



OXFORD CITY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 16, 2022
[Link for website video here](#)
Full Transcript available upon request.

Roll Call [TIME 00:06](#)

William Snavelly Mayor	Chantel Raghu Vice Mayor
Jason Bracken	Amber Franklin
Alex French	Glenn Ellerbe
David Prytherch	

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Snavelly on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Amber Franklin, Alex French, Chantel Raghu, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, and Jason Bracken.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Chris Conard, Law Director; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director, and Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council.

Pledge of Allegiance [TIME 00:29](#)

Approval of the Agenda [TIME 00:47](#)

Motion – To Adopt

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE #7

NAY #0

ABS #0

Public Participation [TIME 01:02](#)

A. Proclamation– “Women’s Equality Day” **Page 5 of the Agenda Packet**

Ms. Enda Southard was in attendance to accept the Proclamation on behalf of the League of Women Voters. Ms. Southard thanked the Council and shared that the first time a Women’s Equality Proclamation was read at a City Council Meeting was in 1976. Ms. Southard noted that Bob Ratterman wrote an article about it in the Oxford Press. Ms. Southard mentioned we still have a lot of work to do toward equal rights for women and all citizens.

B. Public Comments.

Public Comments

The purpose of the Public Comments Section is for members of the Public to speak to the City Council on any subject not scheduled on the Agenda, except Consent Agenda items. City Council values your comments, and Council rules limit public comments to five minutes for each person. Presentations are not to be in the form of public debate, personal attacks on Council, City staff or other members of the public and Council shall not act except to direct the City Manager to take action or schedule the matter for discussion at a later date.

Resident Name Address Resident Comment / Request

Edna Southard 807 Melinda Drive Ms. Southard spoke in regards to the online public comment to Council she had submitted last week. Ms. Southard noted the need for clearer signage on the trails regarding dogs being contained on a leash.

Bob Ratterman *Oxford Resident* Mr. Ratterman thanked the City Council, City Staff, and the Community for the recognition from the last meeting. Mr. Ratterman shared his enjoyment of writing articles for the Oxford area for the past 50 years. Mr. Ratterman noted he enjoyed raising his family and living in Oxford. Mr. Ratterman mentioned traveling in his retirement plans.

Consent Agenda [TIME 12:26](#)

All matters under the Consent Agenda are considered by the City Council to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. Any City Council member may, however, remove an item from consent by request. Items removed for separate discussion will be considered after the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

- A. Minutes of the August 2, 2022, City Council Meeting (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council) **Page 6 of the Agenda Packet**
- B. Report regarding the August 3, 2022, Environmental Commission Meeting (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director) **Page 11 of the Agenda Packet**

Motion – To Adopt

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. French

AYE #7

NAY #0

ABS #0

Resolutions - None

[TIME 12:45](#)

Ordinances

Ordinances are adopted using a two-step procedure. First reading introduces the Ordinance and provides an opportunity for public input on the subject as well as allowing Council to request more information as needed. Second reading is to provide Council with the opportunity to consider new information and to deliberate.

First Reading [TIME 12:52](#)

Page 13 of the Agenda Packet

1. An Ordinance to regulate the rates and charges to be charged and collected and the services to be rendered by Glenwood Energy of Oxford, Inc., its successors and assigns, for gas and gas service furnished to all of its customers within the corporate limits of the City of Oxford during the period ending October 31, 2025, and repealing and superseding Ordinance No. 3483, which, together, previously regulated such rates, charges, and services. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Comments from the Public – None

Second Reading

Ordinance No. 3687 [TIME 18:40](#)

Page 23 of the Agenda Packet

1. An Ordinance approving a six-month extension of the approved final subdivision plat for South Forest Edge Section 1. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Comments from the Public – None

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 3687

(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. Franklin

AYE #7

Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, and Mayor Snively

NAY #0

Names Here

ABS #0

Names Here

Ordinance No. 3688 [TIME 19:39](#)

Page 28 of the Agenda Packet

2. An Ordinance approving a six-month extension of the approved final subdivision plat for South Forest Edge Section 2. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Comments from the Public – None

