

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

DATE: April 11, 2014
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Oxford City Hall
PRESENT: Mayor Leon Smith
Mr. Steven Waits, Council President
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council President Pro Tempore
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council Member

The meeting was called to order by Council President Steven Waits and Shirley Henson, City Clerk of the City, served as the Clerk of the meeting.

Fire Chief Gary Sparks gave the invocation.

Resolution No. 2014-21 – Consideration of the bid tabulation and contract on construction of the Oxford Recreational Complex.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-21. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated we started on this project nine years ago. A lot of people have put in a lot of hard work, a lot of time, a lot of dedication to get this project to a final bid. I just want to say I appreciate the work involved in the project and I am proud of the project. It is a project that has evolved over the years and will hopefully make Oxford a destination like it used to be. It will be a similar project to what Oxford Lake was to Oxford several years ago. Not only will it be a ball complex, there will be a walking track and a playground. I could envision when we first looked at this having concerts there, county fairs, sports shows, car shows and all kinds of things we could do out there that we could have had like bicycling. I would just like for the public to know that this isn't just a ball field this is a true recreation complex. The whole goal in this was to improve the quality of life for our citizens. That is number one for our citizens. This also has the possibility to help our City through revenue enhancement. As you know and I know there are some retail establishments that we are sitting on hold waiting to see what happens from this meeting today to see if it was a positive outcome. They have indicated they are interested in locating facilities here that would bring in more revenue. This will allow us to have travel ball which our current facilities do not allow us to have. That brings people to town that stay in your motels and eat in your restaurants and shop at your shopping centers. We can promote that whole area the shopping center, the sports complex and the potential for the YMCA down the road, Cider Ridge Golf Course, Friendship Community Center and those are for our citizens. I can see these as opportunities and facilities we can use to make Oxford a destination town. Bring people into our town for different activities. I know at Friendship Community Center they have had a bridge tournament and things like that. I just want the public to know that this is a lot

of money. We have spent a lot of money on this project but in the long run this project has the potential of putting Oxford on the map in terms of a recreational type area along with a retail area. The Mayor has done a great job enhancing our retail. This will only go to enhance that. I think our children need this because we are having to double up on fields and shorten seasons because we don't have the facilities for the kids to play on. I am proud that we are at this point and I am proud of all the effort that has been put into this to get us to this point. I know there are going to be some people who disagree with this and I understand that but I think in the long run it is a good investment in our City. We thank everyone for their support and efforts as we make this project a reality.

Mrs. Hubbard stated she agreed with everything Mr. Henderson said. I would like to add I am really glad to be a part of a Council and I think this is a great opportunity that we have and what we are doing to be a part of the historic Choccolocco Creek area. I look forward to seeing the things that are going to come from that and this project as well.

Mayor Smith stated he has a few comments. Mayor Smith asked how many acres is the property. Mr. Waits stated 360 acres. Mr. Waits stated we are utilizing the whole park in one way or the other with walking trails, creek side trails, a lake with a walking trail around the lake.

Mr. Waits stated I would like to add one thing to what has already been said about the economic impact or the historical aspects to the project. It is not just an economic boost for the City it is an economic boost for the entire region and one area that was not mentioned is it will have a huge impact on our school system. I have had some great conversations with Dr. Jeff Goodwin, School Superintendent and his staff. This will be a facility that highly utilizes our school system. The revenue off the economic impact will be extra dollars afforded to our school system. They are very excited about this project. Again, as Mr. Henderson stated I appreciate everyone's work. It has been a long process and there have been a lot people who have worked hard for many years and I appreciate everyone's work on this.

Mr. Waits asked Ms. Henson to read the resolution. Mr. Waits recognized the members from Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc. the City's architectural firm.

Mr. Waits also recognized Danny Turner of Eugene Turner Construction for any comments. Mr. Turner had no comments.

On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard "Yea", Mr. Gardner "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mr. Spurlin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President