

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: February 23, 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.

Tim Simpson of First Baptist Church of Oxford gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we recognize students in our school system who are not only excelling in academics but in character. Tonight we recognize Brent Honaker. Brent is a 6th grader at C. E. Hanna Elementary School. His parents are Clay and Stacie Honaker. Brent enjoys playing baseball, hunting, and fishing. His favorite subject is Math and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Kirnie. When Brent grows up he wants to be a professional baseball player.

Brent Honaker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated congratulations Brent and keep it up. Stacie we appreciate you. I will not miss an opportunity to thank a teacher in our school system. She is also the sponsor of our varsity cheerleaders and have been for several years. I know that is a lot of work and you do a great job. I wanted to recognize you while you are here. We appreciate you and what you do in our system.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the February 9, 2016 regular meeting. Mrs. Hubbard 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2016-13 – Ordinance to allow for a home occupation license.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-13. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. Mr. Waits recognized Mike Roberts, Building Inspector for comments.

Mr. Waits stated this came up because we had someone who had a business license for personal computer use for their job.

Mr. Henderson stated I thought this was limited to computer type businesses but it is any home business, right? The reason I am asking is because in some of our nicer neighborhoods we have people who have a garage beside their house and they actually work on cars. We have one in our neighborhood.

Mr. Waits stated this Ordinance does not allow that. Mr. Henderson stated reading through it I didn't see it and just wanted to make sure it doesn't allow for things like that.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2016-14 – Ordinance amending Chapter 14 Section 14.3 (B) of the Code of Ordinances in the City of Oxford by repealing Chapter 14 Section 14.3 (B).

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-14 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-14. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated essentially this Ordinance changes the sales of fireworks from the Police Chief to the Fire Chief. Years ago we didn't have a Fire Chief and this is updating that Ordinance now that we have a Fire Chief in 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.

Ordinance No. 2016-15 – Ordinance authorizing the issuance of tax-exempt General Obligation Warrants, Series 2016A.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-15 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.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-15. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits recognized Andy Waid, Frazier Lanier Company for comments on Ordinance No. 2016-15 and the other items.

Mr. Waid stated thank you for the opportunity to be here tonight. The Ordinance No. 2016-15 authorizes the issuance of \$12.5 million of tax-exempt obligation warrants. The strength of the City’s credit rating and the strong liquidity balance, the General Fund balance is allowing the City to reach that debt. The next Ordinance No. 2016-16 authorizes the issuance of approximately \$3.9 million of taxable general obligation warrants. These warrants will refund poor maturities from Series 2007A and will be maturities 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. The City is currently paying 2 ½ to 3 percent on those maturities and they will be paying approximately 41 basis points. That will also free up the cash flow of the City for the next few years so you can increase the General Fund. The remaining three resolutions will address the Debt Management Policy of the City. The City has practiced this policy since it has been in existence. We are only formalizing it in writing. It is a bonus in the eyes of the rating agency to have a formal policy in place. It is the best practices for debt management that the City has operated under for the last 20 or 30 years. The General Fund Reserve Policy identifies a target minimum for the City to maintain in the General Fund balance, the unrestricted General Fund balance of \$70 million. That goes to the strength of the City’s credit rating, help them maintain that credit rating and also allow them to go into the market which allows them to borrow at the lowest cost possible. The City of Oxford Investment Policy is formalizing the State guidelines in writing. The City has operated under this policy since day 1 of its existence. It is just putting into writing what the State’s policy is as far as municipalities and what they are allowed to invest in. Once again this is just a benefit to the City in the eyes of the rating agency. It is a plus in their eyes. It will allow the City to achieve the highest rating possible.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Waid for all of his work. We are extremely blessed to be able to put our money at that rate. We appreciate everyone’s work on this, Alton Craft, Finance Director and everyone in that department and Aimee Birchfield.

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.

Ordinance No. 2016-16 – Ordinance authorizing the issuance of taxable General Obligation Warrants, Series 2016B.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-16 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-16. 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.

Resolution No. 2016-22 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contractual agreement with KPS Group, Inc. to adopt and complete a comprehensive plan and update the City's Zoning Ordinance.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-22. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions. Mr. Waits recognized Mrs. Hubbard for comments.

Mrs. Hubbard stated last week we had a presentation by Jason Fondren, who will be leading this project with us. There are going to be several phases. They are going to start by assembling maps and data about our City. Then they will have a meeting with our community. It will be a vision growth strategy using some previous information when we worked with East Alabama Planning and they will also do a land use and transportation plan with us. Constantly working with City employees and with citizens in our City to develop these plans. They will do a public facilities recommendation, current and future infrastructure in our City. Then they will come up with a final plan talking about strategies for ways for us to implement the comprehensive plan that we develop. We are looking forward to this and asked him to set a project deadline of July. They are going to be simultaneously being working on zoning ordinances in our City as they begin to work on this comprehensive plan and meeting with our citizens. They are going to already begin to look at our zoning ordinances in our City help us begin to update them. They have already collaborated with us on the home business policy we passed tonight. I am looking forward to working with them.

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 now we will address those policies Mr. Waid mentioned.

Resolution No. 2016-23 – Approval of City of Oxford Debt Management Policy.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-23. 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. 2016-24 – Approval of City of Oxford General Fund Reserve Policy.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-24. 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. 2016-25 – Approval of the City of Oxford Investment Policy.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-25. 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 we are going to add one item to the agenda.

Resolution No. 2016-26 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Terracon Consultants, Inc. to perform geotechnical engineering services for the new Maintenance Facility.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-26. 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 our next regularly scheduled meeting is March 8, 2016. Three of us will be in Washington, D.C. so we are going to look at moving the meeting to that Thursday, March 10, 2016.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to change the regularly scheduled meeting of March 8, 2016 to March 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. 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.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Waits called for Council Comments. There were none.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Mr. Waits stated we need to set a public hearing for March 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. for a condemnation at 1220 Friendship Road.

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. Gardner.

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President