

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: October 11, 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. Phil Gardner, Council Member
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council Member

ABSENT: Mayor Leon Smith

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.

Jimmy Denham of Antioch Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we recognize students in our school system who excel not only in academics but in character. Tonight we recognize Hadley Sampson. Her principal has nominated her. Hadley is a 4th grader at Coldwater Elementary School. Her parents are Tonya and Chris Sampson. Hadley enjoys swimming, singing, and doing makeup. At school Hadley is involved in Jacket Singsations, Safety Patrol, and the AMEA Music Group. Her favorite subject is Writing and her favorite teacher is Mrs. Caulder. When Hadley grows up she wants to be a teacher. Hadley participated in the school's St. Jude Math-A-Thon this past spring and was crowned the top student. This honor also came with being the Principal at Coldwater Elementary for one day and she truly did a great job. According to Christy Shepard her principal.

Hadley Sampson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated great job Hadley and keep up the great work at school.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the September 27, 2016 regular meeting. Mr. Spurlin 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 "Abstain", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Waits called for a motion to remove from the table Resolution No. 2016-118.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to remove Resolution No. 2016-118 from the table. 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. Gardner "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2016-118 – Authorizing the Council President to enter into a contract with ThinkGard for offsite cloud backup.

Mr. Waits stated we discussed this with our attorney in the work session. This is some software that is disaster recovery software. What we identified is that it is not a sole source provider and with that it would have to be bid out.

Mr. Waits called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-118. This resolution will die from a lack of a motion.

Mr. Waits stated from what I understand our IT Department is looking at their options with that and will be bringing this back up to the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2016-120 – Resolution authorizing the Council President to enter into a Real Estate Sales Contract to acquire additional property.

Mr. Waits stated this property is located on Leon Smith Parkway and is 32 acres next to the sports complex at the price of \$1.2 million.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-120. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated the residents who were concerned about what was going to be built out there we now have control of the property. Hopefully this will alleviate some concerns that those residents might have had.

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. 2016-121 – Resolution authorizing the Council President to enter into a contract to purchase from the State bid list a 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe for Mayoral use.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-121. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated this will be utilized by Mayor Craft.

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.

Mr. Waits stated there are a couple of items we would like to add tonight.

Resolution No. 2016-122 - Resolution authorizing the Council President to enter into a contractual agreement with Bailey Engineering in the amount of \$1,200.00 to perform a Phase I Environmental Study.

Mr. Waits stated this will be conducted on the property that we just voted on.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-122. 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. Gardner "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2016-25 – Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2016-22.

Mr. Waits stated this is related to a stop sign that was put up on Florence Boulevard and Day Street in the Blue Bond community. Since that sign has been put up we have been able to obtain additional data from our City Engineer related to some speeds and other items we have identified that the stop sign is not appropriate. We are going to be addressing the repealing of the ordinance that put that stop sign in place.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2016-25 to be adopted at this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

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.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2016-25. 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. Gardner "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2016-123 - Change order with Hurst Construction for the Special Operations Building at the Oxford Police Department in the amount of \$7,931.67.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-123. 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.

Resolution No. 2016-124 - Change order for Liberty Park in the amount of \$7,073.00.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-124. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated this is the park that is being developed behind the Civic Center. I saw some images of it yesterday and it is looking fantastic. You will have to ride out there and see it. They are doing a great job on putting this together.

Mrs. Hubbard stated the completion date is the end of October.

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 called for Council Comments.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I would like to introduce Jason Fondren. Many of you have met Jason before at some of the comprehensive plan meeting. He is here with what we are thinking is the final draft of the comprehensive plan which will be voted on by the Council a little bit later. After we look at this and the Council has the opportunity to see this draft. This includes some comments from the Planning Board on the previous drafts and new things especially in the line of education and adding some things about our schools within the written part of the plan. It also includes our land use maps. We are really excited to have Jason here tonight to make some comments about this and then the Council will get the final draft to look over and hopefully have this in place. I don't know if Jason will mention this or not but he has already started working on the zoning and the zoning ordinances. He has shared that with Mike Roberts and of course will be sharing it with everyone after they have refined it a little more. We are very excited to have you tonight Jason.

Jason Fondren stated you will get a more formal presentation at the appropriate time. This will be relatively informal tonight. We will give you an overview and tell you about the plan. We have been working on this since late spring. We have had three community meetings at the Civic Center in this process. In putting together the plan we met with a lot of the representatives of the City and individuals who are involved with the City such as Don Hopper of the Calhoun