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 3688

(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. French

AYE #7

Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mr. Prytherch, and Mayor Snively

NAY #0

Names Here

ABS #0

Names Here

Announcements & Communications

Remarks from City Council and City Staff [TIME 20:35](#)

The comments expressed by individual members of Council or City staff during this portion of a City Council meeting do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Oxford, The Oxford City Council, or the City staff.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 8:10 p.m. [TIME 40:04](#)

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE #7

NAY #0

ABS #0

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: Dr. Edna Carter Southard

Submitted On: 2022-08-11 20:13:06

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



Please note: Comments must be received by 2:00 pm the day of the council meeting to be shared with City Council members. Comments will be included in the minutes under the public comment section.

* First Name

Dr. Edna Carter

Enter your First Name

* Last Name

Southard

Enter your Last Name

* Address

807 Melinda Drive

* City

Oxford

* State

OH

* Email

southaec@miamioh.edu

Phone

5135230564

* I am a...

☐ Visitor

☒ Resident

☐ Business Manager

☐ Business Owner

☐ Employee in Oxford

☐ Student

☐ Other

* Comment(s)

The City of Oxford has spent a vast amount of money and effort developing the OATS trails. We can all agree that the results are wonderful. But all that work is pointless if the trails are not comfortable and safe for everyone, which means for people of all ages and abilities. Nobody should have to face a stranger’s uncontrolled pet; nobody should risk slipping on dog feces. These are the risks on the

OATS trails now. My suggestion is that we need to answer the public's questions with simple, clear signage. At each trailhead a large sign should state the rules, with reference to specific ordinances so that people are informed about what is required of them. For examples of simple, clear, and large signage, the signs at the trailheads in Hueston Woods provide an excellent model. I suggest you take a look at them. The public needs answers to the following questions: Are dog owners required to have their dogs on leashes? Where and when is this required? Does this apply to all public land according to our City ordinances? If so, which ordinance and what is the penalty for violations? Are dog owners required to pick up their dogs' feces? What are the penalties? Where is this written in our ordinances? Are bicycle riders and runners required to alert walkers when passing (saying "on your left" loudly for example)? Is this required by law or just a courtesy? What about littering and trash on the trails? What about lost and found objects? What are the phone numbers to call? Are the mile markers enough information for a hiker to share the location of the incident? What is the email for reporting? People need to know about requirements for keeping dogs on leashes, dog-owners picking up their own dog's feces, bikers and runners alerting that they are passing on the left, not littering, and the telephone numbers and email addresses to alert the City to emergencies and to submit complaints. This information should be posted on all the relevant websites and Facebook pages. There is an OATS Facebook page that lacks helpful information at this time. That should be corrected as soon as possible. In addition to signage, the existing maps posted on the trails should be updated so they are larger and clearer. In a society full of angry people, we need to get out the information before more serious incidents happen. In the last year I have witnessed two incidents in which dog-owners screamed obscenities or yelled accusations at walkers because they did not see dog-leash laws. "Where does it say that my dog has to be on a leash?," yelled an angry dog owner near Peffer Park last fall. It should not up to me to explain why their dogs should not be running off a leash. It is up to the City to protect the public in its entirety—young, old, strong, frail, recovering from broken bones, hearing impaired, visually impaired, autistic, anxious-- all of whom use our trails. If we don't address this problem, we will lose the peaceful beauty of our natural areas. I wrote about this problem to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager and look forward to receiving an adequate response. This is a managerial issue that overlaps several City departments, several kinds of natural areas, and the Enjoy Oxford staff. Cooperation with the Miami Natural Areas, the Three Valley Trust (for the Ruder Preserve), the City's parks, the Mill Run Metropark, and the OATS trails is needed. Are the rules the same in all those places? I would like to know so that I can plan my routes. If we don't know, how can we decide where to go to avoid places where dog owners are allowed to let their animals run wild? So, the public needs to know what the laws are and what's common courtesy and common sense. Without that information spelled out, the most serious question remains: if someone were to get hurt, where do the dog owner's or the biker's or the runner's liability end and the City's begins? If our ordinances are not clear, I ask the City staff with legal counsel to prepare ordinances that cover these issues for the protection of the public. I ask City Council to enact such ordinances. I urge City staff and Council to approve and implement clarifying signage as soon as possible. With students coming back to town, now is a great time to get the word out about the trails. How much can clear signs cost? A few hundred dollars? That's a small price compared to what

we've already spent on the trails. To protect the public, it's worth it, and certainly a lot less costly than a lawsuit would be. Thank you, and thank you for keeping me informed about this issue.

