

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: September 8, 2015
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Oxford City Hall
PRESENT: Mr. Steven Waits, Council President
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council President Pro Tempore
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, 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.

Brian Jenkins of Meadowbrook Baptist Church of Oxford gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Waits stated we like to recognize students from our school system who have excelled in character and academics. Tonight, we are going to recognize Lily Calvert. She is a third grader at Oxford Elementary School. Her parents are Shane and Danielle Calvert. Lily enjoys playing golf, riding horses, and reading. At school she is a member of the Running Club and Safety Patrol. Her favorite subject in school is Math and her favorite teacher is Mrs. Whitman. When Lily grows up she wants to be a teacher. I would like to recognize Mrs. Debbie Nelson, principal at Oxford Elementary School who is here supporting her tonight. I appreciate you coming and supporting your students.

Lily Calvert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Waits stated great job.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Waits stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the August 25, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. Henderson 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 "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2015-13 – Ordinance to establish a Historic Preservation Commission in the City of Oxford.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-13. There was no second.

Mr. Waits stated this ordinance will die without a second. Mr. Waits stated I would like to give each one of you an opportunity for comments.

Mr. Henderson stated like I said in the work session I appreciate Mrs. Hubbard's work on this. I don't think any of us are against the commission. I think the way the ordinance was written and the requirements of this particular ordinance are a concern of mine. Maybe we can find a compromise. I know this is an issue where some people are going to be upset and I don't want our City to be divided. It is not my intent or the intent of anyone up here. We do want to protect our structures downtown and the look downtown. That is why we are spending money there. I think there is a way we can compromise where we can all sit down together and come up with a compromise and figure out a way to do this that is not so cumbersome. I appreciate what Mrs. Hubbard has done and she has worked hard.

Mr. Spurlin stated Mrs. Hubbard I to want to thank you for your efforts. My two biggest concerns were no right of appeals and you took care of that issue and I appreciate that. I appreciate your willingness to work. I echo Mr. Henderson and agree that the intent of the Council in speaking for us is to make sure downtown is taken care of. We want to take care of our business and property owners and that is why we are investing in our downtown project. My second concern was the possible financial hardship on those who already own businesses and homes there of a commission coming in and asking them to bring it up to code and they might not have the financial support to do that. It is not that I am against a historic district downtown. When we do it I want to do it right and I feel like this still is going under guidelines that have already been set that may not best suit our city. I would like to look at it from a different way of us may be doing our guidelines or something to make sure this is best for the City of Oxford. Thank you for your effort.

Mr. Waits stated I do want to echo that what you did was a tremendous amount of work that you put into this and not just you I think you had other people who worked hard with you. Again, I think my issue is I don't want to lose the momentum of the work that you have put together. If there is some way we can come up with something in more of an advisory capacity. I have heard the arguments that doesn't work.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I think education has been an issue Mr. Waits and the rest of the Council as well. I think our first mistake was doing the public hearing that you guys wanted to do when we included the whole of downtown Oxford in an area that we were really not considering any of those people being in the historic district. I think that was our number one error. Number two we didn't do enough education because I am hearing from Council some comments that are inaccurate still and so that is my fault in not getting the word out that this is the only true way to have a historic district is to use the design standards from the Department of Interior. We talked about limiting our area where we were going to do the historic district. I have a petition here from all the people that are in that area who actually wanted this to happen. Sorry that you guys did not want this to happen at this time because I really feel like this is one of the last things that needs to happen to finish our project that we are doing for the historic part of our city as far as our streetscapes plan. I think we have to protect the businesses in that area through zoning as we

have learned through a lot of the other things that we have done in our city. That is one way to protect people's property. Sorry that this did not pass. For those who have worked very hard on this we will continue to push for this even if it is in the next election.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. 2015-14 – Ordinance annexing the property of Sandra Elston of 1517 County Line Road, Calhoun County, containing 1.05 acres, more or less.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2015-14 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. Spurlin made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-14. 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 welcome to Oxford.

Public Hearing

Mr. Waits opened the public hearing to receive comments on the request of Sandra Elston to zone the property located at 1517 County Line Road to R-1 (Residential). Mr. Waits declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Waits asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against this.

Mr. Waits declared the public hearing closed.

Ordinance No. 2015-15 – Ordinance to zone the property located at 1517 County Line Road to R-1 (Residential).

