

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: April 8, 2014
TIME: 6:30 P.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

ABSENT: 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.

Gary Sparks of Lakeview Baptist Church of Oxford gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we like to recognize students in our school system who have excelled in academics and character. Tonight we would like to recognize Sara Paulson. Sara is a 6th grader at C.E. Hanna Elementary School. Her parents are Lara Hurst and Robert Paulson. Sara enjoys basketball, volleyball and playing outside. Her favorite subject in school is P.E. and her favorite teacher is Mrs. McWilliams. When Sara grows up she wants to be a nurse.

Sara Paulson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Waits stated we appreciate how you represent our school system and keep up the great work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the March 25, 2014 regular meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits stated Mr. Spurlin is absent tonight.

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. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Abstain". The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Recognizing the students participating in Student Government Day on Wednesday, April 16, 2014.

Mr. Waits recognized the students participating in Student Government Day on Wednesday, April 16, 2014. Mr. Waits stated I really hesitate to do this especially this year but Mayor Cates do you have anything to say for your class. Mr. Waits stated Mayor you have your hands full with this one. Mayor Smith stated it will be alright.

Mr. Waits stated you have been an exceptional class and you have represented our City well. I am confident that some of you in a couple of years we will look down the road and you will be extremely successful. We are proud of you and how you have represented us and the school over the past few years. I hope you have a great time and it is a great learning event for you.

Mr. Waits called for Council comments.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I would like to say thank you to their sponsor, Julie Whisenant. She does a great job with them and we appreciate what she does in getting all of this organized. Everyone gets to vote so that was your first experience. This last term was my first experience going through the election and it was a lot of walking. Hopefully you didn't have to do a lot of walking.

Mr. Waits stated I don't know it is a pretty big school now. Mrs. Hubbard stated it is pretty big.

Ordinance No. 2014-03 – Ordinance annexing the property of Eugene Sutley located off Yellow Jacket Lane, Talladega County, containing 14.6 acres, more or less, to be zoned AG-1 (Agriculture).

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2014-03 to be adopted at this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

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

Mr. Gardner made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-03. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits asked if Mr. Sutley is here tonight. Mr. Cecil Freeman stated he is representing Mr. Sutley.

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

Ordinance No. 2014-04 – Ordinance annexing the property of Larry and Darla Craven of 435 Yellow Jacket Lane and Cecil Freeman of 404 Yellow Jacket Lane, Talladega County, containing 2.2 acres, more or less, to be zoned R-1 (Residential).

Mr. Henderson made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2014-04 to be adopted at this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

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

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2014-04. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mrs. Hubbard stated she did ride out to Mr. Freeman's property today and we would like to welcome you into Oxford. I especially loved your little service station that I saw the photograph of earlier.

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

Mr. Waits stated Mr. Freeman welcome to Oxford and it is only fitting that Yellow Jacket Lane be in Oxford.

Resolution No. 2014-15 – Authorizing the Mayor to act as the official representative and to sign all assurances as required by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration under the Transportation Enhancement Grant Program for improved sidewalks in downtown Oxford.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-15. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits recognized Aaron Sexton a Revenue Officer and has filed for these grants. Mr. Waits asked Mr. Sexton to describe where these sidewalk improvements are and what this entails.

Mrs. Hubbard thanked Mr. Sexton for all of his hard work. Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Sexton for his passion and hard work. You do an outstanding job for the City. We are blessed to have you here.

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

Resolution No. 2014-16 – Resolution for an appropriation to the Calhoun/Cleburne Children's Center.

Mr. Waits stated this is in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-16. 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. Henderson "Yea", and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2014-17 – Resolution for an appropriation to 2nd Chance, Inc.

Mr. Waits stated this is in the amount of \$2,000.00.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-17. 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. Henderson "Yea", and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2014-18 – Resolution for an appropriation to Rainbow Omega.

Mr. Waits stated this is in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-18. 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. Henderson "Yea", and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2014-19 – Resolution for an appropriation to Interfaith Ministries.

Mr. Waits stated this is in the amount of \$20,000.00.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-19. 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. Henderson "Yea", and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Waits stated we do want to add one item to the agenda.

