

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: December 22, 2015
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

ABSENT: Mayor Leon Smith
Mr. Phil Gardner, 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.

Minister John Ross of Betta View Hills Church of Christ gave the invocation.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Ross for taking the time out of his day to come and pray for us. It is important to us and we really appreciate it.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated Mr. Gardner is absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the December 8, 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. 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

Mr. Waits stated at this time I would like to recognize Casey Ramey with the Muscular Dystrophy Association for a presentation to the Oxford Fire Department. We appreciate her and always recognizing our Fire Department.

Ms. Ramey thanked the Council for allowing her to come and recognize the Fire Department. Ms. Ramey presented a plaque to Rodney Pate with the Oxford Fire Department.

Mr. Waits stated thank you Ms. Ramey for always being there for our guys. We were at the Fire Department Christmas Party the other night and we ran down through all the lists of public service milestones that you guys have met throughout the years including the MDA. If you were just fire fighters and did what you did we would be appreciative. Going through the list and hearing what you did for our community above and beyond being a fire fighter is beyond being impressive. We really appreciate what you guys do for us and how you support your community. You are certainly the best of the best and we appreciate you.

Ordinance No. 2015-24 – Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2015-23 Section 32-4 (c)(e).

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2015-24 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. Spurlin “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-24. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated in an effort to clarify our solicitation ordinance, visitation versus solicitation.

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

Ordinance No. 2015-25 – Ordinance setting the compensation for the Office of the Mayor for the term beginning November 7, 2016.

Mr. Waits stated this will be the next administrations Mayor and the compensation will be set at \$125,000.00 a year.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2015-25 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. Spurlin “Yes”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-25. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Spurlin stated that I agree that the Mayor should be the highest paid City Employee but I can't agree with almost doubling the salary all at once.

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

Ordinance No. 2015-26 – Ordinance setting the compensation for the Elected Officials of the City of Oxford for the term beginning November 7, 2016.

Mr. Waits stated this will be the next administration. The compensation will be set for Council President at \$12,000.00 a year and Council members at \$9,000.00 a year.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2015-26 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-26. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated it has probably been twenty years since the Council salary has been raised and we felt like since the Council President carries a little more duties should be paid a little more than just a regular Council person. The reason we are having to raise the Mayor's salary so much is because Mayor Smith refused to take a raise during the years and we wouldn't have to raise it quite so much. I just wanted to make people aware it has been a long time since the Council has gotten a raise.

Mr. Waits stated I believe it was 1999.

Mr. Spurlin stated for the Council correct, the Mayor received a raise four years ago.

Mr. Henderson stated we still have employees making more.

Mr. Spurlin stated I don't disagree Mr. Henderson, I think the Mayor is the CEO of the City and he should be the highest paid employee. We gave him a raise a little over \$10,000.00 over four years ago. I could see structuring this to increase it. I just don't agree with doing it all at one time.

Mr. Henderson stated I respect that and I didn't mean to get back on all of that. We were just talking about all of these raises. I don't want people to think we sit up here and give ourselves a raise.

Mr. Waits stated let's be clear this is not for this Council. This is for whoever is elected as the next Council. A couple of the things that are looked at as well. We also get compared to Prattville in everything that we do in sports, everything. A good example of some of the salaries we were looking at for the Council is the salary for the Council President in Prattville is \$20,000.00 and the Council salary is \$17,500.00. We also looked at the salaries of the Council in Gadsden and in other cities of similar sizes. While this is an increase it is not up to the level of others. For me this is why this was important. Our Council does not take or have an expense account. Several cities set aside an expense account for the Council in the amount of \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 to cover travel, lunches, whatever you have to go to. Not just us but previous Councils paid those out of pocket and we will continue to do so. That kind of factors in and the City has changed so much since 1999 for the Council members to the meetings and we have always gotten calls seven days a week and the fact that you are having to attend meetings five and six times a week. So whoever the next Council may be I felt like that was appropriate. It will essentially cover their expenses to serve.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I think the point was well made and this is my first term. I think one of the things people might not realize is the number of miles that you travel as a Council person to various meetings throughout the year. Whether it is a board meeting like I am on the Planning Board and that is a paid board within our City but the Council representative is not compensated for that. There is a good bit of travel just for that alone to various sites to look at things that are coming up. That is the one thing that I have noticed is that there is a lot of local travel with this job. I think this is fair.

Mr. Henderson stated since the roles changed back in 2004 basically the Council has assumed a larger role in term of management of the City and things like that and the funds. So the role of the Council has expanded and the Council President should be compensated a bit more because they have added responsibilities in representing the City. We could debate this all night.

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

Resolution No. 2015-128 – Resolution appointing Kae Bailey to the Library Board for a three year term expiring October 27, 2018.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-128. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated Mrs. Bailey is with us tonight and we appreciate your willingness to serve.

