

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: July 24, 2014
TIME: 7:00 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.

Phil Cruse of Lakeview Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Waits stated Mr. Gardner is absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the July 8, 2014 regular meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

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. 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

Proclamation declaring the month of August as Oxford Fire Fighter Appreciation Month for their efforts on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Mr. Waits recognized Mrs. Hubbard for the reading of the Proclamation. Mr. Waits recognize Fire Chief Gary Sparks, Casey Ramey with the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Assistant Fire Chief Ben Stewart.

Ms. Ramey stated it was great to see everyone again. We wanted to take this time to thank the Oxford Fire Department as well as the citizens of Oxford. All of you are so supportive of the local chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). We appreciate the continuous support and hard work on behalf of the fire fighters that they put into the Fill the Boot program. We look forward to continuing the partnership in 2014 and raising funds for research for MDA. Thank you again and we appreciate this opportunity.

Mr. Waits asked did I hear right that they also received funding from Sam's. That is outstanding. To see them give that money up front before they even open is an outstanding effort on their part. Casey thank you for being here and we appreciate what you do. Chief Sparks, I can't tell you how much we appreciate the Fire Department and Assistant Chief Stewart we appreciate what you do. You have a first class group of men who take care of our City twenty four hours a day seven days a week three hundred and sixty five days a year. You guys are outstanding. When everyone else goes running away from it you and the Police Department are running towards it. So thank you so much for what you do. We are grateful.

Resolution No. 2014-47 – Resolution for an appropriation to the Oxford Water Works for sewer improvements.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-47. 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.

Resolution No. 2014-48 – Resolution for an emergency response plan for the City of Oxford.

Mr. Waits stated this is a plan that I was able to see firsthand back when we had the snow and ice. Chief Sparks and Police Chief Bill Partridge had a whole team, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) the whole group at the Police Department in the Operations Center coordinating the activities from one location. It was very impressive with what was going on. This is a plan that basically formalizes that. Mr. Waits recognized Chief Partridge for any comments.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-48. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Spurlin stated I would also like to thank Assistant Fire Chief Ben Stewart. I believe he was charged with putting this plan together. I know he presented it to me to present to the Council and he put a lot of hard work into it. We appreciate his efforts.

Mr. Henderson stated it is good to be proactive and have a plan.

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. 2014-49 – Awarding the bid for a piano at the Oxford Performing Arts Center.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-49. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits asked Mrs. Hubbard to share about this. Mrs. Hubbard stated this is a concert grand piano to be used on the stage at the Performing Arts Center. It will be a permanent fixture and there will be a room constructed to slide the piano into. It will also be on a dolly and will have a locked cover. This will also eliminate us from having to rent pianos for each event. As you know we established a community chorus that has been very popular and they need a piano. They are meeting each week I think now and they have been using just a small keyboard. This will be beneficial to them and then we will not have to rent a piano for example when the Vienna Choir comes in March the piano will serve for what they need.

Mr. Henderson stated this is funds that they already had to purchase this with correct. Mrs. Hubbard stated when the Oxford Arts Council moved under the Park and Recreation Department they brought some funds with them around \$60,000.00 which will be enough to cover the piano. Mrs. Hubbard stated the piano used to belong to Usher. It was in his house. So we will have a great story to go with it.

Mr. Waits stated it does come with a protective locked cover. Mrs. Hubbard stated yes. Thanks to Jane Batey and John Longshore for seeking this out and finding this piano. It is a used piano and we are getting at a good price.

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. 2014-50 – Resolution approving the Main Street Board of Directors.

Mr. Waits recognized Mr. Spurlin. Mr. Spurlin stated he asked that the resolution state that the Council appoints the Finance Director and a Council member to serve on this board. We also would like to appoint Robin Leonard to serve on this board for a four year term.

Mrs. Hubbard stated as well as the Main Street Director. Mr. Spurlin stated I am sorry Charlotte. I would also like to include the Main Street Director to serve on the board.

Mr. Waits asked if we decided on a number of people. Mr. Spurlin stated we decided in the work session no more than 19 people to serve on the Advisory Board.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-50. 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.

Mr. Waits stated the next item we are going to add to the agenda.

