

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

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November 18, 2008

The regular session of Council was called to order at 7:34 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	Deborah M. McKinney
Safety Service Director	Steven O. Neal
Council 1 <sup>st</sup> Ward	Ryan T. Zech
Council 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	James Babey
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	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council at Large	Steven L. Braun

President McKinney called for the reports that would be presented. The minutes of October 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 were approved.

### **Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions**

Mr. Babey made a motion to introduce an ordinance *To Stay Enforcement Of Metered Parking In The City Of Cheviot Business District From December 1, 2008, Through December 31, 2008; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 08-34. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to introduce an ordinance *To Enact A New Fee Schedule For Trash Collection For Business And Charitable Entities; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 08-35. Mr. Babey made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Babey. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. After much discussion, Mr. Stautberg made a motion to introduce an ordinance *To Transfer Funds; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Babey. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 08-36. Mrs. Zech made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Babey made a motion to adopt with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Stautberg made a motion *To Approve The Contract With The Greater Cincinnati Water Works For The Provision Of Billing Services For The City's Trash Collection Fee To Residential Customers* with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 08-14.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Keller clarified to Council the Administration's position regarding the Schedule for the Public Works Fee for the Business District, stating that a business that would use more than 13 trash cans should use a dumpster. Mayor Keller requested Council look into a request for funding from Community Services West due to some issues and complaints received from elderly residents about fees they are being charged to use these services. Mayor Keller said that although Community Services West provides important services to the community, the City should receive an accurate accounting of the services provided to our residents and the fees our residents are being charged for them before committing to any funding. There was much discussion. President McKinney referred the matter to the External Affairs Committee.

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

Mr. Neal thanked Mayor Keller for his efforts in raising all the funds required to sponsor the October 29<sup>th</sup> Honor Flight to the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. Mr. Neal updated Council on meetings with representatives from FEMA regarding damage from the recent windstorm. Mr. Neal informed Council that the City officially owns the property at 3771 Darwin Avenue and that he is working on obtaining the funds

required to tear it down. Mr. Neal informed Council that the City has been allocated \$300,000 by the Federal Government under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Mr. Neal stated that the money can be used to purchase and rehab or demolish blighted residential and commercial properties and said he will keep Council informed as he finds out more. Mr. Neal informed Council that he has applied for an additional Community Development Block Grant to help fund additional police officers for the Entertainment District and asked Council to communicate with the Entertainment District on the issue. Mr. Neal informed Council that he will be requesting to amend the current budget appropriations and reminded Council that the 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly appropriations will need to be passed in December. Mr. Neal informed Council that the City will be treating certain streets less often during inclement weather this winter due to the high price for road salt. Mr. Neal reminded Council that the City will dedicate the Nativity Scene on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. Mr. Neal informed Council that the CWCA has picked up the cost of trees and electricity for the site, as well as additional street decorations throughout the city. Mr. Sunderhaus suggested that the property on Darwin scheduled for demolition may be useful to the Fire Department as a training house. President McKinney asked Mr. Neal if the City needed to submit anything to the Federal Government at this time for the funds allocated under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Mr. Neal replied that the County is required to submit a plan to the Federal Government by December 1<sup>st</sup>, but nothing is required from the City at this time.

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

Mr. Waters did not forward a report.

### **Public Recognition on Other Issues**

Judy Konerman of 3939 Davis Avenue thanked the City for providing her with the opportunity to purchase a great home in a great neighborhood through the Dollar Home Program, and encouraged the City to continue it.

Bill Clark of Alta Vista Avenue came to Council to request that the Police & Fire Committee consider a levy for additional funding for the Police and Fire Departments, adding that most people he speaks with would not mind paying more to increase police presence in the city. Mr. Clark then informed Council that he has an elderly neighbor who is being charged \$3 a trip to the Cheviot Library by Community Services West, as is another resident who lives in the apartment complex next to the Cheviot Fieldhouse. There was much discussion. Mr. Clark then asked that the City allow the current operating levies to expire and that new levies be put on the ballot at current property evaluation levels to ease the City's budget crisis. Mayor Keller informed Mr. Clark that a renewal and change to current property evaluation levels would need to be passed as the City cannot allow them to expire, and added that the Finance Committee is looking into the idea. There was much discussion.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Stautberg informed Council he will likely call a Finance Committee meeting for Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> and provided Council with an update on the City's Gas Aggregation Program. There was much discussion.

President McKinney requested an update on the City's Action List from Council and the Administration. There was much discussion.

Mr. Stautberg informed Council that he intends to ask the Law Director to look into the legality of pay freezes for all elected officials in 2009.

### **Mayor's Court and Treasurer's Receipts**

Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file the October 2008 Treasurer's Report with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to receive and file the October 2008 Mayor's Court Receipts with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

**Correspondence**

A newsletter from CDS Associates, Examination Announcements from the State of Ohio, a list of licenses and permits issued by the Building Department for the month of October, a request for updated information from all elected officials from the Ohio Ethics Commission, a request from OKI to name a representative for the City for 2009, five Building Reports and four property maintenance reports were received.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Stautberg with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

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Matthew D. McGowan  
Clerk of Council

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Deborah M. McKinney  
President of Council