Resolution No. 2014-20 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor and/or the City Treasurer to execute any and all notices, claims or other documents necessary to comply with the Municipal Derivatives Antitrust Litigation.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-20. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits recognized Bruce Rice, City Attorney to discuss this resolution. Mr. Rice stated this is a Class Action mitigation on bonds that the City is a potential party in. In order to file this with the court we have to authorize the Mayor/City Treasurer to file an application.

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

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Henderson stated the students may not be aware that we have recently updated our website. If you haven't had a chance to go out and look at our website www.oxfordalabama.org. It looks a lot better than it did a few years ago. It is a lot more user friendly. We received an email today and for the City employees here I will read it. This will show you what a nice website can do for you. Kristi Durham has been doing a good job of keeping the website up to date since we updated the website. This is proof of what a nice website can do for your community or town. We are very proud of it. If you get a chance please go out and visit the site. I hope Mr. Police's wife gets the job so that they can move here and bring their three children.

Mr. Henderson stated the Oxford Quarterback Club will have their annual Spring Banquet fundraiser on April 25th. Any adults who are interested in coming it is on April 25th at the Oxford Civic Center.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I wanted to update everyone on the Main Street Initiative. Our group met last night and we are moving forward with that application. The Council passed a resolution earlier regarding that. This is an initiative for economic development in the downtown area which goes right along with what Mr. Sexton has done in the grant. These projects are going to go hand in hand.

Mr. Hubbard stated another thing we will have going on in the downtown area is the Farmer's Market. We are looking forward and have met and it will be a certified Farmer's Market this year. So if any of you know someone who is a grower they are eligible for a smart phone, a card reader, a printer and two years of free service that they can use at the market. Since we are a certified market they are eligible to come. That just means we don't have any resellers in our market. These are all local people who grow berries, fruits, vegetables, flowers and plants, all of those kinds of things. We do have some crafts as well. This year's market will probably have grown a bit from last year because we have several growers who are interested. Some from Cleburne County and St. Clair County because they are looking for places that are certified markets that don't allow resellers to come. This will start about the middle of May but we do have a page called Downtown After Sundown and it will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday night.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Smith stated he has no comments.

Visitors

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

Mr. Bill Bunn addressed the Council regarding putting road improvements in the 2015 Budget for Lane Road between Friendship Road and McIntosh Road.

Mr. Waits stated our new engineer is actually working on a paving program for the City and also a drainage program for the City. So we can actually share this with him and let him go look at that.

Mrs. Hubbard stated an update from the Planning Board. The Mayor and I are on that board and we are meeting in the morning. Bill Newman, Chairman of the Planning Board asked a committee made up of Clyde Huckeba, myself and Melissa Craven as well as Rusty Gann, City Engineer and Wayne Livingston, Oxford Water Works will be there to discuss the Stormwater issues in several places. These are the kinds of things that we will be moving forward with. It is a really good committee that we have established and we are working hard.

Heath Ray of Fish Hatchery Lane addressed the Council regarding an update on the road improvements. Mr. Henderson stated that Rusty Gann has met with Shannon Jones, Department of Transportation and they asked for a traffic impact study. We approved for the impact study to be done. Rusty is working with Mr. Jones and with Sain and Associates. I haven't gotten an update from Rusty within the last few days. It is moving in the direction that you want it to like getting the traffic impact study. We will not get the kind of results we want in the time frame. Mr. Waits stated it was four weeks ago we agreed to the impact study so it should be getting close. Mr. Henderson stated we should be getting the results of the study any day now. As soon as we get that it will allow Mr. Jones, the Alabama Department of Transportation and the City to go in the direction we need to go.

Mr. Waits stated we will need to go into an Executive Session to discuss real or potential litigation matters and I will recognize Bruce Rice, City Attorney to certify what we will be discussing.

Mr. Rice stated I will certify that there are a couple of matters of pending litigation.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to go into Executive Session. 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. Henderson "Yea", and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Waits stated we will go to the Conference Room for the Executive Session and we will come back to the Council Chambers to adjourn.

Mr. Waits stated we appreciate you being here and to the student's congratulations and goodluck. We are excited that you are able to participate. I think it will be a lot of fun but I also think it will be educational.

Mr. Waits stated we are going to set a meeting for Friday, April 11th at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. Mr. Waits stated with a pre-meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to set a meeting for Friday, April 11th at 9:00 a.m. 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. Henderson "Yea", and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

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

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President