Resolution No. 2014-51 – Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Water Works and Sewer Board of the City of Anniston for water services to the new Fire Station.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-51. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits stated many of you may have seen it but if you haven't we have an extremely nice fire station going up in Coldwater. We are to the point where we need to hook the water up. That is actually Anniston Water and that is why we are doing this tonight.

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. 2014-52 – Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an escrow agreement with 42 Anniston LP for the improvements to Fish Hatchery Road and Highway 78.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-52. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits stated this is an escrow agreement with 42 Real Estate for \$250,000.00. We will be sharing some costs with them on some improvements at Fish Hatchery and Highway 78.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated I appreciate the work that Rusty Gann, City Engineer and Bruce Rice, City Attorney did to make this come about. The City is actually receiving \$250,000.00 from 42 Real Estate to help to make that intersection safer. We have been working on this for quite some time and I am glad to see it come about. I appreciate the work of these two guys to make this happen.

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. 2014-53 – Resolution for a 15 foot non-exclusive easement for drainage between Jeremy and Becky Nesmith and the City of Oxford.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-53. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits stated this is an easement where we are going to do some drainage work.

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. 2014-54 – Resolution amending Resolution No. 2014-40 regarding the one time lump sum payment for the City retiree's.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-54. 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.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated I would like to welcome Calhoun County Commissioner Fred Wilson. It is good to see you. Congratulations on your election and you do an outstanding job for the County. I have had the pleasure to work with Mr. Wilson on a couple of projects and he has done a great job and he is a man of character. I wish you the best. Thank you for being here tonight.

Mr. Henderson stated I just wanted to mention Sam's opening today. This is a great event for our City. I saw Alton there with his calculator. Mr. Waits stated he didn't need his calculator he already had it figured out in his head. Mr. Henderson stated it is always great to have a new business open up in town. They have 171 employees. I think they are going to be a good citizen of Oxford and provide us some great revenues. I am glad to have them here.

Mr. Waits stated they are first class and by starting out making a donation to the Fire Department and several other groups. That was by far the best grand opening I have ever seen in my life.

Mrs. Hubbard stated the Martin Lett Gallery of Art will be officially opening on Thursday, July 31, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. So everyone is invited to that. We have already received our art. John Longshore, Director of the Oxford Performing Arts Center has ordered Martin Weinstein and Rebecca Pittman. I saw a few pieces of it yesterday and it was really gorgeous. There will be postcards coming out and I am not sure who is on their mailing list. I am hoping everyone in the room is and if not I am sure there will be something in the paper. Everyone is invited to the reception on Thursday, July 31, 2014 that is for the families of Norma Martin and Bobbie Lett. There will also be a select few that will be there that night and the next day it opens to the public.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I can't say enough good things about the Main Street Initiative. The work the Resource Team, who is on the back row has done excellent sessions. The session last night where we did the visioning with the citizens was unbelievable. All of the good ideas and the passion that our citizens have. I appreciate Mary Helmer, who is our State Director. They are staying with us in our hotels since Tuesday night. They are doing a great job. Everyone is invited tomorrow night starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center for an unveiling of their findings. The things they have spoken to different stake holders about this week. It will be a plan of action that we can move forward with in the revitalization of the downtown area. Mary and her team are going to tell us a little bit more about that after we adjourn. One of the

stakeholder meetings they were supposed to have today was with us and since we were meeting they were good enough to come to talk to us a little after the meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated Mrs. Hubbard had the power to get the Governor at the meeting last night. Mrs. Hubbard stated the Governor has endorsed Main Street and the hiring of Mary. We are very pleased that he stopped by.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Smith stated he has no comments.

Mr. Waits stated we need to set a Public Hearing for August 5, 2014 to consider the following requests which were approved by the Oxford Planning Commission at their July 1, 2014 meeting:

A zoning request from the City of Oxford to zone the property located at 954 Leon Smith Parkway to Flood Plain and Conservation District.

A zoning request from Barbara Crow to zone the property located at 2107 Lark Lane to Residential.

A zoning request from Robert and Vinita Lowery to zone the property located at 2804 Lark Lane to Residential.

Visitors

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

Mr. Waits stated at this time we will adjourn and then go into the conference room and talk about the Main Street program. Anyone who is here tonight is more than welcome to come and join us.

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