

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: January 12, 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

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.

Tommy Screws of Calvary Baptist Church gave the invocation.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Screws for being here and praying for us.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we like to recognize students in our school system who are excelling in not only athletics but academics and character. Tonight we recognize Tymeria Smith-Lindsey. She is a 2nd grader at Oxford Elementary School. Her parents are Tamika and Tim Smith-Lindsey. Tymeria enjoys dancing, tumbling, and softball. At school she is involved in Literature Circle Reading Teams because she likes to read. Her favorite subject in school is Math and her favorite teacher is Mrs. Pilkington. When Tymeria grows up she wants to be a teacher.

Tymeria Smith-Lindsey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated great job Tymeria 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 December 22, 2015 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

Mr. Waits stated that Mayor Smith and Mr. Gardner are absent.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2016-01 – Ordinance annexing the property of Kathryn and James Warford of 723 County Line Road, Talladega County, containing 1.00 acres, more or less.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-01 to be adopted at this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

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. 2016-01. 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. Spurlin “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing

Mr. Waits opened the public hearing to receive comments on the request of Kathryn and James Warford to zone the property located at 723 County Line Road to R-1 (Residential). Mr. Waits declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Waits asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against this. There were none.

Mr. Waits stated I met Mrs. Warford a few minutes ago and they are out in the lobby.

Mr. Waits declared the public hearing closed.

Ordinance No. 2016-02 – Ordinance to zone the property located at 723 County Line Road to R-1 (Residential).

Mr. Henderson made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-02 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 “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-02. 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.

Ordinance No. 2016-03 – Ordinance annexing the property of Adam and Emily Maniscalco located at 333 Jewell Road, Calhoun County, containing 1.15 acres, more or less.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-03 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 "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-03. 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.

Public Hearing

Mr. Waits opened the public hearing to receive comments on the request of Adam and Emily Maniscalco to zone the property located at 333 Jewell Road to R-1 (Residential). Mr. Waits declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Waits asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against this. There were none.

Adam Maniscalco addressed the Council and thanked them for joining the City of Oxford.

Mr. Waits declared the public hearing closed.

Ordinance No. 2016-04 – Ordinance to zone the property located at Jewell Road to R-1 (Residential).

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-04 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 "Yes", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-04. 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.

Mr. Waits stated now we are going to address the item on the agenda I am sure most of you are here for. We are about to have a public hearing and I know there is a lot of you here. I am going to ask for you to limit your comments if possible with 100 or so people here we want to hear as much as who wants to speak. What I am also going to do is I am going to ask if you are for this to speak first and if you are against it speak second.

Public Hearing

Mr. Waits opened the public hearing to receive comments on the request of Don James to re-zone 10 acres off Leon Smith Parkway from GH (Garden Homes) to TH (Town Homes). Mr. Waits declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Waits asked if there was anyone here to speak for this matter. As you come up speak into the microphone and state your name and address.

Don James of 129 West 7th Street, Anniston stated I am pretty sure I am going to be the only person speaking in favor of this tonight. We really feel like this will really enhance the remaining 22 acres we own, it will increase our property values and would be a good addition to Oxford. We wouldn't endorse this project if we didn't feel like it would be a good project. We will be more than happy to answer any questions.

Bradley Carroll with Vantage Development, stated we have optioned the property from the James Brothers Development. I want to give you a short presentation on the property and then I will be glad to answer any questions. When we first came to Oxford we found this great piece of property that was close to shopping and the growth pattern. It was already zoned residential and it was my understanding that it was going to be zoned commercial a while back and a lot of people showed up and didn't want to do that. It is garden home/town home zoned already so what we are proposing to do is a project that will be about \$9.1 million, rental for a few years and then it will be available for purchase is the general plan we have now. We are also our own general contractor and would be responsible for managing it. One of the things we do as a management company and owner because we take great pride in how we build a project, is we screen all of our tenants. They go through a criminal background check, previous landlord check, credit check and verification. So if someone has a felony conviction they do not live there. This is housing for people who have a job working just down the street at Target possibly or other places. This is for someone needing a decent safe place to live. This is what we do. We are very excited about the City of Oxford, very excited about the area and the new park that is going in that I know you have been working on for quite some time. We feel like this is a good project with a lot of economic activity for the City roughly \$9.1 million and it will fulfill a need for people to have an affordable, decent and safe place to live. We are not picking anyone up, we don't manufacture people and we don't truck them in. They are living here right now and living in substandard conditions and paying what is called rent over burden. They are paying 30 to 40 percent of their monthly income for rent. This is what we are here to try to help. As a long term owner we are very interested in coming to cities that are showing growth signs, want development and have a need for what we do. I thank you very much for your time. Thank you to the Council and to the people who we will be hearing from soon. I will be happy to answer anyone's questions about anything.

