

5/12/2020

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: May 12, 2020
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Oxford Performing Arts Center
PRESENT: Mayor Alton Craft
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council President
Mr. Steven Waits, Council President Pro Tempore
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council Member

The City Council of the City of Oxford, Alabama, met in Regular Session in the Studio in the Oxford Performing Arts Center of the City of Oxford, Alabama, on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at approximately 6:30 o'clock p.m. Council President Spurlin called the meeting to order.

Ron Allen, City Attorney, was present.

Alan Atkinson, City Clerk, was present.

Mayor Craft prayed the Invocation.

Council President Spurlin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council President Spurlin stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the April 28th, 2020 meeting. Council Member Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hubbard.

Council President Spurlin called for any comments or questions; there being none, on roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Spurlin announced that was the time for the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Wren Green, Commercial Credit Corp., and NevadaReal.co LLC for a structure located at 25 Main Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, declared the hearing open and asked if anyone wished to address the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Wren Green, Commercial Credit Corp., and NevadaReal.co LLC for a structure located at 25 Main Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

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Marissa Jamieson, attorney, addressed the Council on behalf of Wren Green and stated that while the house looked rough on the outside, it had looked just as rough on the outside before Ms. Green had purchased it. She stated that Ms. Green bought the home in 2017 with the plan of rehabbing the home because that it was she does for a living and now she wants to actually make it her home. She stated Ms. Green had slowly been working on restoring this home and it was still in the demolition phase. She stated Ms. Green's plan was to have the home fully restored and habitable within twelve months. She stated this home was built prior to the Civil War and modern building codes and would never be brought up to code but could be made presentable from the outside. She stated it could be made habitable on the inside. She stated they were asking the City to table the action to condemn Ms. Green's home of the last three years. She stated that the City must enable Ms. Green and anyone she reaches out to with the ability to finish this project which would include obtaining building permits and different work permits which she would need. She stated that the City must stop harassing Ms. Green with their constant visits by Building Inspector Joey Stay. She stated that Mr. Stay had come to the home at least 27 times in the past three and half months using intimidation tactics to bully Ms. Green and Ms. Green is terrified. She stated if the Council did not delay this condemnation action tonight they would all end up in court. She stated in a year if the City felt no progress had been made on the home they could move forward with this condemnation.

Council President Spurlin asked Ms. Jamieson if she had been inside the property and gone upstairs.

Ms. Jamieson stated she had been inside the property but had not been upstairs. She stated that her husband who was her law partner had been upstairs and toured the whole property.

Council President Spurlin asked Ms. Jamieson if she felt like the structure was safe.

Ms. Jamieson stated she did not have any training in building codes and she did not know because it was not in her foray. She stated her training had been in law enforcement and probation.

Council President Spurlin stated that the Council had given Ms. Green the option of obtaining building permits 60 days ago. He stated that two months had passed without there having any work done and no permits applied for.

Ms. Jamieson stated to her knowledge that the Coronavirus had delayed Ms. Green. She stated she had not been aware of the timeline stated by Council President Spurlin.

Council Member Waits asked Ms. Jamieson what she thought an appropriate time frame would be for Ms. Green to get started on the property repairs.

Ms. Jamieson stated Ms. Green would like to get started as soon as possible and that she had been in contact with contractors. She stated she hoped to be finished by February which would be a one year period from when the letters started arriving.

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Council Member Waits asked Ms. Jamieson that even with the Coronavirus issues did she feel that Ms. Green could get started within 30 days.

Ms. Jamieson stated that yes should thought Ms. Green could be started within 30 days.

Mike Roberts, City Building Inspector, addressed the Council and stated that the Coronavirus had not stopped any procedures in the construction business. He stated that every time he or Mr. Stay had been to the property they had used body cameras to record the visits. He stated they had been invited into the home. He stated they felt the health and safety of anyone living in the home would be compromised. He stated the report concerning the mold obtained by Ms. Green shows that the mold present in the house is over 50% black mold. He stated there was no roof on this house.

Council Member Waits asked Mr. Roberts if they had seen a decrease in construction in the city.

