

# Minutes of City Council Meeting, Cheviot, Ohio

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December 1, 2009

The regular session of Council was called to order at 7:32P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Roll call was taken and the following were found in attendance:

Mayor	Samuel D. Keller
President of Council	Deborah M. McKinney
Council 1 <sup>st</sup> Ward	Ryan Zech
Council 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	Matthew D McGowan
Council 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council 4 <sup>th</sup> Ward	Gregory Stautberg
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Dennis Dinkelacker
Council at Large	Steve Braun

President McKinney informed Council there is a report of the Laws, Rules and Ordinances Committee and an Ordinance regarding benefits for a city employee. The Streetscape Plan resolution was removed from the agenda. A motion to approve and file the minutes for November 17, 2009 made by Mr. Dinkelacker, seconded by Mr. McGowan. The motion passed with a 7-0 voice vote.

## **Public Recognition on Agenda Items**

Caroline Statkus reported on her progress since becoming the Economic Development Director. She is working on a mission statement and a strategic business district plan. Ms. Statkus had a zoning map to show the four parts of the business district. In business district B, Caroline would like to institute an overlay.

Mr. Braun stated he has examples of ordinances and will meet with Ms. Statkus later.

## **Reports of Standing Committees**

Ms. Zech read a report of the Laws, Rules and Ordinances Committee from November 24, 2009 into the record. A motion to receive and file was made by Ms. Zech, seconded by Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed with a 7-0 voice vote.

Ms. Zech also updated Council on the Court fees. The ordinance is being held until the Clerk of Courts has further time to investigate raising court costs along with the misdemeanor fines. The Clerk of Courts also recommended raising the fine for failure to leash a dog. Once all the research is completed, Mr. Waters will draft the ordinance.

## **Second and Third Readings of Ordinances**

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

Mr. Zech stated that the ordinance was discussed about a month ago regarding the Clerk of Courts. The Clerk has the opportunity to utilize an alternative form of health insurance instead of the City provided coverage. The city will save money so in return the City shall reimburse her for the city coverage in which she is opting out. Mr. Zech made a motion to introduce an ordinance *To Make Certain Benefit Adjustments for the City of Cheviot Clerk of Courts; and to Declare an Emergency*. A motion to introduce was made by Mr. Zech, seconded by Mr. Stautberg. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote. The ordinance was assigned ordinance number 09-30. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Sunderhaus and seconded by Mr. Stautberg. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Keller further elaborated on the ordinance. The Clerk will continue to receive this compensation as long as it benefits the city as well. Currently single coverage for a city employee costs the city \$330 a month. The base amount was set at \$100 and the Mayor will continue to monitor the health care costs. A motion to adopt was made by Mr. Zech and seconded by Mr. McGowan. A roll call vote was taken and the ordinance was adopted with a 7-0 vote.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Keller sends his condolences to Chief Voss and his family for the sudden loss of his daughter-in-law.

Mayor Keller explained that the DART report sent to all of Council may be a bit misleading. There are currently 43 active cases, 18 of which are headed to trial. There are 36 closed cases, which have been fully prosecuted. There have been two major busts in Cheviot, one on Meadow Avenue and one on Augusta. A third bust was also made on Robb. The service members arrested for alleged drug trafficking were headed to Cheviot to make a drop as well. Officer Dezarn represents Cheviot in the DART program and Chief Voss recommended he stay in the program. Mayor Keller requested that Caroline Statkus contact Chief Voss concerning a federal grant to pay Officer Dezarn's salary.

The Hamilton County Climate Initiative matter needs to go into committee. A resolution is to be expected next Council meeting. The program runs on federal stimulus money. Mayor Keller explained that the upgrades to our city buildings will help energy and money. The stimulus money would pay for the upgrades and then will be paid back through the savings on our duke bill. No interest will be charged for the "loan". Many improvements need to be done including insulation, lighting and a HVAC system. This matter will go into Mr. Stautberg's Public Utilities Committee.

Mayor Keller informed the public and Council that the plaque has been mounted in its final resting place, in front of the flagpole, at the Fieldhouse.

Mayor Keller stated that Mr. Waters has sent out the letters concerning the garbage fee to the businesses that are still delinquent.

Mayor Keller spoke with Gary Schroeder of Delhi Township concerning a joint communications center. With the \$3 increase in fees, an investigation into saving money is necessary. Mayor Keller is sending a spreadsheet to neighboring cities and townships to show the savings if a joint communication center was established. Mayor Keller stated that this is only step one in a very long process and the hopes are that Hamilton County will stop charging double dispatch fees.

The Mayor wanted to publicly thank Auto Zone for the use of the property for the Nativity Scene. Mayor Keller also thanked the CWCA for funding the scene once again. The Mayor wanted to thank all those in attendance and especially Councilman Zech and his father for setting up the sound for the dedication.

There were no questions for Mayor Keller.

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

Mr. Neal left a report for Council. Clerk McKinney read it into the record. A copy of the report can be read at Cheviot City Hall.

Mayor Keller explained that the cameras atop the new mast arm signals are not traffic cameras for the point of issuing tickets. The cameras are placed there to work the traffic signals. They are not "red light" cameras.

President McKinney thanked the CWCA and the public works for all the beautiful Holiday decorations. They truly make Cheviot feel like a nice and warm place to live.

**Law Director's Report**

There was no report left by the Law Director and no questions for Mr. Waters.

**Public Recognition on Other Issues**

No one from the public chose to speak on any other issues.

**Other Business**

Mr. Stautberg called a public hearing to discuss the JEDD with Green Township. The hearing will be held on January 19, 2009 at 6:30pm at Cheviot City Hall.

Mr. Stautberg called a Meeting of the Public Utilities Committee for December 8, 2009 at 6:30pm to discuss Electric Aggregation and the Climate Initiative. Spence Faxon from Energy Alliance will be in attendance.

Mr. Stautberg called a Meeting of the Finance Committee for December 8, 2009 immediately following the Public Utilities Meeting to discuss the 2010 budget. Mr. Stautberg spoke with the Auditor and we should be in the black for the remainder of 2009.

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

A motion to receive and file the Mayor's Court Receipts for November 2009 was made by Mr. Zech and seconded by Ms. Zech. The motion passed with a 7-0 voice vote.

**Correspondence**

- DART report
- Safety-Service Director's Report
- Public Information Request from CSI
- Letter from Duke regarding a raise in rates

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. McGowan, seconded by Ms. Zech. The motion passed with a 7-0 voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

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Rachel A. McKinney  
Clerk of Council

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Deborah M. McKinney  
President of Council