



OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021

**Roll Call. William Snavelly, Mayor Chantel Raghu, Vice-Mayor Amber Franklin
Jason Bracken Alex French Glenn Ellerbe David Prytherch**

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor William Snavelly on Tuesday December 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance were, Jason Bracken, Amber Franklin, Alex French, Chantel Raghu, Glenn Ellerbe, and David Prytherch.

Staff members in attendance were: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Ben Mazer, Attorney; and Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Raghu moved to adjourn to Executive Session immediately pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(4) of the Ohio Revised Code for the purpose of collective bargaining. Ms. Franklin seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. French, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Ms. Franklin, Mayor Snavelly (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS None (0)

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Raghu moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Bracken seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Work Session - American Rescue Plan Act Discussion

The Work Session of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor, William Snavelly on Tuesday December, 21 2021 at 6:46 p.m.

Ms. Greene shared a PowerPoint presentation with Council, slides can be found in the minutes. Ms. Greene mentioned establishing a Community Land Trust and Nonprofit Partnerships, following up with housing approaches. Ms. Greene outlined three options, a Public-Private

Partnership Approach, and a Public-Nonprofit Partnership Approach, and a City Lead Construction Approach. Ms. Greene listed the pros and cons of each approach. Ms. Greene shared the staff recommendation of \$25K to the Family Resource Center for housing case manager staff. \$45K Master Plan Creation. \$150K Cottage Community. \$1M Option 3: investment in construction of affordable units. Ms. Greene noted future proceeds from the initial home sales can be invested in affordable housing projects. Pairing funds with CDBG/HOME funds to either build new homes or acquire property around town and work with nonprofits to build/repair homes for LMI residents. This recommendation uses \$1,220,000 of ARPA Funds.

Mr. Prytherch noted his agreement with the Community Land Trust, and the Master Plan creation. Mr. Prytherch asked who would manage construction.

Mr. Elliott noted City Staff wanted to present ideas to Council to gain guidance on what Council would like to pursue. Mr. Elliott advised that Council would be voting on each element.

Ms. Greene shared the Economic Development and Infrastructure objective: high quality job growth in the community. Ms. Greene noted infrastructure projects already in process and work force development partnership to build an Industrial Arts Education Center with TSD, Butler Tech, Cincinnati State, and Miami University. Ms. Greene presented the Staff recommendation for Economic Development: College@Elm partnership \$113K, and Curb/Sidewalk ADA completion \$266K, and Workforce Development Building \$400K, and Acquire commercial land or support infrastructure for a commercial project \$400K. Making the ARPA Investment: \$1,179,000.

Mr. Ellerbe mentioned his involvement with Career Services at Miami University and how this Industrial Arts Center could provide a place where graduates could take certification tests.

Ms. Greene introduced the last section of her presentation, Pivot and use ARPA for existing Capital Projects. Ms. Greene shared a few Capital Project Ideas; Water or wastewater treatment improvements, Oxford Area Trail or bike /ped Infrastructure, Courthouse refresh: Improve accessibility, AV equipment, etc. Purchase equipment for snow removal in business districts for ADA accessibility (CCP Uptown Locust Etc.), Amtrak Infrastructure, Climate infrastructure investments.

Ms. Greene thanked Seth Copenbaker and the Housing Advisory Commission for all the work they put into researching for this presentation.

Approval of Agenda.

Mr. Bracken moved to approve the agenda with the addition of item #7 COVID Discussion. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Public Participation.

Presentation- BCRTA – Matthew Dutkevicz

Mr. Dutkevicz with BCRTA introduced Mr. Ken Emling the Director of Public Architecture with Bowen+ who presented a Schematic Design Presentation on the BCRTA Chestnut Street Multimodal Station. Mr. Emling outlined the basic structure, providing details on the public concourse, and bus storage, and vehicle maintenance. Both Mr. Dutkevicz and Mr. Emling offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Ellerbe asked about customer amenities, such as vending machines.

Mr. Emling answered by identifying the area in the public concourse.

Mr. Prytherch asked how can the City be a good partner, in helping with accessibility design.

Mr. Emling referenced to some of the accessibility design details.

Mr. Prytherch asked Mr. Perry what the zoning process would be for this project.

Mr. Perry answered that the property is owned by Miami University.

Mr. Detkevicz mentioned a property lease agreement with Miami along with discussions about parking use.

Ms. French asked about the ability to use the parking canopy to support solar panels.

Mr. Emling noted having discussions with Mr. Dutkevicz about solar panels and engineering the structure to carry the additional weight.

Mr. Dutkevicz advised rainwater will be collected for the bus wash, to be mindful of sustainability.

Ms. Franklin asked about the community space and what is the capacity and what types of events or meetings would be held there.

Mr. Emling answered if in certain seating arrangements the room could hold up to 50 people.

Mr. Dutkevicz remarked on the importance of having a public meeting room that is easily accessible to public transportation.

Ms. Greene introduced David Wormald Senior Project Engineer, Project Manager with AECOM. Mr. Wormald presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Chestnut Fields Passenger Rail Platform.

