

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: July 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. Phil Gardner, 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.

Zach Brown of Calvary Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated please 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 July 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 "Abstain", Mr. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Waits called for a motion to remove Resolution No. 2016-80 from the table.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to remove Resolution No. 2016-80 from the table. 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. 2016-80 – Resolution approving an addressing contract with Talladega County 911.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-80. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits stated Fire Chief Gary Sparks is here and would you mind explaining this contract. Chief Sparks stated it is a basic agreement and is the same agreement that we have with Calhoun County 911. They will handle all addressing issues. Also, if there is a new street to be named they will ask the Council for input and they will make the final determination based on if there is another street by that name. As far as the re-addressing issue moving forward there will still be some addresses that will change on certain streets which is the original intent of what we were going for. I know people on County Line Road, some parts of McIntosh, Jimmie Carter Street that we named off Robertson Lane, Southmoore Circle where we had that connecting street. All of those will be changing but exactly what is changing they will put that out. After this is done from my understanding Talladega 911 will be sending out letters to the residents.

Mr. Waits stated Chief Sparks can we meet afterward and answer any questions this lady might have.

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 called for a motion to remove Resolution No. 2016-84 from the table.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to remove Resolution No. 2016-84 from the table. 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. 2016-84 – Resolution awarding the bid for the lease of the batting cages at Oxford Lake Park.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-84. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated we had tabled this at our previous meeting due to some questions or concerns to who was responsible for maintenance and that was covered in the contract that it will be the person leasing the cages.

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 called for a motion to remove Resolution No. 2016-87 from the table.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to remove Resolution No. 2016-87 from the table. The motion was seconded by Mrs. 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. 2016-87 – Resolution authorizing the Council President to enter into an incentive agreement with the Calhoun County Economic Development Council and Kronospan, Inc.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-87. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated this is something that has been in the news for quite some time. Kronospan is about to enter into a \$362 million development. We did some tax abatements a few meetings ago for that. This is an incentive agreement where we are splitting equally with the County the job incentive package which is \$750 a job up to 200 jobs. This could cost the City up to \$75,000.00. I was going back over with the Council in the work session when Kronospan built 10 years ago we did an abatement for them then. Those tax abatements are falling off because 10 years have passed. Starting next year our City will start to get \$225,000.00 extra dollars that we have not been getting. If you subtract these incentives that we are giving them for these 200 jobs the City will still essentially be getting \$150,000.00 extra a year and with that 160 to 200 jobs with an average pay of \$22.00 an hour, over \$7 million in payroll dollars that will be spent in our City. I have shared several times with the fact that with this \$362 million development our school system because of the educational taxes will be getting over \$900,000.00 a year just in additional educational taxes. So this is a major, major project for the City of Oxford. We are really excited to see this come on the heels of Kobay and National Gypsum. This is the largest industrial growth period in the history of the City of Oxford that we have seen in the last few months. It is a great time to be here and I appreciate the Council's work on this and everyone has come together to make this happen and we are really excited to see this happen.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

Michael and Kristi Young of 133 Mountainview Circle requesting de-annexation.

Mr. Waits called for a motion on the request for de-annexation. Mr. Spurlin stated Mr. Waits I know we normally do not do de-annexations and I know that our attorney has spoken that we don't need to make this a precedence in the city. However, knowing the circumstances of what Mr. and Mrs. Young have explained to us I want to make a motion that we approve the de-annexation. Mr. Waits called for a second. There was no second. Mr. Waits stated it will die without a second.

Mr. Waits stated we had a good conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Young in the work session explaining from our attorney about that and we will move forward.

Resolution No. 2016-89 – Resolution declaring Alton Craft duly elected to the Office of Mayor.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-89. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I am just proud to have Alton as our Mayor. He lives downtown in case you did not know that. He is my neighbor and is only a block away. So I will probably be pestering him as a citizen with all the needs that we have in our City. We are very proud that Alton is going to be in that role and I think he will move our City forward with a really smooth transition from Mayor Smith. I think we will have a smooth transition, so thank you Alton for stepping up and putting your name out there.

Mr. Henderson stated I will echo that about him being our leader of the City for the next four years. He will do a good job.

Mr. Spurlin stated Margie thank you for allowing your husband to serve. It sort of puts you in the fish bowl so to speak. I appreciate your support and I know he wouldn't have run without your support.

Mr. Waits stated the major commitment comes from the wife. It really does.

Mrs. Hubbard stated she was crying on the last qualification day. We were all going to ring the bell and she came in crying. I was like she's upset but she was happy.

Mr. Waits stated Alton I wanted to thank you to. I am looking forward to your leadership but I want to thank you for what you have done for the last four years. A lot of people don't know the effort that you have put into this City. I am very grateful for what you have done, your leadership and looking forward to everything that is to come. We are in good hands.

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. 2016-90 – Resolution declaring Chris Spurlin duly elected to the Office of Council Member Place 4.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-90. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated Terri thank you. I really, really appreciate you and what you do. Chris let me tell you there has been very few people who has been as consistent as you have with leadership in our City. I admire you and I think the world of you. I am proud you are one of my City Councilmen. I am looking forward to what you are going to do with four more years.

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.