Mr. Gardner made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2015-15 to be adopted at this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

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. Henderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2015-15. 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.

Mr. Waits stated Mrs. Elston welcome to Oxford and your property is zoned R-1 (Residential).

Public Hearing

Mr. Waits opened the public hearing to receive comments on the request of Landry Roberts to zone the property located at 1028 Hamric Drive West to R-1 (Residential). Mr. Waits declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Waits asked if there was anyone here to speak for or against this.

Mr. Waits stated I believe Mr. Roberts is out of town tonight.

Mr. Waits declared the public hearing closed.

Ordinance No. 2015-16 – Ordinance to zone the property located at 1028 Hamric Drive West to R-1 (Residential).

Mr. Henderson made a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration permitting Ordinance No. 2015-16 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. 2015-16. 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2015-86 – Resolution appropriating \$25,000.00 to Jacksonville State University.

Mr. Gardner made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-86. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Waits called for comments or questions.

Mr. Waits stated several of the municipalities have been discussing supporting the university. The university is a tremendous partner with the city and we want to be a partner with Jacksonville State University as well as support our university up the street. They do a tremendous amount for our city and have a tremendous economic impact on our city. Really a

lot of things that could go unforeseen every single day. So we definitely want to be a partner with them.

Mr. Henderson stated a lot of people don't know the OVC Cross Country Conference Championship is held here in Oxford every year. The football team when they play home games actually stay at a hotel in Oxford. They always recommend when other teams come in to play Jacksonville State that they stay in Oxford. They are a very good partner of ours by supporting Oxford, our hotels and community. They are well invested especially with our new sports complex there is the possibility of benefits from that.

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. 2015-87 – Resolution accepting legal title to the property located at 104 and 108 Spring Branch Road.

Mr. Waits stated there was some discussion earlier that we may want to table this until our next meeting.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to table Resolution No. 2015-87 until our next meeting. 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. Spurlin "Yea", Mr. Henderson "Yea" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2015-88 – Resolution for change order from Hale Building Company for the Oxford Performing Arts Center.

Mr. Waits stated we appreciate Fred Denney's work on that list. I was looking for the final costs that we were under budget even after the change order. So even with the change order we were \$140,000.00 under budget. That is outstanding work and I just want to recognize that one more time.

Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-88. 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 "Yes" and Mr. Waits "Yea". The motion carried.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Waits called for Council Comments. There were none.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Waits stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Mr. Waits stated we need to set a Public Hearing for September 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. for a condemnation at 990 Bynum Cutoff Road.

Visitors

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

Mr. Waits recognized Mrs. Claudia Elston with A Way Out Day Program.

Mrs. Claudia Elston addressed the Council regarding her program A Way Out Day Program and stated she would like to move her program to Oxford. She stated she has never found a town so open and warming as Oxford. She thanked Publix, Sam's and Olive Garden.

Mr. Waits asked are you wanting to have a business here, store front or office. Mrs. Elston stated that her office is currently in Anniston but the way Anniston has zoned everything they have actually pushed me out. The program on Noble Street is good. Mr. Waits stated there are probably a lot of questions we would need to ask you and this is not an appropriate time to do it here. How about right after the meeting you and I talk so I can get a little bit more information from you and decide which way we want to go. Mr. Waits asked if anyone has any questions.

Mrs. Hubbard asked how this program is funded. Mrs. Elston stated me and my husband fund it through a 503C.

Mr. Henderson asked if these ladies were assigned to her through a court. Mrs. Elston stated not yet. We haven't gotten to that point yet. We have 132 ladies in the program and 62 have been successful.

Mr. Waits stated we will talk after the meeting but I would like to publicly thank you for what you do. That is outstanding.

Mr. Sharrell Dorsey stated I don't live in Oxford I live in Anniston but for 35 years 12 to 14 hours a day I spent on the streets of Oxford with Dorsey's Supermarket. Mr. Dorsey addressed the Council regarding the historical society and about issues regarding residential living in downtown.

Mr. Waits stated I appreciate everything you have given to this community and I know very few people who have given as much as you have. I really respect your words.

Jennifer Yates of 4 Anderson Place addressed the Council regarding the issues downtown.

Mr. Waits stated with what you said and Mr. Dorsey said we do have some common ground that we can work with.

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

Steven Waits, Council President