Mr. Wormald outlined project tasks with a tentative timeline and the preliminary engineering phase. Mr. Wormald provided a list of the next steps and offered to answer any questions.

Both PowerPoint presentations can be found in the minutes.

Notice of Legislative Authority – New D6 Permit for Speedway LLC DBA Speedway #1251 260S Locust Street Oxford, Ohio 45056 (Doug Elliott, City Manager) pg 5

Notice to Legislative Authority

Ms. Raghu moved to accept without comment. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Public Comments. – Previously Submitted Public Comment to Council Form- see attached pg 9

Public Comment to Council

Clarissa Snell - Oxford Ohio resident (address not stated) spoke in opposition of the possible reinstatement of the indoor mask mandate.

Amy Shiaman 111 Heather Ridge Court - Appreciates the efforts made by Council and City Staff to use the American Rescue Plan Act funds to further our goal for affordable housing in our Community.

Matt Rupel 1451 Dana Drive- Spoke in opposition of the possible reinstatement of the indoor mask mandate.

Consent Agenda.

Minutes December 7, 2021

Ms. Raghu moved to adopt the consent agenda. Ms. French seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Report regarding the December 1, 2021 Environmental Commission Meeting (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director) pg 18

Environmental Commission Report

Report regarding the December 9, 2021 Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting (Sam Perry, Community Development Director) pg 21

Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission Report

Resolutions.

A Resolution approving the contract between The City of Oxford, Ohio and the Non-Commissioned Police Division Employees and Authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract on behalf of the City. (Doug Elliott, City Manager) pg 23

Non- Commissioned Police Division Contract

Mr. Elliott advised the City of Oxford has three Unions within the Police Division (Sergeants and Lieutenants, Patrol Officers, and Non-Commissioned Police Employees). The Contract with the Non-Commissioned Police Division expires on 12-31-21. Mr. Elliott mentioned the negotiating parties met several times and were able to come to a tentative agreement. Mr. Elliott reviewed the tentative agreement this evening with Council in Executive Session.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. French moved to adopt Resolution No. 7367. Ms. Raghu seconded. Mayor Snavelly called for the roll to be read. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mayor Snavelly (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Ordinances.

First Reading.

Second Reading

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3600 Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 9 To Make Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2021. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director) pg 52

Supplemental Budget #9

Mr. Newlin went over the updates since the first reading. Details can be found on page 52 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Sanvelly asked Ms. Barbour to call the roll. Ordinance No. 3654 passed by the

following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mayor Snavelly (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS None (0)

An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 2535 (Joe Newlin, Finance Director) pg 61

Repeal Ordinance No. 2535

Mr. Newlin noted there were no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions. Details can be found on page 61 of the Council's packet.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Snavelly asked Ms. Barbour to call the roll. Ordinance No. 3655 passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ellerbe, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, Mayor Snavelly (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 729.10 Entitled Sales On Certain Municipal Property Prohibited, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 729.10 Entitled Sales on Certain Municipal Property Prohibited. (Doug Elliott, City Manager) pg 63

Repeal Section 729.10

Mr. Elliott reminded Council that during the November 16, 2021 Council Meeting a Resolution No. 7355 authorizing alcoholic beverages to be served at an event held at the Oxford Seniors Citizens and Community Center which is a City owned facility. The consensus of Council was that the City Manager should have the authority to approve such a request.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Ellerbe moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3656. Ms. Raghu seconded. The Motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mr. Prythech, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mayor Snavelly (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

A. Announcements & Communications.

Remarks from City Council and City staff. 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.

Future Meetings.

COVID- Discussion - added agenda item. Mr. Elliott read the following statement he had prepared. **I read a recent article from the Atlantic entitled: DON'T PANIC ABOUT OMICRON. DON'T BE INDIFFERENT, EITHER.** It further stated that "The next wave of the pandemic requires charting a **middle course** between **dismay and dismissal**." "Both perspectives are understandable, but neither is helpful." I think the article provides a useful strategy for us. It suggests "Charting a middle course" which requires keeping clear goals in mind: preventing deaths, protecting our hospital from crushing caseloads, and keeping businesses and schools open. Presently, MHMH has only one Covid patient and plenty of capacity according to Mike Everett. Also, the Knolls of Oxford retirement community has a very high rate of fully vaccinated and boosted residents and employees according to Tim McGowan. As we know, the omicron variant is very transmissible. Experts expect a very large wave of infections similar to what is happening in New York City to quickly spread throughout the country. Ohio is no exception. In Ohio, average new cases per day have increased to 9,390 cases per day this week from 7,201 cases per day last week. In our zip code of 45056, new cases for the most recent 7 day period declined by 10 to 43 new cases from the previous 7 day period. I expect this to change with the next BCGHD Epidemiology Report. Nationwide, cases are expected to rise in the next few weeks peaking sometime in mid-January and returning to low numbers by the end of February. Thus, it is important for all of us to properly manage this over the next 6 to 8 weeks. What should our plan over the next several weeks of the Holiday season be?