Mr. Waits stated thank you. Mr. Carroll stated we have a board so everyone can see. These are some examples of properties we have built in the past. We of course would meet any requirements that the City of Oxford with regard to what it is supposed to look like, the amount of masonry, the amount of brick, the landscaping, the fencing, the sight lighting and all of that kind of stuff. This is just a general idea of what we do but again it is specific to every city and state. So whatever the requirements are we will follow.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Carroll. Is there anyone else here to speak for this matter? There was none. Is there anyone here to speak against this matter?

Mike Kelly of 6038 Shannon Brook Lane thanked the Council for the opportunity to address this group. My wife's family and my family have lived in this area for many years. We love it deeply. Last year we purchased a home at 6038 Shannon Brook Lane. Before we purchased that home we came down to this very building and checked on the zoning of this land that is in question. We were told it was for Garden Homes and R-1. Obviously that was acceptable to us and we went ahead and purchased the home. We are concerned about this change that it is going to adversely affect the value of the home, of our home and the others around us and potentially the community. Oxford has invested a lot of money in that area out there. The traffic is alright but high traffic can be a good thing. There is multi-millions of dollars in tax revenue that comes in out there. There is a complex, a sports complex that we haven't even realized the impact from yet. The first ball hasn't been thrown which is going to be a model for the City. It is a great thing that we have done out there but we don't know what that impact is going to be as far as traffic. We are hoping that is going to generate money as well as new businesses going up. I would think the time to be conservative about any kind of change in that area until we realize the impact of all of the things going on in that area. I know that I have talked to many people and with as many people that is here we have serious concerns. I know there are going to be more people that want to speak. Thank you very much.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Kelly.

Mary Elliott of 1913 Robinhood Drive stated we built our home 38 years ago. My late husband and I have been very involved in the community. We graduated from Oxford. Our children graduated from Oxford. Lynn, my husband was very well respected. In fact you honored his memory by naming a Fire Station Lynn Elliott Station 6 and Training Center. I taught and retired recently after 25 years of teaching at the Oxford City Schools. I feel like this project would not be beneficial to our area of where it is. I feel like it would add un-needed stress on our police department on our demands, our Fire Department, our EMS, the traffic I think everything would be a disadvantage for us at this time. So, I respectfully ask you to please consider not re-zoning this area and leave it as the Garden Homes which is originally stated. Thank you.

Mr. Waits thanked Mrs. Elliott.

Fred Prater of 5110 Red Oak Drive stated I have been living in this town since 1942. So, I have grown up with it like most of you. Also, with the ball field and all I have attended all of the meetings now that is at the back of me. That has already de-valued my property some but I am going to live with that. What I would respectfully ask that one block in front of me that you not let them put in homes that would degrade the property in that area. We all pay our property taxes and we pay dearly with the homes that we have purchased and built out there. So, therefore I respectfully ask that you please consider the people who have already invested in Oxford and in

their homes out there and do not re-zone it and let it go down. We are all proud of our area out there. Thank you.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Prater. Is there anyone else?

Terry Cole and my wife, Charlene of 4014 Forest Lane stated we built a brand new house and we don't want to see the community go down in prices or we wouldn't have built the house there. I am new to this community and I want to keep my property and stuff around it looking nice and safe. That's all I have to say because I would have never have moved here if something like that comes in. You build a brand new house in a subdivision.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Cole.

Virgil Deshler of 6117 Shannon Brook Lane stated there should be no re-zoning of this property. It is our neighborhood and I believe we would benefit by having Garden Homes. Garden Homes sell easily and they tend to be purchased by more mature, stable individuals. When an individual or family invests their own time and money into a home they will have an emotional connection to the home. A family is more likely to become long term residents of the City as well as being more active in activities. A homeowner will take pride in his home and that will translate into a better maintained home. So for the betterment of the community and the City of Oxford as a whole please do not re-zone this property. Thank you.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Deshler. Mr. Spurlin asked for Mr. Deshler's home address on Shannon Brook. Mr. Waits asked if there was anyone else here to speak against this matter.

Harry Sutton of 6208 Shannon Brook Lane stated I moved to Shannon Brook Lane about 20 years ago having lived in two other places in Calhoun County. In those other places I kept moving up and I felt moving into the area I am living now was moving up. I paid a tidy price for the house. Since then we have put about \$85,000.00 worth of improvements into the house and I would respectfully ask you not to re-zone. All of that money that I invested into my home and I am now retired and I expect to live there until I die. I would like the house to be worth something for my kids. This is déjà vu all over again by the way. It was several years ago that I met in this room and Mayor Smith was here at the time. There were a bunch of concerned people in this room about what was going to happen with that strip of land. He described what type of homes were proposed to be built there and I think that contractor probably went out of business and I think that is why we are here today. He assured us that it was going to be zoned to put in as the gentleman said before put in the type of homes where people would take pride in their homes because they paid a fair price for their home. We went away feeling good about it and it was zoned accordingly. Please don't re-zone it.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Sutton.