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: Dr. Edna Carter Southard

Submitted On: 2022-08-13 21:19:35

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



Please note: Comments must be received by 2:00 pm the day of the council meeting to be shared with City Council members. Comments will be included in the minutes under the public comment section.

* First Name

Dr. Edna Carter

Enter your First Name

* Last Name

Southard

Enter your Last Name

* Address

807 Melinda Drive

* City

Oxford

* State

OH

* Email

southaec@miamioh.edu

Phone

5135230564

* I am a...

☐ Visitor

☒ Resident

☐ Business Manager

☐ Business Owner

☐ Employee in Oxford

☐ Student

☐ Other

* Comment(s)

A friend advised me to explain to you why I am concerned about controlling pets, because without knowing the experience I had last week, you may think that my previous comment to Council came out of the blue and had no basis. So please allow me to make this addendum to my previous comment: As a fan of the OATS trails, I was in the habit of walking there nearly every day. Last week I

was walking on the coal ash trail when a man and a woman with an unleashed dog were coming toward me. I stopped and hoped they would put a leash on the dog. Seeing me, they leashed their dog. I walked forward, smiled, and said "thank you". The man shouted that their dog was apparently a lot nicer than I was and wouldn't hurt anyone and that I was more likely to hurt the dog than vice versa. The woman started yelling, "Are you going to call the police, bitch?" I said, "No, of course not." She continued to swear at me, hurling verbal insults and obscenities that don't bear repeating. I walked passed quickly while she kept swearing at me. I rushed to my car and locked it. I was afraid about what they might do next. I drove away. This experience shook me, so I explained my concerns in an email to the City Manager and Assistant City Manager, asking for signage on the OATS trail only to learn that we don't have a leash law unlike other Ohio jurisdictions. I ask that the City implement leash laws for pets on public property. The Ohio Code uses the terminology "reasonable control" of pets, which I'm sure you agree is vague and unclear. We need leash laws so that all people and animals can feel safe in our beautiful natural areas and trails, which are public property. We know that uncontrolled aggressive dogs have been known to attack other dogs, so surely such laws would be favored by dog-owners as well as pedestrians, bikers, skateboarders, and runners, people of all ages and abilities who enjoy the trails. Thank you.

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: JULIA WARD

Submitted On: 2022-08-15 10:03:33

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Jessica Greene

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



Please note: Comments must be received by 2:00 pm the day of the council meeting to be shared with City Council members. Comments will be included in the minutes under the public comment section.

* First Name

JULIA

Enter your First Name

* Last Name

WARD

Enter your Last Name

* Address

4818 BONHAM RD.

* City

OXFORD

* State

OH

* Email

wardj@miamioh.edu

Phone

5135231805

* I am a...

☐ Visitor

☒ Resident

☐ Business Manager

☐ Business Owner

☐ Employee in Oxford

☐ Student

☐ Other

* Comment(s)

"Trail Etiquette" I like the sign that greets me when I walk the OATS trails. "Etiquette" sounds a bit old-fashioned, welcoming , and the list of regulations that follows is easy to understand--with one exception. What's clear is that there may be No ATV's and No Horses. I understand who yields and when. I'm pleased to read "Be kind," but puzzled by the regulation regarding pets: Control and pick

up after pets. Well, of course picking up after pets means using a plastic bag, but just what does "control" entail? It turns out that under 505.01 Dogs and Other Animals Running at Large, I have found the answer. Though the language is somewhat antiquated, the meaning of "control" is clear. ORC 955.22 reads: No owner, keeper, or harborer of any dog shall fail at any time to do either of the following: (1) Keep the dog physically confined or restrained upon the premises of the owner, keeper, or harborer by a leash, tether, adequate fence, supervision, or enclosure to prevent escape. Why, I wonder, must a dog be tethered on private property, but not on public property? For everyone's safety, dogs must be leashed on the OATS trails.