Mr. Henderson stated she is very qualified and I appreciate her serving. I have known Kae since high school days. She has been in the education business as well as her husband Denny who is also a City employee. I appreciate the work he does and they have done in the education of our children through the years. They are good people. I appreciate Amy Henderson, Librarian being here showing her support.

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

Mr. Waits thanked Amy Henderson for being here and supporting Mrs. Bailey.

Resolution No. 2015-129 – Resolution awarding the bid for the Exclusive Soft Drink Pouring Rights at Choccolocco Park and Oxford Lake Park.

Mr. Waits stated we bid this out and essentially we had two bids received from Pepsi and Coca Cola. Coca Cola won the bid and will actually be giving the City \$191,700.00 a year related to this bid.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-129. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated he is excited about this bid. They are going to be giving us \$191,700.00.

Mr. Waits stated that is a lot of Coke. Mr. Henderson stated that is a lot of money. They realize that this facility is going to be a state of the art facility and what it is going to mean to this community. They are willing to be a part of it and they are willing to put that kind of money to be a part of this facility. It says a lot to me about what we are doing out there and their commitment to be a part of it and not let their competitor be a part of it. It excites me and it shows there is excitement in the community.

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

Resolution No. 2015-130 – Resolution awarding the bid for Magazine Printing Services.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-130. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated it will be going to Walsworth, a company in Marceline, Missouri in the amount of \$11,083.20 including freight and postage.

Mr. Henderson asked if Emil Loeken could give a quick presentation on what this will be. Mr. Henderson asked Emil if he could let everyone know what the magazine will be about as some may not know about it.

Mr. Waits stated I think he said this is \$39,000.00 cheaper than the second bid.

Mrs. Hubbard stated thank you for your work on this. He has worked hard on this and I am excited to see it.

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

Resolution No. 2015-131 – Resolution for a memorandum of agreement between the City of Oxford and Talladega County Emergency Management Communication District for GIS Data sets.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-131. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated our City Engineer Rusty Gann was telling us this will allow him to use the Talladega County GIS information and there is no cost associated with this. This is an agreement that the data is secure.

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

Resolution No. 2015 – 132 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Kimberly Appraisal Services for an appraisal of property on Leon Smith Parkway in the amount of \$500.00.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-132. 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. Spurlin “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2015-133 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission in connection with the CDBG Planning Grant for downtown revitalization.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-133. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mrs. Hubbard stated they are going to help us manage the planning grant we have been awarded, a Community Development Block Grant and we are excited about that. I am calling this the Phase II of the downtown revitalization and we will be looking at what comes next, what we can do to improve the downtown area. This is just for the plan for that which is the first step. So we are looking forward to doing that and us obtaining some more grant funds.

Mr. Henderson stated he appreciated the article Zach Tyler wrote for *The Anniston Star* on the downtown revitalization. I appreciate you doing that and making people aware of it.

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

Resolution No. 2015-134 – Resolution for change order #3 at the Oxford Recreational Complex.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-134. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated this is a change order in the amount of \$1,414,915.76. There are several items included in this like repairing sink holes and other things. One of the big things was we had a presentation in the work session from Coach Steve Gray, Jacksonville State University's Track and Field Coach. We have been working with him to make the facility NCAA prepared and we can have track meets. He shared with us that Jacksonville State will use that as their home track and give us the opportunity for our level AAU and NCAA events. We are excited about that and the doors that is opening. Part of that \$422,000.00 in track changes and adding \$393,000.00 is obviously the bulk of the change order.

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

Mr. Waits stated the next item we will add.

Resolution No. 2015-135 – Resolution for an easement with Alabama Power Company at the City Garage and Street Department.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-135. 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Waits called for Council Comments.

Mr. Henderson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Mr. Waits stated we need to set a Public Hearing for January 12, 2016 to consider the following request which was approved by the Oxford Planning Commission at their December 1, 2015 meeting:

A.) Zoning request from Kathryn and James Warford to zone the property located at 723 County Line Road to R-1 (Residential).

- B.) Zoning request from Adam and Emily Maniscalco to zone the property located at 333 Jewell Road to R-1 (Residential).
- C.) Re-zoning request from Don James to re-zone 10 acres of property off Leon Smith Parkway (Weatherly Ridge Subdivision) from Garden Homes (G.H.) to Town Homes (T.H.).

Visitors

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

Bill Bunn of 2017 Cheatwood Drive stated he would like to take this time to thank the Mayor, City Council and all of the employees as the year comes to an end for all the work you have done and to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Waits stated thank you Mr. Bunn we are a blessed City no doubt.

Mr. Waits stated City Hall will be closed on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th for Christmas holidays. City Hall will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2016 for New Year's Day. Allied Waste will not run on Friday, December 25, 2015 and Friday, January 1, 2016 and will run Friday's routes on Saturday.

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

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President