Patricia Armour of 5306 Red Oak Drive stated I have been there a short time. I have the park directly behind me at the back of my house. I have lived around a lot of places. The townhouses will look nice for the first couple of years but after that they will start looking bad. Not only that, it is going to bring crime because there are going to be people that they are not going to be able to screen. There is going to be a young lady or young man to move in but you don't know that he is going to be any different. So, we are not going to be able to screen that all of the time and these places if you put them there and you don't own it you don't take care of it that well. You

are not going to know who owns it. I moved to Oxford as a better place and a beautiful neighborhood that I hope to stay there until I die. I didn't move there to have rental property around me. I looked around the neighborhood and some of the houses that I moved to and the older neighborhoods that I moved to I saw people moving out and rent their homes, I declined those. So, I would ask you not to re-zone it.

Mr. Waits thanked Mrs. Armour. Mr. Spurlin asked Mrs. Armour for her physical address. Mr. Waits stated we want to try to wind this up.

Francis Howland, Jr. of 4017 Forest Lane stated it was 2001 when I retired from the depot. I was here about 6 years ago when there was a dispute about zoning and there was a business being run in the neighborhood. We got that fixed. Things went along fine until I found out about this. I remember not too long after I moved here the building of Leon Smith Parkway. Part of the explanation on that was more access. Now with the sports complex if we re-zone this it is going to be worse. Is the developer going to widen the road and pay millions of dollars to do that, I don't think so. It took 6 years of legislation to get a red light installed. I digress my question is if you do vote for this thing what assurance do we have that the next thing regime in Washington since they have already edicted that Section 8 housing will be placed in other neighborhoods. It has already happened at McClellan. I know people who have left there because Section 8 housing has moved in. I have the same idea as the other fella, I am retired now and I plan to stay there until I die. I would ask you not to re-zone it.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Howland. I see one more hand in the back so I am going to go with one more and we are going to wrap this up.

Joyce Kirby of 6002 Shannon Brook Lane stated years ago through no fault of my own and no how you color the projects I was forced into the projects. I want to tell you how they screen these people. I walked in with a black eye because I had been kidnapped. She asked me what happened to my eye and I told her I ran into the door. They gave me the keys. This is the screening you are going to get for these projects in this area. I moved to Shannon Brook almost 5 years ago and I moved there because it was a safe place for Kurt. If you put these projects in there not only, he is not going to be allowed out by himself. Our property values are going to go down and I will not be able to sell so I can't move. I am before you tonight and please don't do this.

Mr. Waits thanked Mrs. Kirby.

Mr. Waits declared the public hearing closed. Here is what we are going to do. Because this is an Ordinance we have to get unanimous consent from the Council to vote on this tonight. So, it has to be a unanimous vote of the Council and then after that we will take up the vote of the actual Ordinance to re-zone the property.

Ordinance No. 2016-05 – Ordinance to re-zone 10 acres off Leon Smith Parkway (Weatherly Ridge Subdivision) from GH (Garden Homes) to TH (Town Homes).

Mr. Henderson made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-05 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. Waits called for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-05. There was none. The Ordinance dies from a lack of motion. We will move on to the next item on the agenda. So, this does not pass. What I am going to do right now since there are over 100 people in this room and I know several are against the wall. I am going to give everyone the opportunity to leave if you want to leave. We are going to have about six or seven other items on the agenda. There is a place later on the agenda for Council comments where the Council may make some comments but right now we are going to move on in the agenda. This Ordinance to re-zone the property failed due to not having a motion or a second. Let me just be real clear the Ordinance did not pass tonight because it didn't get a first or second. So it had no support meaning it stays and will not change. I am going to give you two minutes in case you want to leave but we will get back started promptly in two minutes.

Mr. Waits stated if you will gather back around we are going to try to get started. Let's go ahead and get started back.

Ordinance No. 2016-06 – Ordinance amending the property description contained in Ordinance No. 2015-22.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-06 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 "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-06. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits stated we had a gentleman to donate property to the City a few weeks ago and what we are doing is amending the description of that property. Actually making it a little smaller than what he donated because he sold a piece off and did not realize it. So we are amending the description of that property donated to the City.

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. 2016-01 – Resolution for change order #1 for Metro D Construction at the Oxford City Garage and Street Department.

Mr. Waits stated this is in the amount of \$41,828.08.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-01. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits stated in case you don't know we are building a new City Garage and Street Department. It was sort of needed for years. We are doing a change order adding some brick veneer to one side of the building, some chair rails and a canopy for outside. We heard an update from Cal Munroe, our architect in the work session.

