

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: April 14, 2015
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Oxford City Hall
PRESENT: 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

ABSENT: Mayor Leon Smith

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.

Mrs. Ludy Cruse of Lakeview Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we like to recognize a student in our school system who is a high achiever and tonight we are recognizing Aidan Smith-Connell. Aidan is a second grader at Oxford Elementary School. His parents are John and Angie Smith-Connell. Aidan enjoys soccer, karate, and building with Legos. At school he is a second grade Ambassador, loves to read, and is interested in learning about other cultures and how things work. His favorite subject in school is Science and his favorite teacher is Ms. Pilkington. When Aidan grows up he wants to be a professional soccer player.

Mr. Waits stated Mrs. Nelson it is great to see you here tonight supporting your students.

Aidan Smith-Connell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits thanked Aidan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the March 24, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Recognize the students participating in Student Government Day on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Mr. Waits stated what we would like to do is call your name and if you would stand. I would like to recognize Mr. Morrison from Oxford High School. We appreciate you Mr. Morrison and you do a great job.

Ms. Henson called out the names of the students participating.

Mr. Waits stated I know you will have a fun day tomorrow and a real educational day. Chief Partridge I did notice that the new Chief of Police has some pipes and Mayor McGuffey we usually allow the Mayor to speak but probably what I need to do is ask Council Member Waits if that is okay. Do you have anything you want to say? You guys will have a lot of fun tomorrow and I think you will learn a lot about the City. We will have a great lunch and a great time. Thank you all for being here.

Resolution No. 2015-33 – Re-appointing Alex Davenport to the School Board for a five year term expiring May 31, 2020.

Mr. Waits stated Mr. Davenport is here tonight and I would like to say thank you for what you do. In 2012, Mr. Davenport was recognized as an All-State School Board member which is a huge honor. We appreciate you representing like you do.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-33. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mrs. Hubbard stated she is looking forward to meeting with the School Board next week. Mr. Waits stated it is Thursday this week.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. 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.

Resolution No. 2015-34 – Re-appointing Stan Allen as Municipal Judge for a two year term expiring April 10, 2017.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-34. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. 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.

Resolution No. 2015-35 – Re-appointing Keith McCullough to the Commercial Development Authority for a four year term expiring March 15, 2019.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-35. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. 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.

Resolution No. 2015-36 – Re-appointing Mike Watts to the Commercial Development Authority for a four year term expiring March 15, 2019.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-36. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. 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.

Resolution No. 2015-37 – Re-appointing Barney Turner to the Commercial Development Authority for a four year term expiring March 15, 2019.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-37. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. 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.

Resolution No. 2015-38 – Authorizing the Mayor to sign a new Transportation Planning Process Agreement.

Mr. Waits stated this has been requested by the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission. There are some minor wording changes within this agreement.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-38. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. 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.

Resolution No. 2015-39 – Resolution to amend the 2015 Budget for the Oxford Police Department.

Mr. Waits stated what we are doing is decreasing the budget by \$150,000.00 for the Police Department and increasing the budget \$192,056.80. We are providing three officers, three vehicles and equipment for those officers. Chief Partridge do you have anything you would like to share.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-39. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. 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.

Resolution No. 2015-40 – Resolution approving amendments to the Certificate of Incorporation of the Calhoun-Cleburne Mental Health Board.

Mr. Waits stated we met with Mickey Turner, the director of the Calhoun-Cleburne Mental Health Board prior to the meeting and basically this again is some minor word changes such as the name of the agency, etc.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-40. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. 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.

Resolution No. 2015-41 – Awarding the bid for a new City Garage and Street Department.

Mr. Waits stated this will be going to Metro D Construction, LLC for \$4,047,900.00.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-41. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated we have been promising them we were going to do this for a long time and I am glad we are able to do this. It is about time, the City Garage has been there since I worked there 40 years ago and we have definitely needed it.

Mr. Waits stated for the students, this is Bill Lawley he is the director of the Garage. He handles things for the City and keeps it running. What we are doing is building a new City Garage. Our Engineering Department will be housed there with the Garage and Street Department. This is the last major building project as far as a new facility other than the Fire Department at Friendship that we had on a list to do. It has been a long time coming. Bill I appreciate the job you do and the guys you do a fantastic job for the City. I know you are excited to see this take place.

