

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: January 13, 2015
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Oxford City Hall
PRESENT: Mr. Steven Waits, Council President
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council President Pro Tempore
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member
Mr. Chris Spurlin, 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.

Jeff Duncan of Calvary Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we like to recognize students in school system who have excelled not only in academics but in character as well. Tonight we recognize Ashanti Sterling. She is a fourth grader at Oxford Elementary School. Her parents are Cassandra Ferrell and Frederick Sterling. Ashanti enjoys soccer, basketball and gymnastics. At school she is a member of the Running Club, broadcast team and Jacket Singsations. Her favorite subject in school is reading and her favorite teacher is Ms. Sudduth. Her favorite principal is Debbie Nelson. It didn't say that in here Ashanti but since she is here tonight I thought I would add that in there for you. Mrs. Nelson it is good to see you and thank you for supporting your kids. When Ashanti grows up she wants to be a chef. We are proud of you Ashanti and everything you represent in our school system.

Ashanti Sterling led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Waits stated thank you Ashanti 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 December 23, 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. Gardner "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Abstain", 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. 2015-01 – Ordinance authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Warrants 2015-A.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2015-01 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. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Spurlin “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-01. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits recognized Alton Craft, Finance Director for comments. Mr. Craft stated this is a refinancing of the 2007 bond issue. Mr. Waits stated so this was the high school bond issue.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated our first item of the year is putting \$842,000.00 back into the General Fund.

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. 2015-01 – Resolution for Change Order No. 1 for the Bynum Fire Station in the amount of \$6,513.83.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-01. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits stated most of you know that we are building two new fire stations. One of those fire stations is at the City Garage with the training tower and the other station will be a manned station in Bynum. They look outstanding and we are getting really close to completion. About two weeks on the Garage site and about four weeks to open the Bynum station. That is really, really exciting. I appreciate Fire Chief Gary Sparks for all the work he has done and Cal Munroe for his work.

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. 2015-02 – Resolution appointing members to the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-02. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits asked Ms. Henson to read this resolution.

Mr. Waits stated this is a really important board in our eyes. We feel like it is going to add a tremendous amount of value to the City. Mr. Corbin, Ms. Enzor, Mr. Mayfield and Mr. Thrower is here. Would any of you like to make any comments? I do want to thank each one of you for serving. This is a very valuable board and it will have an impact on our City. It is a very important entity.

Mr. Henderson asked Mrs. Hubbard if there is going to be a meeting of the board. Mrs. Hubbard stated yes, we wanted you to meet with Mike Roberts, Building Inspector for just a few minutes. We do appreciate your service on this board. As I worked on the Planning Board we realized that this was a board of importance. For those who may not know what they do this is a board that looks at the zoning ordinances and grants exceptions or variances to those ordinances. So, if a citizen is requesting one of those then this will be the board that they will go to. We appreciate you willing to do that work.

Mr. Waits stated thank you Mrs. Hubbard. Mrs. Hubbard has done a lot of work on this as our representative of the Planning Board. Thank you Mrs. Hubbard for staying after this and getting this done.

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. 2015-03 – Resolution approving \$28,500.00 for items to be purchased for the League of Our Own Field.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-03. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits stated this is additional expenditures for the League of Our Own Field. Some of you may have seen it since it’s on Recreation Drive. This is for our special needs kids. It is good to see this come to fruition. We started talking about this in 2004 and Greg Thrower was a big part of this back then and it is good to see it come to fruition. These are some items like a flag, popcorn machine, a sign and some odds and ins that were not part of the bid package. It is a good time for me to invite you on March 8, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. we will be having a opening ceremony. All the kids will be there in their uniforms and we had sign ups this past Saturday. If you’ve never attended one of these games trust me it would be worth your time to go. It is amazing and one of the greatest things our City has been a part of in quite some time.

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 would like to add one item to the agenda.

Resolution No. 2015-04 – Resolution for Change Order No. 1 for the Oxford Fire Training Tower in the amount of \$4,653.82.

Mr. Waits stated at the Garage we are also building a state of the art fire training tower. This is a change order for moving some bad soil from the base of that complex.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-04. 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.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Waits called for Council Comments.

Mr. Henderson stated we lost an Oxford resident last week that many of you may or may not have known. There was an article in *The Anniston Star* about Wilburn Smallwood. He was actually a World War II veteran and in his 90's. He was very active in the Runner's Club and was involved in the Oxford Mardi Gras race. We want to remember him as a long time Oxford resident and the sacrifice he gave to our country. Also, on a sad note we discussed in the work session the changing of ownership of Dorsey's Supermarket. Mr. Dorsey was a very active member of our community for many years and he has done a lot for the City of Oxford. We will miss seeing Mr. and Mrs. Dorsey in the supermarket. I hate that he has had to retire due to health reason but very glad that the supermarket will still be open and a part of the City of Oxford.

Mr. Spurlin thanked Police Chief Bill Partridge and the Police Department for a job well done using social media. I am sure you follow their Facebook page and this past week had an attempted home invasion/burglary. School children at home called their dad and he made a post on Facebook. Because of that some neighbors saw the suspect and got the information to the Police Department and got it posted with a warrant for his arrest. That was within about six hours. I just want to commend the Police Department for a job well done.

Mr. Waits stated it is great to see social media being used for great things. Mr. Waits stated I do want to say one thing. Aaron Sexton thank you for your work. Mr. Sexton updated us tonight on two grants that he has been working on for the City that came through. We appreciate your work and you do an outstanding job.

Mr. Henderson stated since Emil is here we appreciate his work on the Oxford PARD website. It is a very good site and Emil has done a good job.

Mr. Waits stated that is another good social media thing that has worked really well is the Facebook page and the people following that since you started it not too long ago I don't know

how many are following that page. If you are on Facebook that would be a good page to follow because he keeps it updated with events.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is still out sick but we expect him back in the morning.

Visitors

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

Mr. Waits stated City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2015 for Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

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

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President