

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: October 25, 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

ABSENT: Mayor Leon Smith
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council Member

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 like to recognize students from our school system who are excelling not only in character but in academics. Tonight we are going to recognize Hannah Grace Robbins. She is a 6th grader at C.E. Hanna Elementary School. Her parents are Shannon and Laura Robbins. Hannah Grace enjoys soccer, cheer, and dance. She also enjoys attending Auburn football games. She and her family attend Golden Springs Baptist Church. At school Hannah Grace is the newly elected President of the Student Council. Her favorite subject is PE and her favorite teacher is Mrs. Owens. She is unsure what she wants to be when she grows up. Whatever she does I am sure she will excel at it. Congratulations Hannah Grace for being recognized by your school.

Hannah Grace Robbins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated congratulations and keep up the good work Hannah Grace.

Mr. Waits stated Mr. Spurlin is absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the October 11, 2016 regular 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. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2016-125 – Awarding the bid for milling, patching and paving various City streets.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-125. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated this was bid out and McCartney Construction is awarded the bid in the amount of \$399,993.50. Rusty Gann our City Engineer described this in our pre-meeting that this is for the area over in Pinewood Subdivision, where they have been working. They should be starting on it sometime before Thanksgiving. We are looking at a construction time of about 30 days.

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

Change Tuesday, November 8, 2016 meeting to Monday, November 7, 2016.

Mr. Waits stated we want to make an announcement that we are going to be changing our November 8, 2016 meeting to Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. we will have our Organizational Meeting and then immediately following we will have our first scheduled meeting. The Organizational Meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. that night.

Mr. Waits stated for the next item I will recognize Mr. Henderson for a resolution.

Resolution No. 2016-126 – Resolution to amend the budget by \$13,300.00 and to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with QSend Technologies for a service center.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-126. 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. 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. 2016-127 – Resolution approving modifications to the City and Employee Handbook.

Mr. Waits stated Fire Chief Gary Sparks presented this to us in the pre-meeting. There is about 5 or 6 minor modifications I will not go through tonight but we will be approving the handbook changes.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2016-127. 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. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Waits called for Council Comments.

Mr. Henderson stated Mr. Waits you have done a good job serving as Council President for the last 4 years. I appreciate the good job you have done. Thank you for your hard work.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Mr. Waits stated we need to set a public hearing for November 7, 2016 to consider the following request which was approved by the Oxford Planning Commission at their October 4, 2016 meeting: A) Zoning request from John Cupo to zone the property located at 55 Coventry Court to Residential.

Visitors

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

Terry Parker of 2067 Little John Drive stated I have a deep love for the City of Oxford and have made it my home for 43 years. With the exception of elected officials or employees of the City I have attended more Council meetings in the last five years than probably anyone. As you begin the journey of leading this great City I would like to offer these words of challenge and chastisement for your prayerful and heartfelt consideration. You have finished a term that has been filled with success but unfortunately, also clouded with controversy. Some issues have caused strife and dissention among each of you, family against family, friend against friend, even church members against each other. I ask you to remember the "Golden Rule". Be respectful at all times, respectful in the manner you address one another, respectful of what another has to say or what position they take. We are all different in our likes, dislikes, and opinions and guess what, they don't always match. We elected you as leaders and caretakers of our City but not owners of our City. The City still belongs to the citizens. Your primary goal should be to represent the wishes of the citizens of Oxford. I ask that you don't pass ordinances that make us feel they are being jammed down our throats without considering the feelings of Oxford citizens. As an individual Council member if you feel you don't have enough facts to make an informed decision then don't. If something is time sensitive, and is for the good of the City, by all means act on it. The citizens deserve to know your stance on every issue. If you believe you can't vote for and support something, vote against it. It is okay to vote no. Every single ordinance passed

cannot and should not be unanimous. State your reasons why you would not support it. I ask that you be able to defend your position and you take responsibility for every action of the Council as your own personal decision. If you vote for it, own it, just as much as the person who brought it to the agenda. This makes it easier for us to make decisions in an election year. I encourage honest and productive discussion. Disagreement is healthy and it encourages discussion, which in turn yields more insight. See the other person's point of view, consider it prayerfully and vote your conscience. The City needs wise leadership to succeed. Don't let personal agendas or feelings override how we the citizens expect you to represent us. Don't allow your emotions to make decisions for you. The City not only deserves strong leadership, we also expect it. Be mindful of each duty assigned to you. One of those duties of greatest importance is the responsibility to spend the people's tax dollars even more carefully than your own. Be honest and open about budgets and balance sheets to the citizens you serve. Remember, this is a job you applied for. You asked the citizens to trust you and to hire you through our vote. We granted you the opportunity to serve us and you accepted. Now, through your own actions, you put yourself in a leadership role to serve this city. You are the person who will contribute to all decisions affecting the direction and quality of life for the people of Oxford. The responsibility to each and every citizen of this City. This accountability is more than just mere words, it is your sworn oath. Think outside the box. Sometimes it may help to get a different view if you climb into the box, look around and come out with a new idea and bring it to the table. In August, we elected each of you to be leaders, so, be leaders. Don't let one dominate over the other. We need all five of you to guide us, so please, be a leader, not a follower. Never rely on the reasoning of well, that's the way we've always done it. That's the lazy way out. Be innovative. Your children, grandchildren, neighbors and the citizens of Oxford deserve not one iota less than your very best effort. There's Christ's response to the Pharisee when asked what is the greatest commandment? We know it is to love God with all our heart, with all our mind, and all our soul, and all our strength. But then he said love your neighbor as yourself. There is no greater commandment than this. When it comes to loving your neighbor, I find nowhere that it says only if they believe as I do, if they act as I do, if they're the same color as me, or if they look as I do. There are no qualifications for giving this love, simply just the commandment love thy neighbor as yourself. In everything you do, show this love to your fellow Council member. There is no room for discord or ill will if you fill your heart with love.

Bill Bunn of 2017 Cheatwood Drive just wanted to take the opportunity to thank each one of you for your hard work for the last 4 years and for all the effort you put into bringing our City to where it is today. Putting in action and carrying us forward to the future and being a leader in the State of Alabama. I am hoping next you will take into consideration all the wonderful things, lodging, restaurants, retail and parks. We are going to have people all over the state and nation coming to our area and it would nice if they could say wow what a nice, clean City you have. I certainly thank each of you.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mr. Henderson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gardner.

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Council President