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.

Resolution No. 2015-42 – Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for right-of-way acquisition for Project STPOA-7440 () resurfacing Snow Street from SR-21 to SR-4 (U.S. 78).

Mr. Waits stated this will allow us to purchase right-of-way on Snow Street. We are actually going to be doing some paving but we need to move some water lines. We need to acquire some property. This is an agreement where the ALDOT (Alabama Department of Transportation) will pay 80 percent and we only have to pay 20 percent. This is a positive step for the City.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-42. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated if you have ever ridden out by Papa John's and all the holes in the road that is what we are talking about.

Mrs. Hubbard stated the flooding at Jack's.

Mr. Waits stated all of these things should be resolved. This is just starting the process and it is a lengthy process especially any time you are dealing with the Government, especially the Federal Government. There is a lot of paperwork and things you have to go through. This is just acquiring the land. This is the first step. The part near Highway 78 our plans are to have the contractor to come and patch over that area. That should get us through until the project starts.

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.

Mr. Waits stated we are going to add one item to the agenda tonight.

Resolution No. 2015-43 – Tax Abatement Agreement with Associated MetalCast, Inc.

Mr. Waits stated this is a tax abatement for Associated MetalCast for 10 years. They will be adding 11,000 square feet building and 12 employees. It is about a \$1.5 million investment to our City. Devon Bell, the Controller and John Douglas, Operations Manager are here. This is I think the fifth abatement we have done for you since 2004. These guys have continuously made multimillion dollar investments and added more jobs than they thought they would. I want to thank you. What this does is it abates sales tax on the equipment they will be buying and for 10 years they will not have to pay property taxes. They still do have to pay educational taxes that go to the school. The school still gets their part. This is a way for us as a City to help them build out and bring jobs to our City. You have been a great partner and we appreciate what you do.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-43. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Spurlin stated so you have about 70 employees and you are adding 12.

Mrs. Hubbard asked what kind of workers do you need. So, the students might know.

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.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Waits called for Council Comments.

Mr. Henderson stated we had the grand opening of the Fire Station this past Sunday at the Garage. You did a great job on your speech and I appreciate all of the guys. I was proud to see the Elliott family there. It is named after Lynn Elliott a resident of Oxford and a former firefighter who passed away a few years ago. I am glad to see us get that facility finished and opened up. Come this Sunday we will be opening up another one in the Bynum community where the old Snake Ranch used to be. I appreciate the Fire Department and what they do and the sacrifices they make. I appreciate the Police Department too and the EMS who all work together. Hopefully this will help our insurance rates. I appreciate everyone being there. We had a good turnout. We have one more to build at Friendship and we have a location we are looking at. Good ceremony on Sunday. Don't forget to pay your taxes tomorrow.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I would like to remind everyone and invite everyone, I haven't looked on Facebook about our Lick Skillet Festival. We are having the First Annual Lick Skillet Festival in downtown on May 23, 2015. I know all of you will be in town and will not leave town until after the festival. If there are any students at the high school who would like to participate in this see Rod Harris, Main Street Director. He would welcome the help and assistance. If you have any ideas of how we could channel that through a group at the high school of students who might be in town or want to do something like that or get involved with the Main Street Project we would love to hear from you. Rod is the guy in the green shirt or you can speak to me. Also, Rod tell us about the announcement you found out about today regarding Main Street.

Mr. Waits stated on the Park and Recreation Department's Facebook page, their webpage and I believe on the City's website oxfordalabama.org and Mr. Henderson is referencing some of the items that Emil Loeken from our Park's Department is putting out. He has some drone fly overs of the new Sports Complex. I know some of the baseball guys will be really interested in that. He showed some of the progress and he is really keeping a lot of the things on there, I know the League of Our Own. I know a lot of you are involved. I know Jordan is there every Saturday working with the kids and several of you have worked with the kids also. They are constantly keeping images and videos up of that and several other projects. It would be good to go and check that out. Especially the drone fly overs.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Visitors

Mr. Waits called for any comments or questions from anyone present. There were none.

Mr. Waits stated the Council will be meeting with the School Board in a joint meeting at the Oxford High School Annex at 7:00 p.m.

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

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President