Issue Certificates of Election

Resolution No. 2016-91 – Resolution appointing Election Officers for the Municipal Election to be held August 23, 2016, and if necessary, a runoff election October 4, 2016.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-91. 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. 2016-92 – Resolution authorizing the Council President to sign an easement with Alabama Power Company at Liberty Park.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-92. 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. 2016-93 – Resolution authorizing the Council President to sign a letter to the Alabama Department of Transportation regarding the ADA Transition Plan.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-93. 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. 2016-94 – Resolution authorizing the Council President to enter into an agreement with Lamar Murray to provide training for the poll workers, testing and set up of the voting machines for the Municipal Election and run-off if necessary.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-94. 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.

Motion to change August 23, 2016 Council Meeting to August 30, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve. 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. 2016-95 – Resolution awarding the bid for a fire station on Friendship Road to Hurst Construction, LLC.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-95. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated Cal Munroe, Munroe and Jenkins Architects was in the work session telling us about this. Mrs. Hubbard would you like to say something about this.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I was in the Sherwood Forest neighborhood and three people mentioned to me that they are very happy that they were going to have a fire station in their area. It is much needed and very happy that we are able to do this for that area with the City growing as it is.

Mr. Waits recognized Chief Sparks for comments. Mr. Waits stated that Mr. Munroe mentioned several times that it was under budget.

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.

Mrs. Hubbard stated that she has just one report from the Main Street initiative. Rod Harris, Main Street Director is applying and I have written a letter. He is presenting at the Main Street lab in Montgomery. It is going to be on the 23rd of August letting it be known that we have a project in our City and it pertain to Liberty Park. Our new Liberty Park is going to be taking all the monuments and so forth from the present park between Snow and Choccolocco Street out to the Civic Center to the new park. So what we are going to have left there at the triangle where the park is presently is not really anything. He is going to be presenting at the Main Street lab what they are calling a shark tank. We will have the opportunity to present our project and be able to hopefully get some money to get a start for a green space there between Snow and Choccolocco Streets. The design team that came when we were designated as a Main Street City came and drew a picture of what that area should look like if we are granted the money from the

sharks. It will be something that we can be proud of and give a little boost. I am sure the City is going to be asked to give a little money to repair that area but it will be something we can get started with. I will give you an update after August 23rd when Rod gives his presentation.

Mr. Waits stated one thing I did want to mention is our City Engineer Rusty Gann asks that I update you on two things. That the Boiling Springs Road project was officially completed and that intersection is working great. The two thing he wanted me to share are that the construction bid that we had was actually \$200,000.00 lower than the next bid but they actually finished the project \$200,000.00 under budget. So essentially the City had a \$400,000.00 savings on the next bid which was really impressive. A couple of things are involved in that, you have to have a good contractor who does what he says he is going to do and finishing things on time. Certainly we had that there. I also appreciate Rusty Gann and his team on the oversight of the project. I think that is important on one project and saving that much money is a significant deal for the City. I wanted to congratulate him on that. The second thing that he wanted me to share is an update to the Council. Snow Street the last piece of the right of way was resolved today and they will actually be letting that project in November. Mr. Denney I know you have been working on that forever and it has been like pushing rope. Thank you for your work on it and you have done a ton of work and made a lot of things happen. So thank you.

Mrs. Hubbard stated that is an ALDOT (Alabama Department of Transportation) project and all that money is coming from ALDOT. Mr. Waits stated the State. It is an 80/20 match, is that correct Mr. Denney.

Mr. Henderson stated I don't know if anyone has had the opportunity to go out to the Pinewood area. They are re-doing the roads there and they were in very, very bad shape. They have just about gotten the sewer lines repaired and are about to start the paving. I know these people, bless their hearts have been waiting for something to be done for a long time and Rusty has finally gotten on that, it looks really good and will have nice new level roads to ride on. It was adventurous riding out through there because of the sewer caved in. It looks really good and they have done a good job with that project.

Mr. Waits stated he gave an update this week that West 9th Street is next and I think he said Forest Hills is next. They have a strategic plan that they are going by and it was based mostly on what Mr. Henderson said on utility failures and sewer repairs. They have prioritized the road projects for the City and I appreciate their work. They are working extremely hard to improve that.

Mrs. Hubbard stated so they are working off that list that he presented to us. Mr. Waits stated that's right.

Mr. Gardner asked if this was the list that he has been working on for the last two years since his hire date. Mr. Waits stated yes. He and his team are doing a good job and they are doing it internally. Saving dollars.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Visitors

Mr. Waits stated before we get started on Visitor's Comments I would like to recognize Jane Cunningham for a presentation.

Jane Cunningham stated she is the president of the Cheaha Regional Humane Society. The reason I am here is because we have the Alabama Kudzu Queens here tonight. With the Council being so good to us regarding our adoption center, the Alabama Kudzu Queens wanted to present a check to us.

Mrs. Hubbard stated Teresa Russell was the Bark for your Park chairperson. We are trying to work on a location of the adoption center. We have a location targeted and we look forward to providing a facility that will draw visitors from Atlanta and Birmingham to our City for adoption. Personally I have been to an adoption center on Long Island, New York and when I went in it was very noticeable that the dogs that were there were from Alabama. That is when I began to wonder why the dogs are from there. Then I realized that one of the things that we don't do is take care of the animals through spay and neuter. Luckily the Council has recently given some money for that. We are getting better but not where we need to be. So the Pet Adoption Center will allow us to have a place where our animals can be adopted and not have to be sent to New York State. She had two checks. One was for \$1,000.00 and the other was for \$20.00 for a project where they already have a donor of \$100,000.00 and a commitment letter from the City. It is going to be a very nice facility.

Mr. Waits stated thank you Alabama Kudzu Queens. Mrs. Hubbard stated there is no other City like that.

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. Henderson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President