

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: July 8, 2014
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Oxford City Hall
PRESENT: Mayor Leon Smith
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: 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.

Ed Turner of Lakeview Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits asked Clay Houston with Boy Scout Troop 10 to lead 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 June 24, 2014 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Abstain". The motion carried.

Mr. Waits stated he abstained due to not being present at the last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2014-43 – Resolution amending the bid awarded to Forsyth Building Company to include alternate #1 for the League of Our Own field.

Mr. Waits stated at the last Council meeting the Council passed a resolution to award the bid to Forsyth Building Company for the League of Our Own field. It is a place for our special needs and handicap kids to have a field to play on. The field will be at Oxford Lake and we are really excited to get this going. This resolution is to clarify the alternates that we actually chose.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-43. 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. 2014-44 – Resolution to declare certain items as surplus property.

Mr. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-44. 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. 2014-45 – Tax Abatement Agreement for Hoover Universal, Inc.

Mr. Waits recognized Don Hopper with the Calhoun County Economic Development Council for any comments and also recognized Rob Conklin with Bridgewater Interiors.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Hopper for being here. Mr. Conklin we appreciate what you guys do. You are a great asset to the community and we look forward to your continued success.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-45. 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 the next two items are not on the agenda. For the first one I would like to call on Mr. Spurlin relating to a resolution for brick cleaning at City Hall.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2014-46 authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with Mike Brown to clean the bricks, sign and screen walls at City Hall and the sign at the Oxford Police Department in the amount of \$455.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits stated I appreciate Mr. Spurlin working on this and I understand this is the same gentleman who has done work at the high school and has done a great job.

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 Council meeting we will have several Council members out of town so we are going to look at moving the next meeting. At this time I will recognize Mrs. Hubbard.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to move the Council meeting to Thursday, July 24, 2014 with a work session to begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hubbard stated she would like to read something into the record. I have a letter from the Oxford City Council to the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce.

The Oxford City Council would like to commend you for your work in our region. The recent number one ranking in the Birmingham Business Journal represents the hard work and leadership that makes our Chamber strong. The training and connection you offer our citizens and our businesses make being a member of the Chamber a worthy investment. We congratulate you and support your work in Oxford/Calhoun County and nine County region.

Sincerely,
Members of the Oxford City Council

Mr. Henderson stated he mentioned a couple of meetings ago about the flags at most all of our intersections over the weekend for the 4th of July. I believe the Street Department put those up and they look really good. I appreciate them doing that.

Mr. Waits stated I would like to recognize Gary Sparks, Fire Chief and his team for the great job they did in shooting the fireworks Friday night and Police Chief Bill Partridge and his staff for keeping us safe. The Oxford Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was out there all day ready to respond in case they were needed. Coming in I know Chief Sparks and Chief Partridge got to see a lot of it from the air but I was really overwhelmed by the number of people that we had this year not just at Oxford Lake but going down Highway 78, Leon Smith Parkway and other areas where people had come into town or come from their homes but could not actually make it to Oxford Lake. They managed to find other places to watch the fireworks. We have become a destination more so than ever. I have never seen it and I know it was Friday night, I know the Chief mentioned that and it helped out and also that it was a weekend night. Great job by everyone putting it on, the Park and Recreation Department did a great job throughout the day with the activities. The Lake looked great and I was glad we got the bridge done in time. Last year we had all the pavilions and fountain had just been finished. There were a lot of positive comments by everyone. Thanks to everyone for all the work that was put into the event. It is a long process and a lot work and you do an outstanding job.

Mrs. Hubbard stated the week of July 23rd through July 25th the resource team for the Main Street Initiative that we are a part of now are going to be in town. They are going to have several sessions that will involve our citizens. They want to talk to the people in Oxford. They will be at the Oxford Civic Center from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the evening of July 23rd to discuss different things about the City and the things people love about Oxford. They want to learn more about Oxford as they help us strategically plan for our downtown. During the week they will be meeting with various groups, property owners, retailers, bankers, City employees and will come by and speak to Mayor Smith along with some Council members. Then they will write a plan to help us with development, how we want it to look, a strategic plan for downtown. On Friday, July 25th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. we are going to have a big event at the Performing Arts Center. We are going to try and do some food and encourage people to come out. That is when they will do a public presentation of what they have found and learned about our City. They will present to us a paper document that will tell us what their findings were and tell us what to do as far as economic growth in downtown area and revitalization. I know Wednesday is a church night but come after church. I suggests to the Fire Chief to get all of Lakeview Baptist Church to walk over at 7:00 p.m. Just come late and Friday night is an event as well.

Mayor Smith asks how late do you come. Mrs. Hubbard stated you can come as late as you want to Mayor Smith. I will probably be there until they close the doors. Mayor Smith stated so you never close the doors. Mrs. Hubbard stated we never close the doors in downtown Oxford. I am there twenty four seven.

Mr. Waits asked what day is the presentation. Mrs. Hubbard stated the presentation is on Friday, July 25, 2014 at the Performing Arts Center. We decided to use that since we have the nice lights and projectors. Just a nice setting but we are going to have some music and probably some hot dogs. I just encourage people to come out and celebrate with us. Mr. Waits asked what time will that start? Mrs. Hubbard stated it is listed from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. I would say they would probably do the presentation at 5:00 p.m. I will get more information and put it out. We will have a page now for Main Street. There is a link off our City website and we have a person who is working on all the social media stuff. We came up with our official name. This is Rod Harris he is a part of the team.

Mayor Smith stated Mr. President I am going to ask everything that we are doing is downtown and what we need to do downtown you have your buildings involved and that means you have people's money involved. We need to make that decision and I say we the Council members and the Mayor. Mrs. Hubbard stated absolutely and that is why they will be coming and talking because they want to know what the Council thinks as well as the Mayor. Mayor Smith stated I would think they would want to know that I would want to know that too. Mrs. Hubbard stated they will come by your office. Mayor Smith stated I would like to know that too and I would be asking if you would like for me to. I can start tonight if you want me to. Mrs. Hubbard stated I will be glad to answer anything.

Mr. Waits stated they are coming that night to do a presentation Mayor to all of us. Mayor Smith stated the Council certainly needs to be involved in the City's decisions. I am a firm believer in that and so is the Mayor. The people are certainly going to be involved in it. Mrs. Hubbard stated I hope they will come out. Mayor Smith stated they don't need to be making words of what they can and can't do in downtown Oxford. Mrs. Hubbard stated that is why these people are coming to help us make a plan. It is all about helping us. Mayor Smith stated if they don't live in Oxford I don't want to hear them. Mrs. Hubbard stated I will present the name that we

came up with because I don't have my notes with me. Rod has it. It is Historic Oxford a Main Street Community. It is historicoxford.org if you would like to find the website. John Longshore is a part of that committee and he has purchased with his own money that domain for us.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Smith stated I do but it is going to take a little while so I am going to do as you asked and wait. We are going to discuss it.

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