Mr. Roberts stated they had not seen a decrease in construction in the city. He stated their offices have been open this entire time Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30 pm. He stated they had asked that she find a qualified person to go in and find exactly what it would take to save the home.

Council President Spurlin asked if anyone else wished to address the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Wren Green, Commercial Credit Corp., and NevadaReal.co LLC for a structure located at 25 Main Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

No one else addressed the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Wren Green, Commercial Credit Corp., and NevadaReal.co LLC for a structure located at 25 Main Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

Council President Spurlin declared the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Wren Green, Commercial Credit Corp., and NevadaReal.co LLC for a structure located at 25 Main Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, closed.

Council President Spurlin announced that was the time for the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to John and Lou Lindblom and Federal National Mortgage for a structure located at 129 Williamson Avenue to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, declared the hearing open and asked if anyone wished to address the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to John and Lou Lindblom and Federal National Mortgage for a structure located at 129 Williamson Avenue to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

No one addressed the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to John and Lou Lindblom and Federal National Mortgage for a structure located at 129 Williamson Avenue to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

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Council President Spurlin declared the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to John and Lou Lindblom and Federal National Mortgage for a structure located at 129 Williamson Avenue to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, closed.

Ordinance No. 2020- 12 – Ordinance adopting the State Sales Tax Holiday for 2020 (July 17-19)

Council Member Gardner made a motion for the unanimous consent of the Council for the immediate consideration of Ordinance Number 2020-12. The motion was seconded by Council Member Waits; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried.

Unanimous consent of the Council having been given for the immediate consideration of Ordinance Number 2020-12, Council Member Gardner made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2020-12. The motion was seconded by Council Member Waits; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried and Ordinance Number 2020-12 was approved.

Resolution No. 2020 – 41 – Resolution condemning the structure located at 25 Main Street.

Council Member Waits made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-41. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hubbard; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried and Resolution Number 2020-41 was approved.

Council President Spurlin stated the next item on the agenda was the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution No. 2020 – 42 – Resolution granting a one time supplemental pay raise for City employees in the month of May, 2020.

Resolution No. 2020 – 43 – Resolution condemning the structure located at 129 Williamson Avenue.

Resolution No. 2020 – 44 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Tax Revenue Enhancement Agreements with Avenu Insights and Analytics, LLC

Resolution No. 2020 – 45 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept the bid from Mosca Design, Inc. of Christmas Lights and Decorations for the Oxford “Festival of Lights” Light Show Decorations for the sum of \$712,896.58.

Resolution No. 2020 – 46 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Grizzard Land Surveying for surveying services of City owned real property.

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Resolution No. 2020 – 47 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Arcadia Publishing and the History Press to publish a work entitled: Images of America: Oxford.

Resolution No. 2020 – 48 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Community Foundation of N. E. Alabama for the Small Business Relief Fund in the total amount of \$100,000.00.

Council Member Gardner made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Resolution Numbers 2020-42 through 2020-48. The motion was seconded by Council Member Waits; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none; abstentions: Council Member Hubbard. The motion carried and the Consent Agenda, Resolution Numbers 2020-42 through 2020-48, were approved.

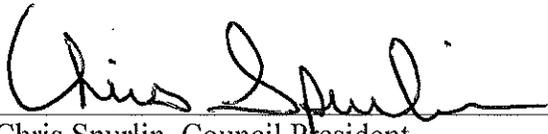
Council Member Hubbard stated this was Law Enforcement Appreciation Week and they wanted to recognize their police officers and all they do to keep everyone safe.

Council Member Henderson stated that one of the Oxford teachers had been recognized as a National Teacher of the Year in robotics.

Mayor Craft thanked everyone involved in the National Day of Prayer. He thanked Mayor Draper, Anniston, for his participation and stated he felt it was one of the best National Day of Prayer events ever.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Henderson made a motion to adjourn. Council President Spurlin declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 o'clock p.m.

APPROVED
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
OXFORD, ALABAMA


Chris Spurlin, Council President

AUTHENTICATED:


Alan B. Atkinson, City Clerk
May 12, 2020: Regular Meeting

