

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: September 26, 2017  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Oxford City Hall  
PRESENT: Mr. Steven Waits, Council President Pro Tempore  
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member  
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member  
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council Member

ABSENT: Mayor Alton Craft  
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council President

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

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Craft and Mr. Spurlin are absent.

Terry Padgett of Meadowbrook Baptist Church gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Waits stated tonight we have Mindy Owens who is a senior at Oxford High School. Her parents are Kathy Yates and Todd Owens. She enjoys studying, dance, and working with children. Mindy is Oxford's SGA President, Captain of the award winning Golden Girls Dance Line, and a member of the National Honor Society. Mindy owns and operates her own consulting business "*Pageants by Mindy*" and is a co-director of the Miss Calhoun County and Miss Cheaha pageants. She was nominated by Oxford High School for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and was honored with the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. When Mindy graduates she wants to receive a degree and pursue a career in Industrial Management.

Mr. Waits stated congratulations Mindy on all that you do. Our students that come and lead our Pledge of Allegiance are nominated by their schools not only for their character and their academics but also for their leadership abilities. I think after you have heard that about Mindy you can see why she was nominated. Congratulations.

Mindy Owens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated thank you Mindy and congratulations.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the September 14, 2017 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**

#### **Presentation of the Main Street Alabama Community Award to Adam Maniscalco and Alyssa Enzor.**

Mr. Waits recognized Hunter Gentry, Main Street Oxford Director. Mr. Gentry stated I would like to recognize Mary Helmer, she is the head of the Main Street Alabama program and she is here to present an award to Adam Maniscalco and Alyssa Enzor, the Community Award for Oxford.

Mary Helmer stated I am here to present the Community Award to Adam Maniscalco and Alyssa Enzor. They were unable to attend our conference. They are receiving this award due to restoring the building they currently occupy in downtown Oxford.

Mrs. Helmer presented the Community Award to Adam Maniscalco and Alyssa Enzor.

Mr. Waits stated Adam and Alyssa we appreciate your investment and the downtown building is gorgeous. It is really, really nice and I appreciate the pride you took in that and doing it right. It should definitely be a catalyst for there now. We appreciate you. Mrs. Helmer thank you for coming to Oxford and doing this for them. Thanks Hunter for all of your work as well.

### **Public Hearing**

Mr. Waits opened the public hearing to receive comments on a new Zoning Ordinance for the City of Oxford. Mr. Waits declared the public hearing opened.

Mr. Waits asked if there was anyone there to speak for or against the re-zoning.

Mike Roberts, Building Official with the City of Oxford stated my department also handles zoning. For the last year and a half, we have worked on the Zoning Ordinance that the City has operated under for a number of years and it was a bit vague in making decisions and a little outdated. The city determined it was time to freshen up the ordinance. So, we went ahead and did our future land use maps and invited all the citizens to be a part of that. Some were very helpful in that matter. We got Jason Fondren with KPS Group in Birmingham involved. He took us by the hand and led us through this. If you have any questions, I will let Mr. Fondren explain the ordinance. We do appreciate the Council being active with us in doing this because you were a part of this. We appreciate this and it is going to make the people in the Zoning Department a lot more at ease for the decisions they make every day for the people of Oxford.

Mr. Roberts recognized Jason Fondren.

Jason Fondren with KPS Group stated the Zoning Ordinance is a follow up to the Comprehensive Plan. The current ordinance is fairly old and has a lot of gray areas. The new ordinance will give a clearer understanding of what you can do. There have been a number of changes for example adding some districts, a default zoning for annexation, important changes and upgrades for larger developments. We have added more specifics for example the usage of different types of signs, requirements for landscaping and requirements for screening.

Mr. Waits declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Waits stated Mr. Fondren we appreciate all of your work. It has been a year and a half of work going into this. Mr. Roberts thank you so much. Mrs. Hubbard is our representative to the Planning Board, who has put a lot of work into this, the Council and Fred Denney is on that board. A lot of time went into this and I believe it is 130 pages. A tremendous amount of work went into this. Thank you to everyone for all the work you put into this.

Mrs. Hubbard stated we will get it on the website very soon.

**Ordinance No. 2017-20 – Ordinance adopting a new Zoning Ordinance for the City of Oxford.**

Mr. Gardner made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2017-20 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. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-20. 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.

**Resolution No. 2017-108 – Approval of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.**

Mr. Waits stated this has been presented to us by Aimee Birchfield, Finance Director. Thank you so much for all of your work on this and your whole team, the department heads and everyone involved. It is projecting a \$206,804.76 surplus for 2018 with this budget.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-108. 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.

