

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

Page 1 of 3

December 19, 2006

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:

Mayor	Samuel D. Keller
President of Council	Michael J. Mestemaker
Law Director	Mark G. Waters
Council 1 st Ward	Ryan T. Zech
Council 2 nd Ward	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council 3 rd Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council 4 th Ward	Greg J. Stautberg
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Charles L. Norman
Council at Large	Steven L. Braun

The minutes of December 5th, 2006 were approved. President Mestemaker called for the reports that would be presented.

Recognition of the Public

Steven Forbeck of 3733 Wilmar Dr. came to Council to complain about residents of an adjacent property who are repeatedly breaking the law and creating a nuisance for their neighbors. Mr. Forbeck told Council he has called the police about the problems, and that they told him the neighborhood was in decline due to an increase in Section 8 housing. He said he felt that the neighborhood and the city are in decline due to people who do not care about their property or the City, and asked Council what could be done to change that. Mr. Neal said most of the problems in Cheviot do come from people who rent, rather than own, property and that the City is working on ways to change this. Mr. Neal also said that the City needs residents like Mr. Forbeck to stay and be more involved. Mrs. Zech informed Mr. Forbeck that Council is working on several ordinances to address these issues with the owners of rental properties. Mr. Mestemaker suggested that the City might need to educate City Personnel on these issues so they do not mistakenly misinform the public. Mayor Keller said that Section 8 property is actually easier to deal with than other rental properties, and that there are only a small number of these properties in Cheviot. Mr. Neal stated that many properties such as the one Mr. Forbeck mentioned are actually owned by Limited Liability Corporations (LLC's) that make it tough to track down the actual owners of the properties. There was much discussion. Mayor Keller asked all residents to continue to report any problems they have with their neighbors to the police and Mr. Neal. Mr. Zech reminded residents that addressing these issues in a legal manner does take time, and that the City is working to do just that. Mayor Keller thanked Mr. Forbeck for coming to Council, and said he wished more citizens would take an interest and become more involved with their community.

Safety-Service Director's Report

Mr. Neal had no formal report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keller informed Council that he and Mr. Neal have met with representatives from the CamRon Corporation and took a tour of the old Hildebrandt Nursing Home as well as the old Frank's Nursery building. Mayor Keller said that the Frank's building is actually in better shape than he expected, and that the renovation of the Nursing Home building is going well. Mayor Keller said he discussed some issues that the CamRon Corporation is having with renting or leasing these properties, and mentioned a letter they sent to Council regarding the Frank's property and the new sign ordinance. Mayor Keller suggested to Council that the sign ordinance be enforced despite the CamRon Corporation's issues with it.

Law Director's Report

Mr. Waters informed Council that a grievance filed by a City employee will be going to arbitration, and that he will keep Council informed on the matter.

Committee Reports

Ward 1 - Mr. Zech read a report of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee into the record. Mr. Zech made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Sunderhaus. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Zech wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Ward 2 - Mr. Dinkelacker read a report of the External Affairs Committee into the record. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Dinkelacker wished everyone Happy Holidays. Mr. Braun reminded everyone that the next Project Impact meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10th at 6:30 P.M. at City Hall.

Ward 3 - Mr. Sunderhaus had no formal report. Mr. Sunderhaus reminded everyone that has a live Christmas tree to keep their tree watered to help prevent fires. Mr. Sunderhaus then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Ward 4 - Mr. Stautberg read a report of the Public Utilities Committee into the record. Mr. Stautberg made a motion to receive and file the report with a second from Mr. Dinkelacker. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Stautberg called a meeting of the Public Utilities Committee for Wednesday, December 27th at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Stautberg wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Council at Large – Mrs. Zech had no formal report. Mrs. Zech made a motion *To Amend 110.60 Of The Cheviot Code Of Ordinances; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 06-35. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Zech. 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. Mrs. Zech wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Council at Large - Mr. Norman had no formal report. Mr. Norman made a motion *To Amend Ordinance No. 06-33; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as ORD 06-36. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Zech. 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. Norman made a motion *To Amend The 2006 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 ORD 06-37. Mr. Sunderhaus made a motion to suspend the rules with a second from Mr. Braun. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Dinkelacker made a motion to adopt with a second from Mr. Stautberg. The motion carried 7-0 by roll call vote. Mr. Norman called for an emergency meeting of Council on Wednesday, December 27th at 7 P.M. to discuss quarterly appropriations and other matters. After some discussion, Mr. Norman made a motion *To Amend Resolution 06-13; And To Declare An Emergency* with a second from Mrs. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote and was assigned as RES 06-23. Mr. Norman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Mr. Neal informed Mr. Norman that he would update the Quarterly Appropriations before the next meeting of Council.

Council at Large - Mr. Braun had no formal report. Mr. Braun wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New year, and asked everyone to keep the members of our Armed Forces who couldn't be home for Christmas and their families in their thoughts and prayers.

Further Business

Mayor Keller informed everyone that the U.S. Flag sent to the City of Cheviot from Mr. McGowan's brother serving in Kuwait would be displayed in the City Administrative office. He thanked Mr. McGowan's father for making a display case for it and urged everyone to stop by and see it. Mayor Keller informed everyone that the City hired a new daytime caretaker for the Cheviot Fieldhouse who will start on December 26th. Mr. Stautberg asked Mr. Neal about the new construction in front of the Cheviot Fieldhouse. Mr. Neal informed everyone that they are building a new sign like the one that currently sits in front of City Hall.

Mrs. Zech made a motion to receive and file the November 2006 Treasurer's report with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion carried 7-0 by voice vote. Mr. Zech thanked Green Township for the new cable booth equipment they recently provided. Mr. Zech said he hopes to have a new bulletin board up soon on the Cheviot Cable Access channel for broadcasting public information. Mr. Zech thanked everyone involved with the process.

Correspondence

A letter from Cecila Felix of 3820 Washington Avenue regarding late-night noise from dumpster pickup at the Auto-Zone on Harrison Avenue, two letters from OKI requesting a public official update and that the City name a representative to OKI's Board of Trustees, certification of the recent election results for the City's ballot issues from the Hamilton County Board of Elections, a letter from CamRon Corporation regarding issues with the new sign ordinance, and two Legislative Bulletins from the Ohio Municipal League were received. Mr. Neal informed Council that the matter with Auto-Zone has been resolved.

Mayor Keller reminded all City Employees of the new Smoke-Free Workplace policy. He asked everyone to make sure they signed a copy and returned it to the Mayor's office. Mr. Mestemaker wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Zech with a second from Mr. Zech. The motion passed 7-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 P.M.

Matthew D. McGowan
Clerk of Council

Michael J. Mestemaker
President of Council