1. City Staff's focus should be on getting more people fully vaccinated and boosted. As vaccines (both the MRNA Moderna and Pfizer vaccines and the viral vector J & J vaccine) remain the most powerful and effective tool in our arsenal. Establishing vaccine clinics, providing transportation to the clinics, and informing the public about the benefits of vaccines will be our focus.
2. I also want to review and possibly increase the availability of rapid tests in our community.
3. Finally, staff and I will encourage mask wearing as opposed to implementing a mask mandate.

Avoid large holiday parties and other unmasked indoor gatherings! Mr. Elliott offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Bracken asked for an updated death toll for Butler County.

Mr. Elliott answered on December 11, 2021 in Butler County reported 843 verified deaths. Mr. Elliott will request the death toll by zip code for the next meeting.

Mr. Prytherch noted seeing the indoor mask mandate expire on its own with compliance dropping and high vaccination rates it felt like the mandate had run its course. Mr. Prytherch agrees with the middle course of action but remains conflicted.

Ms. Raghu requested a show of hands of those who have been fully vaccinated and received a booster. Ms. Raghu shared a personal story about the stresses of COVID and the effects it had on her family. Ms. Raghu stated she would be in favor of encouraging compliance.

Mr. Bracken supports renewing the indoor mask mandate and wished Council could have done something before it expired. Mr. Bracken remarked you won't see the people you save by wearing a mask.

Ms. French mentioned the pressure on both sides of this topic. Ms. French agrees with a threshold-biased Ordinance. Ms. French mentioned enforcement, and what that looks like, and possibly increasing the fine.

Ms. Franklin noted the division within the Community resulting from personal decisions to wear or not wear a mask, and the threat to the Community this division could bring. Ms. Franklin noted she also agreed that she wished Council could have done something before the Indoor Mask Mandate expired. Ms. Franklin shared she would be in support of a threshold biased mandate.

Mr. Ellerbe mentioned adding a COVID - Update to the Agenda, so that each meeting facts could be revisited, and action could be taken if needed. Mr. Ellerbe noted having an Emergency Ordinance at the ready. Mr. Ellerbe advised of social issues that could arise by reinstating the Indoor Mask Mandate while that half of the City's population is currently out of town.

Mayor Snavelly echoed being conflicted regarding this issue. Mayor Snavelly mentioned getting vaccinated is still the best course of action. Mayor Snavelly shared his agreement with Mr. Ellerbe's views and concerns about the City's businesses. Mayor Snavelly also mentioned half of the City's population being out of town, and not wanting to decide with so many people out of town. Mayor Snavelly agrees with having an Emergency Ordinance at the ready just in case, but encourage vaccines and boosters, rapid testing, and wearing a mask, and discourage large indoor gatherings.

Mr. Bracken advised that Omicron might be in our City before the students get back from Winter Break. Mr. Bracken closed by mentioning the risk of shutting down schools and businesses again.

Mr. Prytherch noted the quarantine requirement still being 10 days, which will be very disruptive and a problem for staffing. Mr. Prytherch stated masking could help businesses staff their way through a difficult time. Mr. Prytherch asked for Emergency Legislation to be prepared for the January 4, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Elliott will contact Mike Everett to invite him to speak on McCullough- Hyde Memorial Hospital's COVID policies and procedures at the January 4, 2022 Council meeting.

Announcements & Communications.

Mr. Elliott received notification from Rich Perkins of Glenwood Energy to make updates to Ordinance No. 3483 seeking a rate increase for the general service rate and service charge. Mr. Elliott will be engaging with an Attorney to create a possible recommendation in February.

Mr. Newlin wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Ms. Greene wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Mr. Ellerbe wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Ms. French thanked the public for staying for the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Ms. Raghu mentioned the businesses having a hard time paying rent and would like to explore options to help businesses.

Ms. Franklin would like everyone to remember the people of Kentucky, who suffered the devastating tornados. Please consider donating to the Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund. Ms. Franklin reminded everyone to treat people warmly, even when wearing a mask a smile can be felt, and wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Mr. Bracken urged everyone to get boosted as soon as possible. Mr. Bracken noted his willingness to explore taxes from the township as a new source of revenue.

Mr. Prytherch thanked everyone for staying for the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Holidays.

Mayor Snavelly noted that this City does care about affordable housing and the Council is doing what they can and will continue to do so. Mayor Snavelly wished everyone a Happy Holidays, be nice to one another, and please wear a mask when you are around others and get boosted.

THUR -Dec 23 Holiday – City Offices Closed

FRI – Dec 24 Holiday – City Offices Closed

TUES –Dec 28 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6:30 p.m.

FRI – Dec 31 Holiday – City Offices Closed

TUES – Jan 4 City Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.

WED – Jan 5 Environmental Commission 7 p.m. Municipal Building

THUR – Jan 6 Climate Action Steering Committee Meeting 8:30 a.m. Municipal Building

TUES – Jan 11 Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

WED – Jan 12 Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting 6:15 p.m.

TUES – Jan 17 Holiday – City Offices Closed

TUES – Jan 18 City Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.

THUR– Jan 20 Oxford Recreation Board and TRI Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. LaRosa’s Pizzeria

TUES – Jan 25 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn.

Ms. Raghu moved to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. Ms. Franklin seconded. The Motion passed 7-0-0.

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