

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: January 14, 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 Mr. Gardner is unable to attend tonight and we want to pray for healing for a family member of his.

Jeff Duncan of Calvary Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we have been recognizing some of our school students who have exceeded not only in their scholastic abilities but in their character and other areas. Tonight we are going to recognize Channing Gallahar. She is a 4th grader at DeArmanville Elementary School. Her parents are Joey and Heather Gallahar. Many of you know Joey as the principal of our Freshman Academy and does an outstanding job in our school system. His wife Heather is a media specialist at DeArmanville. Channing enjoys reading, dance and taekwondo. She is on the "All A" Honor Roll, member of the Jacket Sing-sations and morning broadcast team, participated in the JSU Technology Fair, and has received the Technology Wiz Kid Award and Accelerated Reader Award. Channing's favorite subject in school is reading and her favorite teacher is Ms. Hayes. When Channing grows up she wants to be a surgeon. Also, here tonight are her brothers Hayden and Ashton. We appreciate you being here tonight.

Channing Gallahar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated great job. She is a pretty girl and will do a great job. Coach while you are here we appreciate what you and Heather do for our kids each and every day. We have an outstanding school system and part of it is because we have outstanding kids but the other part of it is we have outstanding teachers and outstanding leadership in our system. This is a good opportunity for me to thank you for what you do in our community each and every day. Thank you for that and thank you for being here. Congratulations Channing for the outstanding job you do.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the December 23, 2013 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

Resolution No. 2014-01 – Tax Abatement for Associated MetalCast, Inc.

Mr. Waits recognized Don Hopper with the Calhoun County Economic and Development Council (CCEDC) for comments. Here tonight is Ron Douglas, President of Associated MetalCast, Devon Bell, the CFO and Steve Dean who is the President of the Machining Division.

Mr. Hopper made his comments. Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Hopper for what he does with the CCEDC and for helping to coordinate this. Mr. Douglas, Mr. Bell and Mr. Dean thank you for what you do for our community. We are excited to have you here and many businesses are struggling to continue much less expand. They are investing \$1.1 million into our community. We are excited about you being a part of Oxford.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-01. 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 this abatement is at \$5,900.00 a year.

Resolution No. 2014-02 – Resolution authorizing Thompson's Painting to paint the Oxford Public Library in the amount of \$4,925.00.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-02. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits recognized Amy Henderson, Library Director for comments. Mr. Waits stated we talked about some of the statistics of the Library and what we have been doing. I appreciate Amy working with us to get this resolution to get the Library painted. We talked about some of the statistics and I wanted you to take a second to share some of the specifics with the Council and the visitors.

Mrs. Henderson stated Mr. Waits had asked her to pull up some information comparing the Library now with the new building to with the old building on Choccolocco Street. So I pulled up some statistics from 2007 and compared them to 2013. Total circulation in 2007 was 47,770 and last year was 80,039. That is pretty great. The number of users we had 9,421 and last year we had 19,411. For programs we had 75 programs in 2007 and last year we had 338. That includes adult and children. For attendance we had 1,925 in 2007 and last year we had 6,837. Computer users we had 3,905 in 2007 and last year we had 22,597. The total holdings, I have them broken down to book, audio and video but in the interest in revenue we will short them to just the total holdings. For 2007 we had \$36,142 and in 2013 we had \$59,493. Major improvements across the board.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated we appreciate the job she does and she does a great job.

Mrs. Hubbard stated especially the summer reading program. I love the success of that. The Mayor told us that he came up and participated in some of your programs.

Mr. Waits stated they had to get the heat worked on last week. Mrs. Henderson stated it was very cold in there. Mr. Waits stated it wasn't a good week for it to be out. Mrs. Henderson stated no it was 35 degrees in there. Mr. Waits stated while you were here I wanted you to share those statistics. It is very impressive on what you and your staff have done at the Library and that was really what the vision was for that Library altogether. You have made it come true. We appreciate what you do. Mrs. Henderson stated we have a great staff.

Mayor Smith stated they are doing a great job.