Print

Due Date: Open

City of
Oxford OHIO
HOME OF MIAMI UNIVERSITY

I wish to draw attention to general ORC 955.22 stipulating that dogs are to be kept "under the reasonable control of some person." Presumably this applies to all public spaces in Oxford including streets, parks and the Oxford Area Trails System (OATS). "Reasonable Control" is clearly open to several interpretations but under no circumstance ENSURES the emotional and physical safety of the

people it is supposed to protect. This is especially true of the increasingly popular trails used at all hours of the day, seven days a week and most months of the year. On these trails a dog under proper control is a dog on a leash. It is NOT a dog under the "reasonable control of some person." Nor is it reasonable for City Council to expect users of the trails (whether they be infants, children, walkers, runners, seniors with or without disabilities etc.) who feel in any way threatened or frightened by unleashed dogs (and some do so feel) to call the Oxford Police. It will cost Oxford taxpayers nothing to immediately require leashes on dogs at all times in public spaces and especially on the trails. Forcing trail users to have recourse to the Police in the event of PREVENTABLE dog-related incidents is irrational and not without cost.

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: Maria J. E. Copson-Niecko

Submitted On: 2022-08-14 18:01:24

Status: Open

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Priority: Normal

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



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* First Name

Maria J. E.

Enter your First Name

* Last Name

Copson-Niecko

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* Address

4664 Katie Lane

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* State

OH

* Email

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Phone

(202) 210-0644

* I am a...

☐ Visitor

☐ Resident

☐ Business Manager

☐ Business Owner

☐ Employee in Oxford

☐ Student

☒ Other

* Comment(s)

I wish to draw attention to general ORC 955.22 stipulating that dogs are to be kept "under the reasonable control of some person." Presumably this applies to all public spaces in Oxford including streets, parks and the Oxford Area Trails System (OATS). "Reasonable Control" is clearly open to several interpretations but under no circumstance ENSURES the emotional and physical safety of the

people it is supposed to protect. This is especially true of the increasingly popular trails used at all hours of the day, seven days a week and most months of the year. On these trails a dog under proper control is a dog on a leash. It is NOT a dog under the "reasonable control of some person." Nor is it reasonable for City Council to expect users of the trails (whether they be infants, children, walkers, runners, seniors with or without disabilities etc.) who feel in any way threatened or frightened by unleashed dogs (and some do so feel) to call the Oxford Police. It will cost Oxford taxpayers nothing to immediately require leashes on dogs at all times in public spaces and especially on the trails. Forcing trail users to have recourse to the Police in the event of PREVENTABLE dog-related incidents is irrational and not without cost.

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: Nadja Hofmann

Submitted On: 2022-08-14 14:36:31

Status: Open

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Priority: Normal

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



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*** First Name**

Nadja

Enter your First Name

*** Last Name**

Hofmann

Enter your Last Name

*** Address**

122 Beechpoint Drive

*** City**

Oxford

* State

OH

*** Email**

nphofmann@aol.com

Phone

5135096513

* I am a...

