

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: July 14, 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.

Artie Moore of Calvary Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Waits asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the June 23, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Henderson 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 "Abstain". The motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Recognition from the Oxford Beautification Board for a presentation.**

Mr. Waits recognized Jeremy Cruse and Robin Leonard with the Beautification Board.

Mr. Cruse recognized William and Janice Pugh for winning the Beautification Board Award for residences. Mr. Cruse stated the Pugh's were nominated for helping make our community a

more inviting and beautiful place. Mr. Cruse also recognized Sonic Drive In, Oxford for winning the Beautification Award for businesses.

Mrs. Hubbard stated you can nominate people on the City's website. You can nominate yourself or a neighbor. The application is on the website.

Mr. Waits thanked the Beautification Board for what they are doing. Mr. and Mrs. Pugh thank you for creating a beautiful homestead and making our City beautiful. Sonic does look good and they always do a good job doing that.

**Ordinance No. 2015-05 – A comprehensive ordinance to promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Oxford by the control and eliminations of junk, trash and debris, dilapidated and unsafe structures, litter, noxious and unhealthful growth, vermin and other nuisances contributing to neighborhood blight and deterioration and depressing property values.**

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2015-05 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. Henderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-05. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated I appreciate the work that Ron Allen, City Attorney has done on this. He has combined two or three of our existing ordinances into a very good comprehensive ordinance that will start addressing some issues and clean up our City to make our City look better and to make people have a little more pride in the structures they live in. I look forward to this happening and getting some of these properties cleaned up. You can also report these items on the website.

Mrs. Hubbard stated thanks to Mike Roberts and the Building Department. Some of those guys have already gone out and addressed some of these things. We appreciate the work that they have already done and this will give them a little bit more guidance for the work that they do.

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. 2015-06 – Ordinance to repeal the current verbage contained in Section 28.1 Loitering at night at Oxford Lake.**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2015-06 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 unanimously.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-06. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits recognized Don Hudson, Park and Recreation Director for comments.

Mr. Spurlin asked Mr. Waits to have Ms. Henson read Ordinance No. 2015-06 to help everyone understand the changes.

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. 2015-66 – Authorizing the Chief of Police to name a police officer to be a designated City Enforcement Officer.**

Mr. Henderson made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2015-66 to change a in Paragraph 3 to any and also in Paragraph 4 a be changed to any. 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. 2015-67- Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with Bruce Dempsey for property on Friendship Road for recreational purposes.**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-67. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated there is a piece of property on Friendship Road that is used as a practice area for our youth sports groups and basically the City is going to maintain the grass in the areas that are being utilized for those purposes.

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. 2015-68 – Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Thompson’s Painting Company, Inc. for repairs at Cider Ridge Clubhouse.**

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-68. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits stated this is for painting and the replacement of 13 ceiling fans at a cost of \$13,928.87. I would like to recognize Doug Word, who is our pro there and Chad Robinson who does a fantastic job keeping that facility sharp. In the work session I was sharing the positive comments that were being shared at the Sunny King Classic. What a great job they do there and the new parking lot has been installed. I want to publicly thank you guys for all the work that you do out there. We have a first class course and this is to further take care of the facility out 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.

**Resolution No. 2015-69 – Authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement for Professional Engineering Services with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc. for downtown revitalization.**

Mr. Henderson made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2015-69 as follows: whereas to the cost of Alabama Power changed from \$250,000.00 to \$340,000.00, not to exceed the cost of AT&T that changed from \$382,020.00 to \$406,250.00, not to exceed amount of CableOne changed from \$48,495.00 to \$75,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated Keith Strickland with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood has done a tremendous amount of work on this and several Council members have worked on this. What this is, is the downtown streetscape project. We are redoing the sidewalks, moving the power poles, moving the utilities underground, new street lighting and red lights. It is basically a rehab of our downtown area on Choccolocco and Main Street. Let me say before we vote I am very much in favor of this project and what it is going to do. I think our downtown will look really, really good. There is a portion of this project that I can't support and I don't want that to reflect that I am not for the project or think that the streetscape project is a positive project for our City. I think it is and it is something that a lot of people have put a lot of work in to make happen and I think it is going to make our downtown look beautiful.

