this problem. There was then much discussion about snow removal and why the City only has one shift scheduled.

Bob Reinert of 3966 School Section Road approached and explained that he thinks the Recycling program was a good thing. Mr. Neal explained that on average the City paid about \$194 to empty one dumpster and overall about \$27,000 per year. There was much discussion about the merits of recycling and the total cost to the City.

Safety-Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal had no formal report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller did not forward a formal report, but he did request a special meeting of Council on Tuesday, November 22, 2004 at 7:30 P.M.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters had no formal report.

Committee Reports

Ward 1 - Mr. Murray had no formal report.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus read the minutes from a meeting of the Police and Fire Committee in to the record. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote. Mr. Sunderhaus read in to the record some notes from Fire Chief Don Clark. Mr. Sunderhaus then made the second reading of ORD04-26.

Ward 4 - Mrs. Gooch was not in attendance but asked Mr. Mestemaker *To Transfer Funds; And Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES04-23. Then Mr. Mestemaker made a motion *To Transfer Funds; To Amend The Annual Appropriations; To Establish A New Budget Line Item; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Norman. The motion carried 6-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD04-27. Mr. Murray made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Mestemaker. The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Murray made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Mestemaker. The motion passed 6-0 by roll call vote.

Council at Large - Mr. Mestemaker had no formal report. He wished Mark Waters Junior and Council Clerk Ryan Zech a happy birthday on the upcoming Thursday, November 18. Mr. Mestemaker, Mr. Zech, and Mark Junior share the same birthday.

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

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

Further Business

Mr. Morganroth reminded Council and the public that the Nativity Scene dedication will be Sunday, November 28 at 6:30 P.M. in front of the Cheviot AutoZone. He mentioned that due to the budget crunch, the Cheviot-Westwood Community Association which sponsors West Fest, paid for the Nativity Scene this year.

Mr. Murray made a motion to receive and file Mayors Court Receipts for September 2004, the Treasurers Report for September 2004, and the Treasurers Report for August 2004. Mr. Sunderhaus made the second. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

The OKI representative from Cheviot will be selected at a later meeting. Mr. Mestemaker would like for someone who has time to take it over. Mr. Waters reminded Council that November 29, 2004 is the last day to submit the necessary paperwork to the Board of Elections for the February special election.

A Liquor License transfer from Glenmore Bowl Inc. to C. Shanks Inc. D.B.A. Glenmore Bowl was received and the Police Chief has approved this transfer and does not request a hearing. Council decided to follow the Police Chief's recommendation.

Correspondence

There were four building department reports, a bulletin from the Ohio Municipal League and a letter from the Cheviot United Methodist Church inviting Council to visit their 40th anniversary. Time Warner Cable sent a notice that it is increasing rates on standard tier cable effective January first. The Hamilton County Auditors Office sent information back to Cheviot pertaining to the February election.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Mestemaker with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 6-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

Ryan T. Zech
Clerk of Council

Kathleen S. Zech
President of Council Pro-Tem