

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: February 11, 2014  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Oxford City Hall  
PRESENT: Mayor Leon Smith  
Mr. Steven Waits, Council President  
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council President Pro Tempore  
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member  
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council Member

ABSENT: 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.

Mr. Waits stated since the last time we got to meet we had a snow/ice event and we lost Larry Gardner, our Assistant Street Superintendent for the City for many, many years. He was a true public servant and servant is the key word there. I would like to recognize him and I ask Greg as we pray tonight to pray for Larry's family. We are grateful for what he did for our City and he will be greatly missed.

Greg Turner of First Baptist Church of Oxford gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Mr. Waits stated that Mr. Gardner is absent due to being sick.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the January 14, 2014 regular meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

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**

**Ordinance No. 2014-01 – Ordinance approving a reversion interest to the Alabama Department of Transportation on Commons Way.**

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2014-01 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 adopt Ordinance No. 2014-01. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits recognized Bruce Rice, City Attorney for an explanation on this Ordinance. Mr. Rice stated the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) originally deeded the road over to the City. A reverse deed is required by ALDOT. Mr. Rice stated that ALDOT required access to property along the interstate and we were cutting that access off and in turn we have to deed another access and that would be Commons Way.

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.

Mr. Waits stated I am about to recognize Mr. Spurlin for a Resolution not on tonight’s agenda related to the purchase of two ambulances for Oxford Emergency Medical Services (EMS). We initially budgeted for one ambulance this year but we are going to go ahead and purchase two. Mr. Waits recognized Mr. Spurlin.

**Resolution No. 2014-05 – Resolution to allow Oxford Emergency Medical Services, Inc. to purchase two additional ambulances in the amount of \$209,640.00.**

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-05. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated our EMS does an outstanding job for our City. We discussed in the work session about the quality of care they provide our citizens. Mr. Spurlin made a great point that these are Oxford people taking care of Oxford people. They do an incredible job and we are proud of them for what they do. These two ambulances will be coupled with the ambulance we bought last year to help them provide better service for our City.

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. Henderson stated I mentioned in the work session that we should be rolling out the new webpage pretty soon. It will have a whole new look and hopefully a lot more user friendly. We hope to get that going really soon.

Mr. Henderson stated for the people on Fish Hatchery Road we hope to have a report back from the engineer soon. We can look at that and look over the recommendations and hopefully get some action going there. Hopefully we can help that situation.

Mr. Henderson stated I also want to mention one other quick thing. I want to congratulate Don Hudson, Park and Recreation Director who has been chosen to serve another term on the Calhoun County Commission. I want to congratulate him on that. He has done a good job and I am sure he will continue to do a good job over the next four years.

Mr. Spurlin stated I would like to thank Chief Partridge, Chief Sparks, our emergency responders and the Street Department. For the past couple of weeks, it is not very frequent that we get bad weather but when we do we are even caught off guard and they still adapted. They got our streets in good condition and did an excellent job. They lost a lot of hours of sleep and they stayed up around the clock. Our policemen, firemen and rescue squad did an excellent job. I know last night they were prepared if something did happen and they are prepared again tonight. A lot of times it is taken for granted but I just wanted to tell them we appreciate them and we appreciate the job they do. I know that is above and beyond but I appreciate your service to the City of Oxford and proud to have you.

Mr. Waits stated I do want to tag onto that something real quick into the record. This is from Dr. Jeff Goodwin, School Superintendent of the Oxford City School System:

The winter storm that struck our city on January 28, 2014 put our school system in a precarious situation. Impassable roads, dangerous driving conditions, stranded students and employees made the storm a true safety crisis beyond our ability to properly manage. It is only due to the dedicated efforts of the first responders of our city that we were able to come through the storm in far better condition than many school districts across the south.

I would like to publicly give my deepest thanks to Chief Bill Partridge and Chief Gary Sparks for their respective department's tireless efforts during the storm. From directing traffic, clearing roads, establishing clear communication during cell phone outages and finally transporting stranded employees and students home, Oxford Police and Fire Department staff stayed at our schools until the last child was delivered safely home.

We are fortunate to live in a city where the children of our schools are a high priority. All first responders including Oxford Police, Oxford Fire, EMS and our city garage provided incredible aid and assistance to our schools and turned a crisis situation into an opportunity for the rest of our State to see what a special place our city is.

Mr. Waits stated that is really well said. We appreciate what you are doing and I know you are getting ready for round two for tomorrow. Hopefully we will not have as difficult as a time and I was impressed when the people that I work with in Birmingham and other places were talking about kids not being able to get home from school. At 5:30 p.m. our last student was safely home due to your efforts.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I am looking forward to attending the Main Streets project meeting in Prattville. The State has hired a new Main Street project director, Mary Hallman. I am hoping to make that meeting Thursday and find out more about Main Streets and the new initiative in Alabama that our State is putting toward that project and the kind of things that it can bring financially to our city as well as esthetically and tourism and different things like that. I will know more about that after I attend that meeting.

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Smith stated that it is good for Charlotte to attend that meeting.

### Visitors

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

Mr. Waits stated before we adjourn I am going to ask the Council for a motion to go into Executive Session for three different issues. Two issues related to the purchase or sell of real estate and one issue related to litigation. I would like to ask our Attorney, Bruce Rice to validate that.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits stated before we vote what we will do is, we will go into the Conference Room and have this Executive Session and we will adjourn from there.

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.

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