

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: April 26, 2016
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Oxford City Hall
PRESENT: Mr. Steven Waits, Council President
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council President Pro Tempore
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council Member
Mr. Phil Gardner, 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.

Judy Pritchett of Lakeview Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we like to recognize students in our school system who have excelled not only in academics but character. Tonight we are going to recognize Malik Satcher. Malik is an 8th grader at Oxford Middle School. His parents are Tyrus Bowen and Denitra Satcher. Malik enjoys football, basketball, and being with his friends. At school he is a member of the football team, Technology Fair Team, and serves as an office assistant. His favorite subject is Math and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Loeken. Malik is excited about going to Oxford High School and serving as an OHS Ambassador. He plans to continue his education and obtain his college degree at Auburn University to be an Athletic Trainer.

Mr. Waits stated we are very proud of you Malik and you are recognized not just for your academics but your character. That is a big deal to all of us.

Malik Satcher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated congratulations and keep up the good work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the April 12, 2016 regular meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of a plaque from the National Golf Foundation to Cider Ridge Golf Club.

Mr. Waits stated one of the best decisions the City made was to work a contract out with Honours Golf to come and take care of our golf facility. Another one of our great decisions was that we have you guys working with us at Choccolocco Park. What you have done has really turned that facility around. You have made it a show piece not just for the City but for the region. It is a name that has gained recognition. This is from the National Golf Foundation National Customer Service Award. Cider Ridge is the 2016 Top Five overall customer satisfaction in the entire United States. That is a major achievement. We are so proud of you and what you have done. These results are from customer service surveys conducted in the fall of 2015. The award is based on the following categories overall value, overall course conditions, customer service in the golf shop, clubhouse and food and beverage, the scenery and aesthetics of the overall property, the friendliness of the entire team and the overall quality of food and beverage, golf shop selection, and just overall experience. Cider Ridge was rated in the 95th percentile overall in all areas of operation. Cider Ridge was one of two Honours managed properties to receive this award and the other facility was Craft Farms in Gulf Shores. Additionally to this award Cider Ridge was also recently awarded the 5th best golf course operation in the State of Alabama rated by Golf Advisor.com. Those rankings were based on golf course conditions and layout, staff friendliness in the golf shop and outside services like food and beverage and overall quality. Congratulations to you guys. Here tonight we have Doug Wert, Director of Golf, Chad Robinson, Director of Grounds, and Michael Mays, Cider Ridge Golf Course Superintendent. If you will come up and if everyone would give them a hand for the great work that they do.

Mr. Waits stated that is such a great honor for the course but the City as well. As I look around the room I see several of you who play golf there and you know how much it has changed over the past several years. Thank you so much. Also, our signature complex at Choccolocco Park and our baseball field has only been open just a couple of weeks and that field was already nominated for the top high school field in the nation. I don't know how they determine that and I know the voting is to start commencing after next week. Certainly that fills up for Alabama and the southeast in the nation and that was a really big surprise. That was a huge honor and one of the highest honors you can have for a field. Thank you for your work there and we look forward to seeing what can happen when more awards come in.

Resolution No. 2016-49 – Resolution for the approval of a wrecker service application by Reid's Auto LLC.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-49. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits stated our ordinance requires an approval process for a wrecker service and this has gone through the Police Department for the approval process.

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. 2016-50 – Resolution for the approval of a wrecker service application by Alabama Body Shop.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-50. 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. 2016-51 – Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Sound Solutions for additional phone lines and internet lines at Choccolocco Park.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-51. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits stated this is to put additional lines in for the media which will be part of the Ohio Valley Conference Championships in softball which starts May 11th. We are excited about that. With that about to start this will handle any additional needs for any additional tournaments on the baseball side as well.

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. 2016-52 – Re-appointing David Mayfield to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for a three year term expiring January 13, 2019.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-52. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits stated David is here with us tonight. David we appreciate your service and is there anything you would like to say. Mr. Mayfield stated increase the pay.

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. 2016-53 – Re-appointing Ty Corban to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for a three year term expiring January 13, 2019.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-53. 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.

Mr. Henderson stated Greg Thrower and Jane Cunningham are also here with us tonight. Greg is the chairman.

Mrs. Hubbard stated we really appreciate the work that they do. It has allowed the Planning Board to have the opportunity to actually do some planning for our City and the comprehensive plan meeting which I will speak more about later. I appreciate that work and the opportunities that you have given us to free up our time to do some planning.

Mr. Waits stated we appreciate you all.

Mr. Waits stated at this time I would like to recognize Mr. Henderson for Resolution No. 2016-54.

Resolution No. 2016-54 – Resolution to spend \$11,000.00 on media converters for Choccolocco Park.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-54. 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.

Mr. Waits stated the next resolution we will add.

