

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: April 11, 2017
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Oxford City Hall
PRESENT: Mayor Alton Craft
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council President
Mr. Steven Waits, Council President Pro Tempore
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council Member

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

Mr. Spurlin stated I apologize for being late. We got tied up in the work session. I knew tonight would be a big crowd and I apologize for being late. I appreciate you being here and we have a great group of young men and women here tonight showing their interest in Student Government. I think it has a lot to do with getting out of school for a day but no I am sure everyone is interested in the position they are in. This has been a tradition in Oxford for many years. It was only a few years ago I was in high school, maybe more than a few but I was the Police Chief that day. So enjoy it and I know you all look forward to having fun, arresting and trying your teachers who usually end up guilty. It is good to have you here tonight.

David Mayfield of Lakeview Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Spurlin stated we have one of our students Mr. Ryan Whitley is a 7th grader at Oxford Middle School. His parents are Anthony and Pam Whitley. Ryan enjoys the outdoors, football, spending time with his family, and being a part of his youth group at First Baptist Church in Oxford. At school he is a member of the Student Leadership Council, football team, and wrestling team. His favorite subject is Geography and his favorite teacher is Coach Thompson. When Ryan grows up he wants to be a Prosthetic Engineer for the U.S. Army.

Ryan Whitley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Spurlin thanked Ryan for being here and thanked him for the example he is at school.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Spurlin stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the March 28, 2017 meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Spurlin called for any comments or questions; there being none, on roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Abstain”. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Spurlin called for any old business; there was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Proclamation recognizing the month of April as Donate Life Month.

Mr. Spurlin stated Aimee Birchfield, Finance Director will read the Proclamation. Mr. Spurlin thanked Mrs. Birchfield for reading the Proclamation.

Recognizing the Students participating in Student Government Day on Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

Mr. Spurlin stated you have noticed the large group of students we have here tonight. They are participating in our Student Government Day program at our high school. They come and attend the Council meeting the night before and tomorrow they will be here at City Hall and throughout our City learning how the Government works. We are always excited for them to come, work alongside and see how Government works. I am going to ask Charlotte Hubbard if she would recognize these students. As she calls out your name would you please stand.

Mrs. Hubbard read the list of students participating in Student Government Day.

Mr. Spurlin stated thank you for being here and we look forward to seeing you tomorrow. We are going to ask Mrs. Hubbard to read those names one more time. You did an excellent job Mrs. Hubbard. I know a lot were not able to be here tonight due to sports and different things. I appreciate you being here, excelling in school and your interest in Government Day. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

MDA Professional Group to present the 2016 Financial Audit

Joan Sanders stated that it is always a pleasure to speak with you. I brought Katie Condit to present to you the 2016 Financial Audit.

Mr. Spurlin stated we knew Aimee Birchfield was the backbone behind the Finance Director this whole time. She is doing an excellent job.

Resolution No. 2017-42 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement for Access Management for and on behalf of the City with RQD Properties.

Mr. Waits made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-42. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2017-43 – Resolution appointing Lem Burrell to the Citizen’s Advisory Committee.

Mr. Spurlin stated Mr. Burrell is here tonight. We appreciate your willingness to serve in our City.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-43. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spurlin thanked Mr. Burrell for being here and his willingness to serve.

Resolution No. 2017-44 – Resolution opposing passage of SB31 and HB58.

Mr. Spurlin stated Mayor Craft, I know you brought this to our attention. The Alabama League of Municipalities contacted you and asked you to share this with us to oppose these bills. Would you give us a synopsis of what these bills represent? The two that you mentioned Mayor are the prescription drug and the gas tax. The one on the delivery license is separate and we will bring it up soon. These two bills are coming from the State in the House and they addressed these issues that the Mayor discussed. The Alabama League of Municipalities has encouraged us to contact our State and House members to oppose these bills.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-44. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2017-45 – Resolution declaring items as surplus property for the City Garage.

Mr. Spurlin stated we have several vehicles that have been declared surplus from the City Garage.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-45. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2017-46 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Bantam Strategy Group for a bikeshare program.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-46. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2017-47 – Resolution for property transfer at Cider Ridge.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-47. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2017-48 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Calhoun County for a Homeland Security Grant.

Mr. Spurlin stated this is for \$18,557.46.

Mr. Waits made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-48. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spurlin stated the next item is not on the agenda. Mayor Craft mentioned this earlier. This is in opposition of SB316. This bill makes businesses exempt from delivery taxes. Once again the Alabama League of Municipalities has urged us of the affects this would have on municipalities and to contact our State and House Representatives to oppose this bill.

Resolution No. 2017-49 – Resolution opposing passage of SB316.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-49. The motion was seconded by Mr. Waits.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Spurlin called for Council Comments.

Mr. Henderson stated Happy Easter.

Mr. Spurlin stated City Hall will be closed Friday for Good Friday.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Spurlin asked Mayor Craft if he had any comments. Mr. Craft stated he has no comments.

