

## MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING, CHEVIOT, OHIO

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June 16, 2009

The following were found in attendance:

Mayor	Samuel D. Keller
President of Council	Deborah M. McKinney
Law Director	Mark Waters
Council 1 <sup>st</sup> Ward	Ryan A. Zech
Council 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward	Matthew D. McGowan
Council 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward	James F. Sunderhaus
Council at Large	Kathleen S. Zech
Council at Large	Dennis T. Dinkelacker
Council at Large	Steve L. Braun

The hearing was called to order at 6:32pm to discuss the proposed Tax Levy.

The Mayor stated the City of Cheviot is having the same financial difficulties as other areas of government, i.e. Hamilton County, the City of Cincinnati and the State. The City of Cheviot has gone almost 26 years without a revenue increase. The last increase in 2005 was very small. The City has implemented 2 garbage fees to combat the issue. The most recent fee will help the City get through the 2009 year.

The City and Administration do not want to lose any city services. The Mayor feels the citizens get a great value for the tax dollars the City obtains. For a \$100,000 home, a Cheviot resident currently pays \$240 a year to the City of Cheviot. The City is proposing a levy to be placed on the August ballot. The City is putting together information flyers as well as holding public hearings on the issue. The flyers will be passed out door to door. The increase is a 5.61 mil levy. This does not mean the levy will generate 5.61 million dollars. To the homeowner, the increase is approximately \$166.44 dollars a year on their tax bill. The garbage fee for a 13 month period was \$130, and will expire at the end of the year. The levy is a small increase over what the homeowner is currently paying.

The Mayor stated that the City is behind the levy 100%. The City has proven to be fiscally conservative. The services provided to the Citizens are second to none. People outside the City of Cheviot pay a large amount of money for waste collection alone. The City has no reserve fund like the City of Cincinnati.

President McKinney stated that the information discussed within the hearings will be posted on the city's website. There will be many public hearings. There will be a booth at Westfest if any questions arise.

Ms. Zech stated that the City promotes Cheviot all the time. Last year the City hosted a Realtor's Brunch. During the research, the committee found that Cheviot is the only full service city that does not have an industrial base.

Greg Hayes, a resident of Lovell, questioned the amount of money raised by the levy. He asked if the money will sustain the City or will additional levies be in the future

Mr. Zech stated he attends most Finance Meetings though not on the committee. He explained the city is looking at five year plans. The City's hopes are that the estimates are over what will actually be spent. For the first few years there will be a surplus. The City will be looking into investing the money to carry the City through.

Mr. McGowan stated the ultimate goal is to work with an economic developer to increase the business district and the tax base in Cheviot. The levy may not have to be renewed in five years if the City is able to increase its revenue. All members of Council are Cheviot residents and have to pay the taxes as well. No one wants more taxes but it is vital to the continuation of the City's Services.

Mayor Keller stated that all elected officials are required to live within the City. We are seeing the increase as well. The levies are five year renewable. Two of our levies are based upon 1976 evaluations of your home. You are paying tax at whatever your home was valued at in 1976. Our road levies need to be looked at. The price of roads has increased dramatically. Ten years ago, the City would be able to repair 10 roads with the money the road levy generates. Now, the city can repair one road for that amount. The city needs to maintain and repair 3-4 streets a year to stay proactive. The City desperately needs an economic developer for the residential areas as well as the business district. This year's road money is going toward Harrison Avenue. Harrison Avenue is in the fourth and final phase of the project. The road should be repaved by the end of the summer.

Mr. Zech stated that all budget cuts have take place. Police cruisers have not been replaced in a timely manner. The City also needs a new fire engine. The City chose to maintain city services instead. There is nothing else to cut in the budget. Cuts to personnel might be a next step if needed. The City does not want to do this.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:51pm.

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Rachel A. McKinney  
Clerk of Council

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Deborah M. McKinney  
President of Council