County Economic Development Council. I think we have a pretty good draft together of everything we have heard from the community meetings. The plan seems to be consistent with the vision that direction the community has described in those conversations. The core of the plan is the land use and transportation element. Although, the plan does address a look at the City and it's opportunities for growth, economic development and quality of life but beyond those central elements it establishes goals for the City to pursue over the tenure of the plan. We have a strong and diverse economy to have well planned facilities and services and to provide quality of life. The plan describes recommendations that were pulled together from City staff, the Planning Board as well as all the great comments. The next part of the plan is the development concept which represents all of the key components that make up the City of Oxford. Roadways, parks, neighborhoods, business and industrial areas and looks at all of those. How they work together and opportunities and strategies you have to continue the development of the City and ways that are consistent with those core goals. The next part of the plan is the land use and transportation component. We looked through the land use at the last meeting at the Civic Center and received comments. I think we have a pretty good plan and land use map. Finally, the last section of the plan talks about how the plan would be implemented through public investments and updating City zoning and subdivision regulations. The importance of the process in keeping the plan relevant in time so you are not sitting here five or ten years from now trying to make decisions that are not properly supported. So changes are made over time and there may be individual things that come up. Some of the comments that we heard the Planning Board after they have had a chance to review that draft, I believe it was early September that we met and shortly thereafter they had the opportunity to look through it and gave everyone a couple of weeks to send any additional comments after that meeting. We have since made those changes that were recommended by the Planning Board and I will describe those to you. As Council Member Hubbard mention about putting more emphasis on Oxford City Schools is an important part and is highlighted. Putting more emphasis on revitalizing downtown Oxford and the Quintard Mall. Some more emphasis on opportunities to build in expansion. Some references to some currently planned Capital Projects like Barry Street. This is backed up by comments from that meeting to look at safety and pedestrian access around the Oxford Exchange, Oxford Commons and Choccolocco Park. There isn't an easy solution on how to get people back and forth. Another recommendation from the Planning Board is a connector from Recreation Drive to Industrial Drive and to include some bicycle paths. Finally, some more emphasis on work force development and strategies because improvement was the number one that came from that last community meeting recognizing that you have partners in the Oxford area such as Gadsden State and the Calhoun County Economic Development Council. With that said some of the discussion we had with the Planning Board touch on just quickly the plan is a policy guide for the City to help you make decisions. At the same time it is a statement that you make to the outside world about the City you want to be or trying to be. I will take comments about the plan or questions.

Mrs. Hubbard asked if Mr. Fondren would post this draft on the Imagine Oxford link so that the citizens can go and see the final draft and any of us can see the final draft of the plan so that before we have the final vote we have the opportunity to tweak this even more.

Mr. Fondren stated that is the intent.

Mrs. Hubbard stated thank you. We appreciate your work and the Planning Board's work on this. They have worked very hard editing and going through. I appreciate the work that they

have done and not necessarily me but the other members of the Planning Board have worked very hard especially our chair Bill Newman. He has really embraced this concept.

Mr. Waits stated that the Grand Opening of Choccolocco Park will be Sunday at 2:00 p.m. I invite everyone to attend. It hasn't rained in a month surely it will not rain Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Visitors

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

Rick Character of Lori Lane addressed the Council regarding the sewer in the area and bringing disc golf to the area.

Mr. Waits stated as far as the sewer goes does anyone want to make any comments.

Mr. Henderson stated I talk with Wayne Livingston, Oxford Water Department a good bit. Wayne Livingston basically chooses or recommends the area Rick that the sewer goes. I have not heard him mention about it coming to your neighborhood. We have to budget so much money if we are going to do sewer work and this year we weren't able to budget any money for sewer work. We did some work a couple of years ago on Hubbard Lane, Able Place and Snow Lane because that is what he recommended. We also reimbursed him some money for some work he has done on the thing in the pasture that you see off Friendship Road. We had to do some repairs out there by Colonial Pipeline. It is sort of like the road situation. We have asked Wayne to develop a plan where he wants to go with the sewer and as money becomes available hopefully we will be able to start budgeting money to expand the sewer. Of course the goal is one day to have sewer over the entire City. He tries to identify the places that he feels like have the greatest need. If I was estimating what he has talked to me about the next year he would go to the Del Ray subdivision area because there are a lot of issue out there with flooding. We can certainly recommend to him to look at your area. We are pretty much relying on him to recommend an area and of course then we fund it as we have funds to do it. This year unfortunately we didn't have any funds to fund an expansion in this year's budget. That is where we are at on that and Mr. Waits might want to add to it.

Mr. Waits stated what I would suggest for you to do is to share that with him as well. Like Mr. Henderson stated we do have to lean on him to give us direction because he is the guy who gets the calls as far as knowing where the sewer issues are. He is our expert. He would be the guy to put it in. We have historically leaned on him to give us direction and we have provided the funding like Mr. Henderson said. I would encourage you to speak with him.

Greg Thrower of 2072 Little John Drive stated ten or twelve years ago the wheels started turning on a project. Personally I want to thank you and congratulate you. I know you have all talked about the ball fields, the soccer fields and that type of areas. What I would like for you to do if you haven't done it yet is to experience the nature of the walking track around the lake and the path around the creek. My wife and I even though it says track closed due to construction we have walked that facility roughly for 18 months. Twenty five years before that it was a sod farm

and the beauty that you have left, if you haven't had the time please take the time to walk out there. Do it at night. Go out there about 6:00 p.m. The lights come on at 6:00 p.m. and the lake lights come on at 7:01 p.m. and just walk. The mallards that have come in to roost in the afternoon you see sometimes in the morning and the deer you have crossing the creek. This past week was the first time I have seen it and I am 63, I fished with my granddad on that creek when I was about 10 years old and this is the first time I have seen a man and I am assuming a grandson fishing in the creek. You have done something that you should be proud of. Each and every one of you, several of you before and the Councils that built this City to get the money so that you could do that. The ball fields are open now and that is great and wonderful but just take your time and see the nature of it. Mr. Waits took a picture last night of the sunset and that is every night. My wife and I see it every day. I walk my dog and yes I pick up after my dog. It is not a complaint. It is just a congratulations and you should be really proud.

Mr. Henderson stated you had a big part in that Greg.

Mr. Waits stated it is good to see it all come together. My wife was saying the same thing that the sports part of it is special and some of the nicest around but the real special part of that park is the historical and nature area. That is what really makes it. I agree 110 percent. We were out there walking last night and checking some things and I saw Greg and then I looked up at my car and there was a police car with his lights on. It is closed. They will get you. I would have hated to pay that bill.

Mrs. Hubbard stated was that my car because I was out there to. Mr. Waits stated that was my car.

Mr. Waits stated at this time I am going to ask for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss real or potential litigation. I ask our City Attorney Ron Allen if he will certify this.

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.

Mr. Waits stated if you are leaving us thank you for being here tonight.

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