Visitors

Mr. Spurlin called for any comments or questions from anyone present.

Scott Lott of 176 Lazy Brook Drive stated I would like to thank the Council for allowing me to speak. I previously spoke to the Council about a problem we are having on Lazy Brook and Anna Brook with flooding. We have also experienced it several times since and I would like to push that along. We still do not have the culvert replaced on Northwood. We were also told if we would gather the names of the property owners along the creek you could see about cleaning that creek out. We have the names and the agreement which they agreed verbally to allow the City to do that. I would like to ask you to take care of that so we can protect our property.

Mr. Spurlin stated if you will give me those names we will be sure to pass it along to the Street Department. Mr. Lott, Mayor Craft actually presented a plan in the work session from the Mayor, the City Engineer and Street Department. One of the obstacles in doing that culvert was the gas line. They just completed that and we just got confirmation that it was completed. They said within the next month they should be starting on the culvert. They spoke to some property owners that has vacant property that would allow them to put in an emergency road that would connect Anna Brook and Lazy Brook to Northwood and Southwood. They are going to extend Gable Lane to Northwood so that if it does flood, the culvert, they are hoping will take care of most of the problem but will probably not take care of all of the problem. That would give those residents who are trapped inside an emergency access out. They are going to gate that and during times of predicting bad weather the personnel will come and unlock the gate so if it does flood you can still get out.

Mr. Waits stated if you want to stay after for about five minutes we can show you visually what that looks like.

Mr. Spurlin stated if you will leave me those names I will get them to Rusty Gann, City Engineer. Thank you for your response.

Ed Moore, III stated I am the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Justice and Civil Rights Initiative Incorporated. We are a civil and human rights nonprofit agency located in Anniston at 1800 Gurnee Avenue. Our Vice President and Chief Business Consultant is Jesse Edwards. Mr. Moore stated our mission is to aid in the education, improvement and enforcement of civil rights for all people. Our agency has partnered with municipalities and agencies in the local, state and federal level to try and improve the communities and areas in civil rights. Our agency has three objectives, we conduct civil rights investigations, we advise policy makers and officials and we also perform outreach and education services. Studies show that proactively educating communities on these types of matters lessens the probability of public conflict and it keeps communities healthy and whole in times of social crisis. It could also keep members of the

public informed and prevents them from operating on misinformation. Our purpose for being at your Council meeting is our agency wants communities to know what their civil rights are and when people know what the laws are they are able to make better choices. With that being said our agency is hosting an educational seminar on hate crimes this Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Community Center. Hate Crimes are crimes that can either be felonies or misdemeanors. They are motivated by a protective class of an individual whether it be race, color, creed, religion, nationality or disability. We all, no matter who you are or where you come from are affected by hate crimes. In the event that someone is a victim of a hate crime or you are a witness to a hate crime we want people to know what appropriate actions need to be taken. This seminar is also a great education opportunity for law enforcement officers as well because they are the ones responsible for investigating and making arrests in these types of cases. The instructor for the seminar will be Xavier Carter who is an Assistant District Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama United States Attorney's office in Birmingham. He will be discussing an overview of hate crimes, the process of reporting, investigating and prosecuting hate crimes, sentencing guidelines for hate crime convictions and the elements required to meet hate crimes and charges. In other words what evidence is necessary for police to bring a hate crime charge? Again, this seminar will be taking place this Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Community Center. This event is free and open to the general public. We will be accepting donations for this event and the event is being sponsored by the City of Jacksonville, Anniston Funeral Services, Oakland Law LLC, and the Anniston Fraternal Order of Police.

Mr. Spurlin stated thank you Mr. Moore for bringing that to our attention. Mr. Edwards we appreciate you both being here.

Mr. Moore stated if anyone would like flyers or more information we will be staying a few minutes after the meeting.

Darrell Dempsey of 1501 Circle Drive addressed the Council regarding the speeding on Circle Drive.

Mr. Spurlin stated the Mayor presented to us in the work session a presentation on this as well. He had our Police Chief go back and do a study on that road. The amount of wrecks and things that have taken place. There has actually only been a couple of wrecks in the past three years in that area. They did a traffic study versus just coming in with an opinion to give us facts and figures to back it up. In no way does it warrant a speed bump or some type of device that would cause more problems than it would help. I know that you have been concerned about traffic accidents and injuries but according to public records, facts and statistics it just doesn't warrant that.

Mr. Spurlin stated I know you have been concerned about this and you have tried to raise awareness. The Police Department has done an excellent job staying in that neighborhood making sure they did get the message out that they need to slow down. I appreciate our Engineering Department doing a traffic study to see whether or not we warranted that but according to our traffic study it doesn't warrant any type of device.

Mr. Spurlin stated it started on June 30, 2016 and was done on into July.

Mr. Spurlin stated I understand your concerns. You asked a question and I am giving you answers. Thank you Mr. Dempsey for being here.

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

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Chris Spurlin, Council President