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. 2014-03 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Sain and Associates for traffic engineering services to evaluate traffic and field conditions along Fish Hatchery Lane just north of Highway 78.

Mr. Waits stated the cost of this engineering will be \$7,500.00.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-03. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated we have been talking about this and I know Mr. Ray is here again tonight. We have been trying to figure out a way with that new facility that is being built trying to make it safer for the residents who live off of Fish Hatchery Lane. This will look at Fish Hatchery Lane, the portion that we own and will come back with some safety recommendations. This will accomplish part of what you want to do but not all of what you want to do. If we can make it a little safer there that is what we are trying to do.

Mr. Waits stated we are fortunate to work with an engineering firm that is familiar with the property and has been involved with the property. They know a lot about the situation already and are confident that we will find a safe solution with the property. We are hoping to start all of that I believe this week. They have actually already made some site visits to look at the site.

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 we are going to add one item to the agenda tonight.

Resolution No. 2014-04 – Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for the sale of the Center Star Building.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-04. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits recognized Bruce Rice, City Attorney for comments.

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

Mrs. Hubbard stated I want to speak for just a minute about recycling. Most citizens have noticed that the recycle bins have been moved from the Center of Hope parking lot which is where we agreed for them to take them so we could recycle our plastic, cardboard, aluminum and paper. However, those bins belong to the County. It is a County project and not an Oxford City project. However, Pastor Gary there at the Center of Hope, part of the agreement was that we would keep part of the area there clean and neat around it. That part of the bargain was not kept and so he called for those bins to be removed and they have been removed. The County at the Extension office who are in charge of those bins and they are looking for a place to take those bins and if we find out where they are we will put it out on Facebook and on our website so we can let our citizens know. I know Shirley has been inundated with calls because there are so many people who use those bins. Speaking to that point as well about six or eight months ago we brought some information to people, to the schools and Republic Services sent cards out to all the citizens in Oxford and Anniston. One of the things they wanted to provide was curbside recycling for all the citizens. In order to get that you had to sign up for that and there was a fee of like \$5.00 a month. It does not go through the cities. It is a volunteer thing. The agreement was we had to have 800 homes signed up in order for them to start doing that. After they moved the bins and I knew we had not received any other information from Republic Services I called the gentleman from Republic who is our contact on the recycling issue. He said 12 people from Oxford who signed up and 40 people from Anniston. We are far off the mark from 800. Part of the issue in the beginning some people had said to they could not use the website so Mr. George has assured me that they have revamped it and it is much easier to use now. I have some cards in my car and I am going to leave them here are City Hall and I have also asked him to please come up with a telephone number. There are many of our older citizens who want to recycle and they are not familiar with the computers so they can't get to that. Some in the schools may have gotten coloring books because I carried coloring books to the schools for K through 3 so they

could talk to the children about recycling. I think it is just up to us and whether we want to have a recycling project or not is going to be up to citizens to sign up. Again there is a charge of \$5.50 but when you think about what we are saving our landfills. Plastic is going to be here forever and the amount of plastic in landfills is just incredible. You can think about the number of times you use plastic every day and put it in the trash can. Plastic is one of the things that we can recycle, newspaper, cardboard all of that would be available with the curbside recycling. You would be provided a bin just like you are with your trash bin that is picked up and it would be picked up every other week.

Mr. Waits stated we appreciate your work on that.

Mr. Henderson stated Mrs. Hubbard talked about web pages and I will just briefly mention that we are working on upgrading our City webpage. Hopefully we will have that done soon and launch that. It will be a pretty substantial upgrade from what we have now. Should be more user friendly, will allow you to do more things on the website and maybe allow you to sign up for sports, paying, buying, paying for your business license and things like that. We are trying to make it where City Hall will be basically open 24/7 through the use of a webpage. I think you will like what it looks like. It will have a new look to it, new features to it and a new video that promotes the City with some celebrities that are in this room staring in the video. Hopefully we will have that pretty soon.

Mr. Henderson also mentioned that Mr. Waits didn't recognize his daughter sitting in the audience. Mr. Waits stated I am not done yet.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Smith stated he has no comments.

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. Henderson.

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President