

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: January 26, 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.

Tommy Screws of Calvary Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Waits stated we like to recognize students in our school system who excel not only in academics but in character. Tonight we are recognizing Ashlynn Abernathy. She is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Oxford Middle School. Her parents are Clyde and Andrea Abernathy. Ashlynn enjoys horseback riding, going to church, and going to the movies. At school she is a member of the Robotics Team, Honor Society, and yearbook staff. Her favorite subject is Science and her favorite teacher is Ms. Crow. When Ashlynn grows up she wants to be a Veterinarian. She has a horse named Blue that she enjoys spending time with. Ashlynn also wants everyone to know she got saved at church this past Sunday.

Mr. Waits stated that may be the best thing that is on this sheet of paper Ashlynn. I am proud of you. I do want to recognize Mr. Maniscalco, Ashlynn's Principal, who is here supporting her. I appreciate you being here Mr. Maniscalco and everything you do for our school system.

Ashlynn Abernathy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits thanked Ashlynn for being here and stated keep up the great work. We are very proud of you for representing our school system.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the January 12, 2016 regular meeting. Mr. Henderson 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**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Public Hearing**

Mr. Waits opened the public hearing to receive comments on amending Article II Residential District Regulations of the Zoning Law Section 26 Cluster Development. Mr. Waits declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Waits asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against this.

Mr. Waits recognized Mike Roberts, Building Inspector for brief comments. Mr. Waits stated so essentially the number of units would increase to 6 from 4 only in this Cluster Development. We have one Cluster Development in the City of Oxford right now.

Mr. Waits declared the public hearing closed.

#### **Ordinance No. 2016-07 – Ordinance amending Appendix A Zoning Ordinance for the City of Oxford, Article II Residential District Regulations, Section 26 Cluster Development.**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-07 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. Gardner "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-07. 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 "Nay". The motion carried.

#### **Ordinance No. 2016-08 – Ordinance levying a privilege license tax against persons, firms, or corporations engaged in the business of selling at retail alcoholic beverages in the City of Oxford, Alabama and provides for penalties for the violation of this Ordinance.**

Mr. Henderson made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-08 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. Gardner made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-08. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits recognized Alton Craft, Finance Director for brief comments. Mr. Waits stated thanks Mr. Craft and Aaron Sexton we appreciate you.

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. 2016-06 – Resolution declaring certain items as surplus property for the Oxford City Garage.**

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-06. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits stated this is several pieces of property, a couple of trucks, a vacuum and some other items.

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. 2016-07 – Resolution awarding the bid for stage lighting equipment for the Oxford Performing Arts Center.**

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-07. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits stated the bid will go to Sound Solutions in the amount of \$145,729.32. This is to send the lighting up to the highest level possible. They were doing a lot of renting of lighting.

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. 2016-08 – Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with AT&T Corporation to provide wi-fi services for the Oxford Sports Complex.**

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-08. 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.

**Resolution No. 2016-09 – Resolution awarding the bid for baseball/softball equipment for the Oxford Parks and Recreation Department.**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-09. 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. 2016-10 – Authorizing the Mayor to pay the Calhoun County Humane Society \$5,000.00 to provide professional spay and neutering services.**

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-10. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated we heard a presentation at our last meeting from the director of the center requesting this funding.

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 have a couple of items we want to add to the agenda.

**Resolution No. 2016-11 – Resolution re-appointing Erin Strickland to the Park and Recreation Board for a five year term expiring April 24, 2019.**

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-11. 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. 2016-12 – Resolution re-appointing Phillip Keith Dunn to the Park and Recreation Board for a five year term expiring March 28, 2020.**

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-12. 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.

**Resolution No. 2016-13 – Resolution re-appointing Eddie Harrell to the Water and Sewer Board for a six year term expiring November 21, 2021.**

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-13. 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. 2016-14 – Resolution re-appointing Ken Eaton to the Industrial Development Board for a six year term expiring December 8, 2018.**

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-14. 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. 2016-15 – Resolution awarding the soccer and track and field equipment bid for the Park and Recreation Department.**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-15. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits stated Don Hudson, Park and Recreation Director is here with us tonight. We appreciate all of your hard work on this. Do you have anything you would like to say?

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 at this time I would like to recognize Mr. Henderson for a resolution.

**Resolution No. 2016-16 – Appropriating \$5,000.00 to Jacksonville State University for advertising and services to the City.**

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-16. 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.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Mr. Waits called for Council Comments.

Mr. Spurlin stated each month we get a report from the Police and Fire Departments. This month the Police Department has done a good job clearing a lot of cases that are old. Some of the detectives have been doing a lot of hard work and research. I appreciate the job that all of them do. It looks like they have had a really good month and working hard. I appreciate the work they do.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Mr. Waits stated we need to set a Public Hearing for February 9, 2016 to consider the following request which was approved by the Oxford Planning Commission at their January 5, 2016 meeting:

A.) Zoning request from Randy Fry to zone the property located at 800 McIntosh Road to AG-1 (Agriculture).

## **Visitors**

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

Mr. Waits recognized Fire Chief Gary Sparks.

Chief Sparks stated I just want to make you aware of a situation that happened a few weeks ago. If you have seen our Facebook page you may have read about it. So far this year in the State of Alabama, in the 26 days we have had 20 fire fatalities, which is not good. We have strived hard to get the word out. Recently, here in Oxford we had a call in the Coldwater area on Turner Road past the school. The call came in as an elderly female trapped in the house and the house was on fire. What saved this lady was the fact that she had a working smoke detector that notified her of the fire. She called 911. The other thing that saved her was the fire station in Bynum. We had a truck there within 4 minutes. All we did was get the smoke out of the house and turn the house back over to her and her family. That could have been very tragic if we would have had to wait for a truck. Just wanted to let you know that the fact that we built the station in Bynum and that we staffed that station has paid off in this case. I am very excited about that. I can't encourage people enough to make sure they have working smoke detectors. A working smoke detector is what is going to save your life. So, please make sure you have a working smoke detector. We have to do something to stop the fire fatalities in the State of Alabama.

Mr. Waits asked are we still providing those free. Chief Sparks stated yes.

Mrs. Hubbard stated along those same lines the firefighters went and put two smoke detectors in my mom's house. I was struggling to change the batteries in the old one and then it occurred to

me up on the ladder that the firefighters will come and do this. So I called them and they gave her two smoke detectors.

Chief Sparks stated we have some businesses who have donated money to us, Calhoun Power Company gives us \$2,500.00 every year and Oxford Walmart sells them to us at their cost and then they also give a donation to turn around and buy them with. That is just a couple. The D.E.C. which is a local restoration company that has an office here. They have donated money.

Mrs. Hubbard stated that is something that a lot of people don't know. I know you try to get the word out but it might help just by word of mouth. I am trying to tell everybody I know about that.

Mr. Waits stated Chief I thank you and I appreciate your passion. I know you are serious about what you do. I know there is a nice station there with some nice fire trucks and it takes great men to run them. I appreciate you and your men. You guys run in when a lot of people are running out. I am grateful.

Mr. Waits stated at this time I would like to request a motion to go into Executive Session related to real or potential litigation and also related to the sale of real estate. I ask our attorney Ron Allen to certify that.

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

Mr. Waits stated after this we will go to the Conference Room and we will dismiss from there.

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.

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

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Shirley Henson, City Clerk

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Steven Waits, Council President