

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: May 12, 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. Chris Spurlin, Council Member
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member

ABSENT: Mayor Leon Smith

The meeting was called to order by Council President Steven Waits and in the absence of Shirley Henson, City Clerk of the City, Kristi Durham, served as the Clerk of the meeting.

Dr. Horace Carson of Antioch Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we like to recognize students in our school system at the Council meetings for the Pledge of Allegiance. Tonight is kind of a special night. This is the first time that we have done this but we are going to recognize three students at once. These three students are siblings and I would like to welcome up Kaden, Kennedy Grace and Kyron Brown. We recognize students in our school system who not only excel in academics but in character, behavior, how they take themselves and handle themselves with other students and these three are role models for our school system.

Kaden Brown is in Kindergarten at Coldwater Elementary School. His parents are Torry and Deidra Brown. Kaden enjoys basketball, dancing, and playing his X Box. His favorite subject is Science and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Caulder. When Kaden grows up he wants to be a Police Officer. Kaden has excelled every nine weeks at Coldwater Jacket Pride, a program that recognizes students that have shown great Academic, Attitude (behavior), and Attendance performance. Kaden played basketball for 6 and under scored the most points in his age group.

Kennedy Grace Brown is a 2nd grader at Coldwater Elementary School. Her parents are Torry and Deidra Brown. Kennedy Grace enjoys tumbling/cheer, her iPad, and riding her bike. Her favorite subject is Math and her favorite teacher is Mrs. Wilson. When Kennedy Grace grows up she wants to be a Teacher. The past season Kennedy Grace competed in cheer competitions with Cheaha Cheer & Tumble. She has also excelled every nine weeks at Coldwater Jacket Pride.

Kyron Brown is a 4th grader at Coldwater Elementary School. His parents are Torry and Deidra Brown. Kyron enjoys basketball, playing his X Box, and riding his bike. At school Kyron is a member of the Broadcast Team and Safety Patrol. His favorite subject is Math and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Trantham. When Kyron grows up he wants to be an NBA Basketball Player or

Sports Fitness Trainer. This past season Kyron played on the 2015-2016 Anniston Parks and Recreation All Star Basketball Team. He has also excelled every nine weeks at Coldwater Jacket Pride.

Kaden, Kennedy Grace and Kyron Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated Mrs. Brown, I am sure you are very proud. Thank you for being here tonight.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the April 26, 2016 regular meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

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 "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the May 4, 2016 Special Called meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

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 "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 recognizing the week of May 15-21, 2016 as "National Police Week".

Mr. Waits recognized Miss Durham for the reading of the Proclamation.

Mr. Waits stated thank you Chief Bill Partridge for your leadership at the Police Department. We have some outstanding men and women there and great equipment. The best thing about our Police Department is our men and women and how you interact with the public, how you handle yourselves. There were some other officers that was going to be here but I think you just got off of a call that was a significant standoff call. It could have been bad for everybody but again a good example the gentleman went home safe and so did all of our officers. I think that is just another testament of the good job you guys do. I also want to congratulate one of your guys, Frank Davis who is retiring June 1st. He has been with the Police Department for 12 years and has been a law enforcement officer for 39 years starting in May 1977. He has been an outstanding representative of the City. Chief we want you to tell him how much we appreciate him and all your guys.

Mr. Henderson stated I would like to echo what Mr. Waits just said and I don't think it could have been said any better. I appreciate those who came out and prayed for the Police Department the other day and we had a good group there praying for them. I am certainly proud that Mrs. Hubbard has led the way for a new memorial. We haven't really given it the attention that I think we should have. We are going to be building a new park at Oxford Lake Park called Liberty Park. It will honor not only our veteran's, which certainly deserved to be honored but it will also honor our fallen police officers, first responders and firefighters. Thankful that we live in a community that thinks highly of our first responders. I especially want to thank Chief Partridge for all the staff and police officers do. It is nice to live in a safe City and to know that they have your back. I was just at the bank a few minutes ago and one of our employees upstairs didn't realize I was still downstairs. She left and set the alarm off. Within a few minutes a police car was pulling up in front of the bank knocking on the door to make sure I was okay. I hate that we wasted their time but it is another example of them jumping into the line of duty out here protecting the citizens of our community. I want to echo what Mr. Waits said. Thank you for all you do and we are very fortunate to have the Police Department that we have.

Mrs. Hubbard stated thank you to Chief Partridge for leading the way for the State that we have now at Centennial Park in Anniston. He led the way and he will tell you more about it in bringing the State Police Memorial to Calhoun County. He did that through the sale of car tags. He can tell you a little bit more about that. If you want to support them in a huge way then this is one way you can do it. I plan on doing that when I buy my tag this month.

