

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: October 10, 2017  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Oxford City Hall  
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 meeting was called to order by Council President Chris Spurlin and Alan Atkinson, City Clerk of the City, served as the Clerk of the meeting.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Spurlin stated tonight we have Anna Lee Adams to lead us in our pledge. Anna Lee is a student at Oxford Elementary School. Her parents are Jeremy and Stephanie Adams. Anna Lee enjoys gymnastics, playing outside and playing with her dog, Honeybell. Anna Lee is a member of the OES Broadcast Team. Anna Lee's favorite subject is math and her favorite teacher is Angie Hurst. When Anna Lee grows up, she wants to be a "doctor pimple popper".

Anna Lee Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Spurlin thanked Miss Adams for leading the Pledge of Allegiance and stated he appreciated her excelling in school.

Mr. Spurlin stated Shirley Henson, City Clerk, was retiring from the City of Oxford and Alan Atkinson was present and would be assuming the position of City Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Spurlin stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the September 26, 2017 meeting. Mr. Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

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

Amy Henderson, Director, Oxford Public Library, addressed the Council concerning the National Day of Prayer and the Prayer Quilts on display at the library.

Mr. Spurlin stated that the strips that make up the quilts were included with a list of local officials, national officials, and emergency responders and each strip represents prayers and individuals came to City Hall and prayed and then turned the strips back in. He stated that Mrs. Henderson and her team took the strips then and assembled the blanket. He stated he appreciated their hard work in assembling the strips and for the prayers going up for our country, our city and our leaders.

Mrs. Hubbard stated this was the quilt group that meets each week at the library.

Mr. Spurlin stated that Hunter Gentry was to share information about the bicentennial.

Hunter Gentry, Main Street, and Amy Henderson, Oxford Public Library, addressed the Council concerning the Oxford Bicentennial. They stated there would need to be a resolution creating a Bicentennial Board. Mrs. Henderson stated they were working on digitizing items in the Oxford Room of the Library and would be calling out to the public for help with the identification of photographs in the Oxford Room.

Mr. Spurlin thanked them for their hard work and stated this was a part of history they wanted to be able to share.

Mrs. Hubbard asked that in order to apply for the grants they needed a resolution establishing the committee.

Mr. Spurlin stated that had been given a sample resolution.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Spurlin stated under old business they had the following resolution:

**Resolution No. 2017-88 - Approving the actions of the Building Inspector that the building located at 261 Reaves Drive, be destroyed or removed as soon as possible according to Ordinance 212 of the City of Oxford.**

Mr. Spurlin recognized Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to amend Resolution No. 2017-88 add a thirty (30) deferment from this date before any demolition work be initiated and to approve Resolution No. 2017-88 as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Spurlin stated this would give Mrs. Newell an opportunity to remove her personal property.

Mr. Spurlin called for additional comments or questions.

On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution No. 2017-115 - Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement for Construction Engineering Services for the Downtown Streetscape Project with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc.**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-115. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution No. 2017-116 - Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc. for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of engineering work on the widening and turn lane improvements on Leon Smith Parkway.**

Mr. Waits made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-116. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hubbard.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution No. 2017-117 - Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease agreement with the Church of the Highlands.**

Mr. Waits made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-117. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Resolution No. 2017-118 - Resolution authorizing certain preliminary matters related to the issuance of General Obligation Warrants, Series 2017C.**

Mr. Spurlin stated this resolution did not obligate them to use these bonds but did give them the option.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-118. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hubbard.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution No. 2017-119 - Resolution declaring a 1993 Freightliner tractor as surplus property for the Oxford City Garage.**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-119. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Spurlin called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Gardner “Yea”, Mr. Waits “Yea”, Mr. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Spurlin “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Mr. Spurlin called for Council comments.

Mr. Henderson stated they had another successful Oxford Fest and thanked all the people that help make that possible. He stated he appreciated the support the Kiwanis Club booth received.

Mr. Spurlin stated Oxford Fest had been a great event and they had a good crowd.

Mr. Waits stated that on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the trailhead of Choccolocco Park the archaeologists who have been involved with the park would be giving personalized tours of the interpretive trail at Choccolocco Park. He stated it would be a unique opportunity to learn from experts. He stated this would be an opportunity to share artifacts that had been removed from the site with the archaeologists and learn the nature and history of the artifacts.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS**

Mr. Spurlin asked Mayor Craft if he had any comments. Mayor Craft commended the Oxford City staff for their response and work during the tropical storm.

Mr. Spurlin stated we need to set a public hearing for October 24, 2017 to consider the following request which was approved by the Oxford Planning Commission at their September 5, 2017 meeting:

- (A) Re-zoning request from Juanita Curvin to re-zone the property located at 598 Beck Road and 0 Burtram Drive from General Business to Residential.
- (B) Re-zoning request from Janese Humphries to re-zone property located at 35 Burtram Drive from General Business to Residential.
- (C) Re-zoning request from Lawrence Horton to re-zone the property located at 63 Burtram Drive and a small strip next to 63 Burtram Drive from General Business to Residential.
- (D) Re-zoning request from LBC Acquisitions to re-zone the property located at 1900 Golden Springs Road from General manufacturing to General Business.

## **Visitors**

Chief Sparks, Fire Department, stated this was Fire Prevention Week and stated the Fire Department was going door to door checking to make sure the citizens have properly working Smoke detectors and if not they were installing them free of charge. He stated fire prevention needs to be on everyone's mind.

Bill Bunn, 2017 Cheatwood Drive, addressed the Council and stated:

“The City of Oxford, Mayor, and City Council have always worked to make Oxford the “Hub” of Calhoun County and Central East Alabama for retail stores, restaurants and hotels. Tax money was used to help the development of these commercial business and to-date it has been a “windfall” for Oxford. We have a strong financial base that provides low interest rates when the City needs to borrow money, our budget is the envy of our neighbors, we have top rated police and fire departments, we are able to spend millions on infrastructure improvements and our school system is second to none. We have built and paid for new city buildings, improved Cider Ridge golf course to be a noted course to play and the “star” of the City, the Choccolocco Park Sports Complex, all with tax money generated by retail, restaurant and lodging taxes.

However, the City Council has placed some of our commercial business, in particular restaurants and hotels, at a disadvantage with our neighboring cities by not taking action to provide the ability to compete with other business around Oxford that have Sunday alcohol sales. The City put a lot of work to bring these businesses here and has profited from their sales. Now the Council is denying them the competitive edge to provide their customers with beverages on Sunday that is available Monday through Saturday.

Oxford developed an excellent strategy to tie alcohol sales to food sales for a business applying for a license to sale alcohol. This has been successful over the years and has provided great control for on premises purchase and consumption of alcohol by individuals. This will work the same on Sunday as it does Monday through Saturday.

This is an economical issue and should be considered as such. The Council either needs to have several public meetings to allow residents and business owners express their desires or, I think the best method is to allow the residents vote on a referendum, perhaps at the same time as the election for the Senate seat in December.

Whatever the Council decides for the decision process, supporting our commercial business should be a priority. Give them a level economical playing field with our neighbors that are now taking advantage of Oxfords non-action.”

Cliff Andrews, Second Chance, addressed the Council and stated that October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mr. Waits made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:03 p.m.

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Alan B. Atkinson, City Clerk

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Chris Spurlin, Council President