Mrs. Hubbard stated along those same lines I am going to be abstaining obviously because I have property and businesses in the area and not because I don't support this project.

On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard "Abstain", Mr. Gardner "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Nay". The motion carried.

**Resolution No. 2015-70 – Approving a formal request to change the ATRIP project limits on Leon Smith Parkway.**

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-70. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits stated we received a \$5 million ATRIP grant to redo a portion of Leon Smith Parkway and it included a bridge near the sports complex and based on some new data that we have received from the State on traffic flows we are going to formally request that we move that

project north to include the interstate bridge over I-20 to widen it and do some other changes to the intersection just north of the I-20 bridge. We are basically taking the project and moving it north. It is a project with cooperation with the State.

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. 2015-71 – Authorizing the purchase of maintenance equipment and amending the current year budget by \$83,500.00.**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-71. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated this is purchasing the maintenance equipment that is needed for the sports complex. We have a contract with Honours Golf who will be maintaining the sod. If I am correct we are looking at about 3 weeks before sod is being laid on the signature field. So we will need to handle the maintenance of that turf growing period so we will need the equipment for that. We appreciate their expertise and working with us. We were actually able to have a pretty significant savings through working with Honours Golf. So thank you guys for your work.

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. 2015-72 – Approving a geotechnical survey for a new fire station on Friendship Road through Terracon Consultants in the amount of \$4,175.00.**

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-72. 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.

Mr. Waits stated we essentially have 60 days to check the property to make sure it is good before we move forward with the purchase of the property.

Mr. Waits stated there are going to be some items that are going to have to be addressed and we really don't need to wait two weeks on for the next meeting. So I am going to ask for a motion for the City Council to meet and discuss further business on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to have a meeting on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits stated this is primarily related to some road work and right of way that we are going to be doing on Fish Hatchery Lane and these issues are timely and need to be addressed in order to not hold up the project.

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 he would like to recognize former Councilwoman June Land Reaves and it is nice to have her here and former Councilman Greg Thrower is here. It is nice to see some former Council members here. I would also like to offer our condolences to Shirley Henson, our City Clerk on the passing of her mother recently. I also wanted to thank Don Hudson and his staff for the July 4th festivities. The weather didn't cooperate that morning but they still did a great job putting on a good event that morning. I appreciate their hard work for putting on that event. We also had a good concert Saturday night with Michael W. Smith. It was a joint concert with the Knox Concert Series and it went real well with a good crowd. I appreciate the Arts Council working with the Knox Concert folks to put on the concert. It is good to collaborate with the people up north and it went real well.

Mr. Spurlin stated I would also like to offer condolences to Captain Owen on the loss of his mom.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

### **Visitors**

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

Bill Bunn of 2017 Cheatwood Drive stated I would like to take this time to thank each of you for your concern on everything and you have had a lengthy discussion on the downtown revitalization.

Don Hudson stated we had 52 teams play in the State Tournament and we had 1500 children here for a 5 day tournament.

Mr. Waits stated he spoke to a coach from Decatur who commented on how well things went. It was really an odd comment because you thought he was going to talk about our hotels and restaurants. His comment was how good and how nice our people were. I thought that was a very interesting comment to come from a baseball coach at a baseball tournament. That speaks to our community. Great job Don and to your folks on that.

At this time I am going to ask the Council to go into Executive Session related to real or potential litigation and the purchase of real estate. I also ask Ron Allen, City Attorney to certify that. We will actually adjourn from the Executive Session.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to go into Executive Session. 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.

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

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Shirley Henson, City Clerk

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Steven Waits, Council President