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. 2016-02 – Resolution authorizing the Executive Director of the Oxford Performing Arts Center to form an Advisory Board of Directors.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-02. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits stated John Longshore, Director of the Oxford Performing Arts Center is here and asked if he would mind sharing about this change.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated they have some plans not just with the Performing Arts Center, the Arts Council and John they do a great job. They have plans for some other activities there and they are not just restricted to arts center. Hopefully, we are going to start seeing more arts activities throughout our community and involve other areas in activities such as the Freedom Festival. I am looking forward to those things happening. The board does a great job.

Mr. Waits stated we appreciate you John.

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. 2016-03 – Resolution for surplus equipment at the Oxford Public Library.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-03. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated there is a listing of items that the Library has listed as surplus.

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. 2016-04 – Resolution awarding the bid for a maintenance building for the Park and Recreation Department.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-04. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits stated this is a project that has been in the works for some time. The bid went out and was won by Morris Building Constructors in the amount of \$831,100.00 and what they are going to be doing on the project is building a maintenance building next to the back of the batting cages out by the softball fields on Recreation Drive. They will actually be facing the Civic Center from I-20. Everything has been re-done there except for this one old building by it which is an eyesore. It will be torn down and some parking placed there. There will be some parking placed to the right of the batting cages. If you have ever been out there when they play ball it is where everyone parks in the grass. This will actually be a parking lot going forward. This project actually handles all three of those things.

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. 2016-05 – Resolution approving the 2015 Calhoun County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-05. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits stated this is a plan that we have to update every 5 years and give Council approval. We gave Police Chief Bill Partridge and Fire Chief Gary Sparks a chance to review this.

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.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I would like to speak to those of you who stayed and thank you so much. One of the things that our City is currently working on and I hate that everyone left because there is so much passion there for zoning and the importance of zoning in our City. Our Planning Board is working with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission to develop a strategic plan for our City. We are currently working on that. Right now the people that are involved are the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustments and department heads. As we go forward and we move toward a comprehensive plan I will say this has not been re-done or re-evaluated since 1973 for our City. So, what we will have at the end of this plan will be a map for our City and where we want to go where the citizens, the community leaders, the Council, the City Government how we want our City to grow and move forward. So, with that said what will come from that will be a look at the Zoning Ordinances of our City and what is appropriate in different places. How those focus groups come about is you might be asked to be on one of those so as we start to map out our City we can have an area for recreation and we can have an area for manufacturing but we have a plan for that. So, being the Council's representative to the Planning Board what I have noticed from the beginning is there are people who come there all the time asking for re-zoning of their property. It becomes very burdensome to the Planning Board to address this if we don't have a current and up to date plan that we can look at for how our citizens what our community and our government want our community to

move forward. We want to have an opportunity and if any of you are interested in being a piece or a part of that project it is ongoing. We have met since the end of October when we formed the contract with East Alabama and we are going to continue to meet and hopefully our strategic plan we can have finished up by July. Then we will move to the comprehensive plan for our City. What we are working on now and what we are about to move into is community leaders. So if you are asked to be a part of that or if you want to speak to me about being on one of those focus groups I would love to talk to you about that. That is how this is going to be a vital and vibrant plan is if a lot of people have the opportunity for input. So, that is something we are working on and I know Mr. Dickert in his address to us and Mike Kelly's comments were about we need a plan. Certainly I wanted everyone to know that we are working on that. It has been a long time coming but the Council has agreed to the contract with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission and we are working toward that now. Thank you so much.

Mr. Henderson stated I wanted and I know a lot of people have left but I wanted to thank everyone for coming out and I appreciate everyone's opinions. Opinions are important and this is the way City Government should function. It is a participatory function not just us and I know you elected us to make decisions but sometimes we want to know what the people think and the only way to find that out is to have these public hearings. So, we appreciate those of you who have come, who have spoken and shared their concerns on this matter. I would love to see you here more often. We want to hear from the people just like Mrs. Hubbard was saying. We want to know what the people want the City of Oxford to look like, be like, do like about the City, don't like about the City. We don't have all the answers up here. We are citizens just like you are trying to make the best decisions we can. The more input we can get from people or opinions we can get from people the better decisions we can make. I just thank you all for coming and I thank those who have left that came. I appreciate that. Thank you.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Mr. Waits stated we need to set a Public Hearing for January 26, 2016 to consider the following request which was approved by the Oxford Planning Commission at their December 1, 2015 meeting:

A.) Amending Article II Residential District Regulations of the Zoning Law Section 26 Cluster Development.

Visitors

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

Greg Thrower of 2072 Little John Drive stated I wanted to thank you for letting that motion die. Mike Henderson and I grew up in this area. It wasn't a rich area but we didn't know it. The only other project similar to this is Sterling Pointe. It is still a good place. Some that are there can't get out. That goes back a lot of years.

Mr. Waits stated City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2016 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

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