

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: June 24, 2014
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Oxford City Hall
PRESENT: Mayor Leon Smith
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council President Pro Tempore
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council Member

ABSENT: Mr. Steven Waits, Council President

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pro Tempore Mike Henderson and Shirley Henson, City Clerk of the City, served as the Clerk of the meeting.

Mr. Henderson stated Mr. Waits is absent.

Minister John Ross of Betta View Hills Church of Christ gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Henderson stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the June 10, 2014 regular meeting. Mrs. Hubbard made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

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" and Mr. Henderson "Yea". The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Joan Sanders presenting the 2013 Financial Statement and Auditor's Report

Mr. Henderson recognized Joan Sanders.

Mrs. Sanders thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing her to prepare the financial statement and audit for the City. It is always a pleasure to do this for you. I just have a few comments. On

page ten is the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures. At the end of the first column you will see the General Fund. There you will see a \$5,887,793.00 loss to the General Fund. I have prepared a schedule of the last five years, from 2009 through 2013 to see the trends of where the City is going. If you look at your total revenues your only change from 2009 to 2013 is \$1,436,399.00. You can see a change in your sales tax which is the second item but it is not significant. It indicates that the economy is steady but you haven't had many gains. I haven't seen a great deal of change in revenue. Under expenditures for 2013 is \$10,388,861.00. I also put some additional information at the bottom. You have your outstanding bond debt. It was \$91,034,207.00 in 2009 and \$105,244,937.00 in 2013. Also, at the very bottom is the change in your fund balance for those years. In 2009 it was \$132,137,674.00 and in 2013 it was \$107,090,591.00. Right above that is your unfunded liability for retirement. There will be another change coming. It seems like all we do is have changes. You have an unfunded liability for retirement for 2013 of \$4,585,145.00.

Mr. Henderson stated Mrs. Sanders I have a couple of questions. The loss on refunding, what does that represent? Mrs. Sanders stated that is where you are taking the bonds out of the books. Mr. Henderson stated one other question. Can you explain the debt service? Mrs. Sanders stated you see \$36,045,714.00 for this year. If you look down under proceeds you have \$30,860,000.00 that is because you have a funding issue. Often the old ones are part of that. Actually you didn't pay off that much debt. If you take the \$30 million out you have increased your debt.

Mr. Spurlin stated Mrs. Sanders on the other revenue, the last line before total revenue it looks like from 2009 to 2013 there is about a \$2,500,000.00 difference. What does the other revenue entail? Mrs. Sanders stated I would have to go back and look. I didn't look at what specifically that was. I can get it for you.

Mrs. Sanders stated if any of you have questions you can call me and I will be glad to meet with you.

Resolution No. 2014-41 – Resolution awarding the bid for the League of Our Own field.

Mr. Henderson stated this is the field that is being built at Oxford Lake near the softball fields.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-41 awarding the bid to Forsyth Building Company, Inc. in the amount of \$435,400.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Henderson stated we are glad to get this going. We have been working on this for a while and there is a lot of work that Alton Craft, Finance Director has put into this. This is a great addition to our City. Mr. Cal Munroe, Architect has done a good job.

Mrs. Hubbard stated that Mr. Munroe's service was in-kind services along with McCartney Construction Company and many others. Mr. Henderson stated we have had several entities that have done work for free. We appreciate that.

Mr. Henderson 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" and Mr. Henderson "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2014-42 – Amending the Tax Abatement for KronoChem.

Mr. Henderson recognized Don Hopper with the Calhoun County Economic Development Council for comments.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2014-42. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Henderson 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” and Mr. Henderson “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hubbard stated she would like to invite everyone to the kickoff for the Main Street Initiative. It will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the steps of the Oxford Performing Arts Center. I am looking forward to having a lot of people from Oxford there. It is going to take a lot of work as we go through this process. We will have the State Director Mary Helmer there. I am looking forward to having a tremendous crowd there and having a great time as well. It will be in conjunction with our local Farmer’s Market.

Mrs. Hubbard stated Saturday, June 28, 2014 is our first Beautification Board cleanup day. You should see all the Council at the parking lot at Oxford Lumber at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. We will be working on picking up trash and trying to get the cleanup started. We are trying to make the citizens aware in each neighborhood. We will be working the Streets of Barry and Luttrell and then we will move to different areas of the City. I know they have already started a cleanup effort in the Cheaha Acres area. Just trying to bring back some attention to each community within our City. We will get the ball rolling and will move from place to place.

Mr. Henderson stated I would like to brag on Mr. Craft’s department and Aaron Sexton. Mr. Sexton was working on a grant for downtown Oxford on some improvements. Mr. Sexton did a great job and we were awarded the grant. It is a \$100,000.00 grant to make some improvements downtown and we appreciate the work he did on that.

Mrs. Hubbard stated actually it is a \$500,000.00 and it is an 80/20 match. We do appreciate Mr. Sexton and the work he has done. He has diligently pursued those grants.

Mr. Henderson stated it makes Mr. Craft look good. I also would like to mention that the Freedom Festival will be held on July 4th. We would like to invite everyone out to Oxford Lake for July 4th to spend the day and see the fireworks. It is always a good day.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Smith stated he has no comments at this time.

Visitors

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

Mr. Henderson stated City Hall will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2014 for Independence Day. Allied Waste will not run on Friday, July 4th and will run Friday's route on Saturday, July 5th.

Mr. Henderson stated at this time I am going to recognize City Attorney Bruce Rice. We will go into a short Executive Session and I will let Mr. Rice explain the reason for this.

Mr. Rice stated the Executive Session is to discuss pending litigation.

Mr. Henderson stated normally we would adjourn from the Executive Session but there is a possibility that we may need to come back to vote on one of the items that we are going to discuss. We will come back from the Executive Session to the Council Chambers and adjourn the meeting.

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

Mr. Henderson 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" and Mr. Henderson "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Henderson recognized Mrs. Hubbard upon returning from the Executive Session.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign any documents to resolve the matter with Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Henderson 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" and Mr. Henderson "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.

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President