

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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December 7, 2004

The regular session of Council was called to order at 7:33 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 Pro-Tem	Kathleen S. Zech
Law Director	Mark G. Waters
Council 1 st Ward	Michael J. Murray
Council 2 nd Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3 rd Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council 4 th Ward	Debra A. Gooch
Council at Large	Charles L. Norman
Council at Large	Michael J. Mestemaker

Mr. Murray noted that there was one correction to the minutes; the opening sentence was corrected from reading special session to regular session. After the correction, the minutes of November 16, 2004 were approved. President Pro-Tem Zech called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

Nicky Galvez of 3527 East Darwin Avenue approached Council to state that he is now concerned about how safe it is to live in Cheviot. He stated that people speed too much through Cheviot, that there have been too many car break-ins near where he lives, that people are out in the streets creating noise at 3 and 4 in the morning, and that strangers have been knocking on the doors and asking for money. He feels that there is not enough police activity to stop it. He's concerned that the recent tax levy failure and the cost saving measures that have been put in place are causing Cheviot to be less safe. Mayor Keller tried to explain that while there have been cuts, police coverage has remained the same, just that the shifts that different officers work have been shifted around some. He went on to explain that the police are often responding to complaints in ways that are less visible such as unmarked cars, etc. Mr. Galvez requested for additional police in the night time hours. There was much discussion between all members of Council, the Mayor and Mr. Galvez.

Safety-Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal had no formal report. He did mention that he forwarded an agreement with Rumpke Inc. to Mr. Waters to look over.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller reported that due to the failure of the levy several drastic cuts were made to save costs, but due to a new program that Rumpke Inc. is offering the City will be able to resume recycling. The City of Cheviot was spending approximately \$26,000 to \$29,000 a year on recycling but will only have to spend around \$1,000 a year now. The recycling drop-off locations are behind the Cheviot IGA in the Goodwill parking lot, and at the Cheviot Maintenance Garage. Mayor Keller went on to explain that snow removal and leaf pick-up were also cut to save money but that he was able to work out a compromise with the employee unions to allow for flex time for those that have to do snow removal. As a result he reported that Cheviot will have snow removal for this winter season, but that it will not be as good as it was before as we still have to keep costs down. Finally Mayor Keller reported that he received a report from Community Services West describing the Senior Services that have been provided to residents of Cheviot. Mayor Keller stated that he had spoken to several seniors in Cheviot and that they would like us to keep the services of Community Services West. He stated that he would forward the reports to the finance committee.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters reported that he had spoken with the Fire Chief about the bid process for spending grant money from the State of Ohio.

Committee Reports

Ward 1 - Mr. Murray had no formal report.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker had no formal report.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus had no formal report.

Ward 4 - Mrs. Gooch made a motion *To Amend The 2004 Annual Appropriations; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD04-29. Mr. Mestemaker made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mrs. Gooch made a motion *To Amend The 2004 Annual Appropriations; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD04-30. Mr. Mestemaker made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mrs. Gooch made a motion *To Amend The 2004 Appropriations; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD04-31. Mr. Murray made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Mestemaker made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion passed 7-0. Mrs. Gooch made a motion *To Approve A Rate Amendment To The City's Contract With Rumpke Sanitary Landfill, Inc.; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Murray. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned ORD04-32. This concluded the first reading of ORD04-32. Mrs. Gooch went on to explain that there have been several meetings of the Finance Committee since the last Council meeting. She reported that the City should end the year about even on finances, and that we do not have the final numbers for next year. She reported that the City should be able to operate at bare minimums through April, but that funds will run short around that time. There was much discussion about the City of Cheviot's operations and the funding that will be needed to continue. She did comment that the Administration and Council of Cheviot are working together and coming up with good ideas. She encouraged residents to attend one of the public hearings scheduled on Monday, December 13 at 7:00 P.M. in the lower level of the Cheviot Fieldhouse and on Tuesday, December 21 at 6:30 P.M. at Cheviot City Hall. She called another meeting of the Finance Committee on Monday, December 13 at 6:30 P.M. in the lower level of the Cheviot Fieldhouse.

Council at Large - Mr. Mestemaker had no formal report. He called a meeting of the Public Works Committee on Monday, December 13 at 6:00 P.M. at the Cheviot Fieldhouse in the lower level.

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

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no formal report. He did remind the public that the public hearings are important that that residents should attend.

Further Business

Mrs. Gooch made a motion with a second from Mr. Murray to receive and file the November 2004 Mayors Court receipts. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote.

Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion with a second from Mr. Mestemaker to receive and file the October 2004 Treasurer's Report. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote.

Correspondence

There was a report from the Cheviot Building Report. CDS Associates sent a holiday greeting to Council. The Certificate of Results from the Board of Elections for the Ballot Issue in November arrived. Officially there were 4,047 votes cast, of which 1,983 were for the levy and 2,064 were against the levy. The count was certified on November 30, 2004. Cinergy sent notice of a natural gas cost increase which would take effect in March 2005.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Murray with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Ryan T. Zech
Clerk of Council

Kathleen S. Zech
President of Council Pro-Tem