☐ Visitor

☒ Resident

☐ **Business Manager**

☐ **Business Owner**

☐ Employee in Oxford

☐ Student

☐ Other

*** Comment(s)**

Our beautiful OATS trails are being used more than ever and I am so happy that people are choosing to get outside, immerse themselves in nature, exercise, and take leisurely walks and explore new settings. I often see older people enjoying themselves on their leisurely walk, runners or fast walkers , bicyclists, families treading along with their small kids, nature photographers observing birds with

their binoculars, people taking pictures of seasonal wildflowers and pet owners with their dogs on leash. How can Oxford guarantee that the delicate balance among these multi needs are respected and that this idyllic picture of our beloved trails be preserved? I would suggest a system of clear regulation and signage whereby trail etiquette and ordinances are clearly stated and visible on the trails to the public. For example, when on the trail, be sure your dog is on a leash - which has not always been the case. I do love my pets but I am also mindful that not everyone is a dog person and when I am in a public space, I respect other people’s space. Trails can become busy places and how do I know if I encounter an unleashed dog running, that they will respond to their owners? What if the dog is reactive to kids, other dogs and people or has poor recall? And what if the dog paws are slapping all over me? It would seem that the easiest way to ensure control is to leash your dog while it is out with you on a trail. The hiking trails are there for everybody to use and it is not fair that your dog running unleashed is ruining the experience for someone else.

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: Stacey Peterson

Submitted On: 2022-08-14 12:36:08

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



Please note: Comments must be received by 2:00 pm the day of the council meeting to be shared with City Council members. Comments will be included in the minutes under the public comment section.

* First Name

Stacey

Enter your First Name

* Last Name

Peterson

Enter your Last Name

* Address

6080 Joseph Dr

* City

Oxford

* State

OH

* Email

staceypeterson18@gmail.com

Phone

Ex. (123) 456-7890

* I am a...

☐ Visitor

☒ Resident

☐ Business Manager

☐ Business Owner

☐ Employee in Oxford

☐ Student

☐ Other

* Comment(s)

I'd like to support the need for Oxford to have clearer regulations requiring pets to be leashed when using our public streets, trails and parks. Our streets and the OATS trail system should be safe and accessible to everyone. I have noticed increasingly that some dog owners allow their pets to run off leash particularly on the trails. I've personally been involved in two OATS trail instances where a

barking dog ran toward me without the owner in sight. Having a barking dog charging my way, is a threatening situation for me. I don't think I should have to worry about whether I will encounter an unleashed and uncontrolled dog on the public streets or trails. This can be a threatening situation for many people – parents with young children who might be scared, people with disabilities of various sorts, older people with balance issues and other pet owners who may have a their own dog on a leash that is fearful or otherwise vulnerable to an unleashed animal. If the only limiting factor is for dogs to be under "reasonable control" of some person, who determines that? Does someone 10, 20 or 100 feet away have control of the dog that's charging at me? I may not think so. The owner who's yelling the dog's name from a distance probably would say otherwise. What about the five-year-old child facing the same situation who starts screaming and causes the situation to escalate? Or the biker who now has to out ride the charging dog and gets bitten or causes some other accident with pedestrians caught in the cross fire? Do we have to wait for someone to get hurt for a pet owner to be told they didn't have reasonable control? That appears to be the case with our current law. Requirements that dogs be leashed on public streets, trails and other rights of way are common in other cities, towns, parks across the country. Why is Oxford different?

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: Tom Romano

Submitted On: 2022-08-15 15:33:54

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



Please note: Comments must be received by 2:00 pm the day of the council meeting to be shared with City Council members. Comments will be included in the minutes under the public comment section.

* First Name

Tom

Enter your First Name

* Last Name

Romano

Enter your Last Name

* Address

104 West Bull Run

* City

Oxford

* State

OH

* Email

romanots@miamioh.edu

Phone

5132800897

* I am a...

☐ Visitor

☒ Resident

☐ Business Manager

☐ Business Owner

☐ Employee in Oxford

☐ Student

☐ Other

* Comment(s)

My wife and I encourage council to make it mandatory for dog owners to leash their dogs in public spaces. On November 29, 2020, my wife was walking our wire-haired fox terrier, leashed. A German shepherd came bounding from private property into the street. It was after our dog. Kathy, 72, had picked up our dog to get it out of reach. The shepherd knocked her to the pavement and proceeded

to maul our dog to the point of death. Kathy strained her bad shoulder, which hastened the shoulder replacement surgery she knew she might need some day. Unrestrained dogs are not always a menace, but when they are the results can be catastrophic.

Make a public comment for review by City Council