Chief Partridge stated I would like Brother C.O. Grinstead to step up here as he is our department Chaplin. I just want to say real quick Friday at noon we will be unveiling the State Law Enforcement Memorial at 17th and Quintard at Centennial Park. This is something we have been working on for years and we finally secured the funding, paid for it, it is completed and we will unveil it Friday at noon. We invite the public out to look at it.

Resolution No. 2016-58 – Authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation for Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-way Acquisition and Construction to add a deceleration lane along McIntosh Road to benefit Kobay South, LLC.

Mr. Waits stated this project has an estimated cost of \$472,900.00. The Calhoun County Economic Development Council is going to be working on the preliminary engineering at a price close to \$60,000.00 and this agreement basically acknowledges that the City will be responsible for any cost overruns.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-58. 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.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated before we start Council Comments I would like to recognize John Longshore, Director at the Oxford Performing Arts Center for a quarterly update.

John Longshore stated with the passing of Ordinance No. 2016-02 back in January, we have finalized the completion of our new Advisory Board of Directors. I am pleased to report that it will consist of Mrs. Jane Batey, Dr. Pat Bernardi, Mr. Mike Carter, Mrs. Marilyn Clark, Mrs. Cheryl Potts, Mrs. Jean Schrader and Mr. Danny Shears and they went to work immediately. We have taken our volunteer board structure from involving about 15 people to upwards of 40. We are very excited going forward to involve more people in the community. Also, from a financial standpoint if we look at year over year, this fiscal year versus last fiscal year our ticket sales and ticket revenue is up 32.9 percent this year versus last year. We are pleased about that. We have announced our 2016-17 Series. We are pleased to announce a new Country Series, Noble Bank and Trust has stepped up again to sponsor the Broadway Series. We also have with Phil Webb a sponsor for our new Country Music Series. We have 5 new country shows that are going to be part of a series that will be sponsored by Webb Concrete. We are pleased to announce that we have more shows online and hope to continue to bring people back to downtown Oxford. Especially with the revitalization coming up. From a facilities standpoint we did finish our project last fall to add the additional restroom. We have received a huge number of comments and compliments on that. So, thank you for your support in adding that and fixing those facilities. Currently, we are midway through a process of replacing our lighting system with LED's. As of right now about 80 percent of our lighting in the venue is LED which is almost an 80 percent power saver. We are pleased with that as well. In recognition of Mr. Partridge, I would like to say that one of the number one compliments we get from patrons is how safe they feel. I realize there is a cost to providing those officers at each and every event but I can't tell you what that does to our patrons to make them feel safe. Not only from parking their car and getting inside the venue but they always have a nice strong presence. In the age of uncertainty that makes a huge difference in our ability to attract people to the arts and have them enjoy an experience in a safe environment. So, thanks to the whole Police Department. They do an outstanding job and are courteous. They even helped little old ladies to their cars and go consistently above and beyond the call of duty to help us.

Mr. Waits stated thank you and we appreciate you. Thank you Mrs. Batey we appreciate your work.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I would like to invite everyone to come out to the Second Annual Lick Skillet Festival. It's this Saturday sponsored by our Main Street group here in our City. We are going to have starting at 10 a.m. and will go until 4 p.m. We will have music, acrobats in the street, at midday we will have lots of great food and vendors. Come on out and enjoy Saturday in downtown.

Mr. Waits stated one thing I would like to say before we have visitor comments is obviously there has been a lot of conversation in our community and the Council. We are obviously not going to agree on everything in our City. As Council President I feel like my role and it is really all of our roles that sit up here at this point to get everyone focused on actions that will get our City moving forward. We have a tremendous amount of positive things going on in the works of our City. Things that could have a great impact on all of our citizens. It is my feeling that it is time we as a Council and we as a City focus on these things and really try to move forward and come together. I appreciate everybody's prayers and with that I ask if there are any other Council Comments.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Visitors

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

James Harrison a resident of the City but lives in Talladega County stated every one of us makes decisions. I want to congratulate you on a fantastic Police Department. Anytime we have had any problems they have been there. They have a hard, stressful job and I appreciate that. I appreciate the City Council, the City of Oxford. We should realize the City that we live in as you made the statement because of it we are protected by the Fire Department and Police Department. We all face decisions good or bad and I am glad to be a citizen. We need to pray more for your decisions and pray more for the Mayor. He has faced a lot in his life and he is still facing it and we need to pray more for him.

Mr. Waits thanked Mr. Harrison and stated it is much appreciated.

Mr. Waits stated I would like to entertain a motion to go into Executive Session for the sale of real estate and the real/potential litigation and for that aspect I would ask our City Attorney, Ron Allen to certify that. Mr. Allen stated so certified.

Mr. Waits stated we will have the Executive Session in the Conference Room and we will actually adjourn from there.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to go into Executive Session. 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.

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