Resolution No. 2016-55 – Resolution awarding the bid to Morris Building Contractors in the amount of \$481,500.00 for the construction of Liberty Park.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-55. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I would like to thank you to Police Chief Bill Partridge for working on this project along with Ken Rollins and Cal Munroe. They developed a really nice park which all the citizens will be very proud. It is going to be located at Oxford Lake on the interstate side of the Civic Center. We will be moving plaques and memorabilia from the present Veteran's Park which is located between Choccolocco Street and Snow Street in the downtown area. This will afford a place for us to have ceremonies. It will be lit and lit up all of the time. There will be a pavilion and a place where we can have an event there. There will be three sections to the park. One that will be honoring citizens, one will honor veterans and the other will honor the fallen police and firefighters. Basically, what we have now in the park that we currently have between Snow Street and Choccolocco Street but it isn't designated. There is no place to have an event there or parking that is convenient. Parking will be at the Civic Center and it is going to be a

really beautiful place. There will be a fountain with the City seal in the bottom. We appreciate the commitment from the Council and the work that the gentlemen have done on the park.

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 the next item we will add to the agenda is Ordinance No. 2016-18.

Ordinance No. 2016-18 – Ordinance regulating the utilization of multiple occupancy bathroom or changing facilities in places of public accommodation within the City of Oxford, Alabama and its police jurisdiction.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-18 to be adopted at this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

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. Henderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-18. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits asked Mrs. Hubbard to read the Ordinance.

Mr. Waits stated one of the City Council's greatest responsibilities is to promote and provide for public safety of our citizens and visitors to our City. With that there are some groups that are so immersed with political correctness they can become blind to the unsafe environments their policies may create. So, when unsafe environments are created as leaders of our City we are charged to stand up and protect our citizens. This Ordinance certainly addresses that. To be clear about one thing this Ordinance is not being put in place tonight out of concerns for the 0.3 percent of the population that describes themselves as transgender. It is being put in place to protect our women and children as well as their families from voyeurs, exhibitionists, child molesters, sexual predators and others who use these policies to their advantage. While we are addressing this tonight as a Council it is not an issue that this Council created but it is in response to a national media campaign that has created these unsafe environments. Our citizens have a right to a safe City. To be able to shop and use restroom facilities without concerns or fears. I have always said people will not shop where they do not feel safe. As a retail hub for East Alabama public safety is of great importance to the City of Oxford and as predicted there have already been several incidents where this has occurred. One of which was an Alabama resident visiting another state. This Ordinance certainly represents the overwhelming will of the City of Oxford and it is a common sense concept. It is just a common sense concept.

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.

Mr. Waits stated the next item for the agenda is Resolution No. 2016-56 and for that I am going to recognize Mr. Spurlin.

Resolution No. 2016-56 – Resolution appropriating \$2,500.00 to the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #80 for Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

Mr. Spurlin asked to appropriate \$2,500.00 to the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #80 for Law Enforcement Appreciation Week in our County where law enforcement officers are recognized for a job well done for protecting our citizens. With this expense they feed the officers and this money would help pay for that.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-56. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

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.

Mr. Waits stated the next item on the agenda is Resolution No. 2016-57 and for this I am going to recognize Mrs. Hubbard.

Resolution No. 2016-57 – Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Grizzard Surveying to survey the land at 104 and 108 Spring Branch Drive in the amount of \$750.00.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-57. 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.

Mr. Waits stated I would like to announce that National Day of Prayer will be held here at City Hall on May 5, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. This is an annual event and we invite everyone to come out and participate.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Waits called for Council Comments.

Mrs. Hubbard stated she would like to speak about a very important meeting coming up Thursday night at the Civic Center. At 6:00 p.m. there will be a citizen’s input meeting for our comprehensive plan which is now being called Imagine Oxford. It is very important that if you have any means of communicating like a Facebook page, if you would share that information. We are trying to get the word out through social media to as many of our citizens as we can so that we can get the maximum input to this first meeting of citizens. There will be two more meetings but this one is by far the most important. We will be hearing what this plan is about, updates from interviews with our department heads. Jason Fondren with the KPS Group in Birmingham, which we have contracted with to lead us through this process will be there and

leading us. We are looking forward to it. We are excited about it and the direction our City can go the next twenty years.

Mr. Henderson stated he would like to congratulate the baseball team for their win the other night at Choccolocco Park against Briarwood in the first round of the State Playoffs. They will be playing again this Friday night against Homewood. I encourage you to come out and support the team. I think our tennis team is playing in Mobile for the State Playoffs. We have a couple of our high school teams participating in the State Playoffs. If you get a chance to support those groups please support them. The game Friday night will be at Choccolocco Park and if you have not been out there to see the facility this would be a good opportunity to come out and see it. Like Mr. Waits said it is a great facility and these guys do a great job keeping it up. We have a really great team this year. Coach Brooks has done an excellent job and I am sure they would appreciate everybody's support.

Mr. Waits stated I believe it is at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Just so you know it is the best two out of three so the third game could be Saturday. Correct me if I am wrong but this could be your last opportunity to watch Oxford High School play this year locally. If they win the third and fourth round of the playoffs are away. So this will be the last opportunity to see them play at the park. So if you get a chance Friday night it would be a great opportunity to go root on the Yellow Jackets.

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.

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