**Resolution No. 2017-109 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the State of Alabama through the Alabama Department of Transportation relating to a Transportation Alternatives Project for Sidewalk Rehabilitation and ADA Curb Cuts with partial funding by the Federal Highway Administration.**

Mr. Waits stated this is for some sidewalks and it is an 80/20 match.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-109. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated this is for sidewalks on Snow Street and Choccolocco Street. Mrs. Hubbard stated this is beyond the current project to Hale Street.

Mr. Waits stated this is a \$480,000.00 grant. Great work for everyone involved in this.

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.

**Resolution No. 2017-110 Resolution placing a Municipal Lien against the property located at 57 Alan Street.**

Mr. Waits stated this will be a \$1,550.00 lien.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-110. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits stated we heard from Mike Roberts, Building Official that we have cut the grass at this property over 7 times. It has gotten to the point where we are going to have to put a lien on that property.

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.

Mr. Waits stated the next four resolutions are bids that we are awarding that we do annually.

**Resolution No. 2017-111 – Resolution awarding the bid for guardrails.**

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-111. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Waits stated that this will be going to Alabama Guardrail, Incorporated.

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.

**Resolution No. 2017-112 – Resolution awarding the bid for Bituminous Concrete Asphalt.**

Mr. Waits stated that this will be going to McCartney Construction.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-112. 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. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried.

**Resolution No. 2017-113 – Resolution awarding the bid for traffic striping and pavement markers.**

Mr. Waits stated that this will be going to Ozark Striping.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-113. 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. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried.

**Resolution No. 2017-114 – Resolution awarding the bid for concrete.**

Mr. Waits stated that this will be going to Webb Concrete.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-114. 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. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried.

Mr. Waits stated before we get into Council Comments I would like to recognize Fire Chief Gary Sparks and Tommy Goff from B-Safe Shelters.

Chief Sparks stated as you know a few months ago Mayor Craft came to me and asked me to research about some storm shelters for our City. I started looking at them and started looking to see if there were any grants available to be able to purchase storm shelters. There are no federal grants available until after the storm which is kind of backwards. During that process of looking at different storm shelters I came across B-Safe Industries which Tommy is the President and owner. In talking with him we worked out a deal that we couldn't refuse. I brought it to the Council and you were gracious enough to pass it. Now we are ready to put the shelters in. the shelters will be installed starting tomorrow morning. There will be one in Bynum where the Emergency Medical Services building is, where the old Police Station used to be and there will be one at Dearmanville at the Fire Station. We chose those two areas because they are the furthest away from the center of town where we have more of our mobile home parks, where we have less buildings that would be safe for someone to get into. They have been here all day

filming a documentary. As you can see the camera is here so you will be on the documentary now. Over the years in fire service I have been to a lot of storm damage, seen a lot of tornados and seen people lose their lives because of storms. Two blocks from where the shelter is at Bynum we pulled an elderly lady out of a trailer that a tree fell on. She was sitting in her recliner. That is where she died. Had we have had that storm shelter, I don't know maybe she could have gotten in that storm shelter and had a safe place to be. That is why this is so important. I wanted Tommy to come by since he was here tonight. He's been travelling all day but I wanted him to come by and meet you. Chief Sparks recognized Tommy Goff.

Mr. Goff stated I didn't know I was coming tonight but I just want to say thank you. All of you are a very unusual group that cares so much about the residents to do what you have done. I am honored to provide these shelters to you. It is very humbling and refreshing that you are willing to do this for your residents. We arrived this evening and the shelters we be installed in the morning.

Mr. Waits stated thank you Mr. Goff. I think I can speak for the Council to say that we feel like one of our greatest responsibilities is to provide for the public safety of the residents of this City. I know Mr. Padgett mentioned in his prayer that there are fire stations everywhere and maybe we have too many Chief, we will talk about that. That is important for our community to feel safe. I appreciate you saying that, I really do. That is a responsibility of ours to see that we do that. We look forward to seeing those go in. Chief thank you for your leadership and helping to make that happen.

Mr. Henderson asked what kind of time frame. Mr. Goff stated if a tornado hits tomorrow afternoon the shelters will be ready to go. Chief Sparks stated the Calhoun County Commission has partnered with us in preparing the site.

Mr. Waits stated thank you Chief and thank you Mr. Goff. We appreciate you and your company.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Mr. Waits called for Council Comments.

Mr. Henderson stated we certainly want to express our condolences to the family of former Mayor Leon Smith. He led this City for 30 something years and did an awesome job. I truly respect the job that he did. It is a big loss for our community. Speaking on behalf of the Council I would like to express our condolences to his family. Please keep them in your prayers.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Craft is absent.

### **Visitors**

Mr. Waits called for any comments or questions from anyone present. There were none.

Mr. Waits stated that we need a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the potential or real sale of real estate.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to go into Executive Session. 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. Henderson “Yea” and Mr. Waits “Yea”. The motion carried.

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

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Shirley Henson, City Clerk

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Steven Waits, Council President Pro Tem