



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024 AT 7:30 PM

MEETING PROCEDURE: Comments from the Public are welcome at two different times during the course of the meeting: (1) Comments on items not on the Agenda, and Consent Agenda items, will be heard under Public Comments – and (2) Comments on all Resolutions and Ordinances will be heard during Council consideration of said item. Please wait until you are recognized by the Mayor, state your name and address so that your comments may be properly recorded and limit your remarks to a period of five minutes or less.

1. Roll Call.

Motion – To Enter Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(1) To Consider Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

AYE # 6

Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Smith, Ms. Franklin, Mr. Prytherch and Mayor Snavely

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Motion – To Return from Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(1) To Consider Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Snavely on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 7:34 p.m. Members in attendance were Jason Bracken, Amber Franklin, Micheal Smith, David Prytherch and Chantel Raghu. Alex French was excused.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Douglas Elliott, City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Michael Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr.

Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Geoff Robinson, Police Lieutenant; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Mr. Chris Conard, Law Director; and Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion – To Approve the Agenda.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. Proclamation - "Education and Sharing Day"

Rabbi Yossi Greenberg was in attendance to receive the Proclamation. Rabbi Greenberg thanked the Mayor and Council for the Proclamation. Rabbi Greenberg mentioned that many Jewish communities around the country have been harassed since the October 7th horrific attacks. Rabbi Greenberg thanked the City of Oxford and the Community here. Maya, a senior at Miami University and President of Chabad. Maya mentioned Miami isn't a school with a large Jewish population, but we sure do have a lot of Jewish pride, and that is because of people like you.

B. Proclamation - "Earth Day"

Mr. Dreisbach was in attendance to receive the Proclamation.

C. Proclamation - "Arbor Day"

Mr. Dreisbach was in attendance to receive the Proclamation.

D. Proclamation - National Cities, Towns and Villages Month

Mr. Perry was in attendance to receive the Proclamation.

E. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Motion – To Appoint Ms. Remah Dinc to an unexpired term on the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission.

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

AYE # 5

NAY # 0

ABS # 1

Motion – To Appoint Mr. Jim Vinch to an unexpired term on the Environmental Commission.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Motion – To Appoint Mr. Matt Wyatt to an unexpired term on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

F. Discussion Item - Use of Force Report by Special Counsel

Mayor Snavelly introduced the Special Counselors. Mr. David Williamson and Mr. Jonathan Hollingsworth. Mr. Williamson and Mr. Hollingsworth explained the compliance investigation process they used to create the use of force report. Mr. Williamson and Mr. Hollingsworth gave a summary of the full report that can be found on page 9 of the Agenda Packet and on the [City's website](#). Chief John Jones gave a response to the presented report. Chief Jones mentioned the procedure after getting a report on an internal affair and making a recommendation to the City Manager. Chief Jones noted the findings were of exoneration to Officer Blauvelt, meaning the alleged conduct occurred, but the actions taken were lawful, and there was no misconduct. Chief Jones mentioned that the Butler County Sheriff's Office investigated the criminal case and then reviewed by the Butler County Prosecutor's Office and found that Officer Blauvelt's use of force was justified. Chief Jones stated that the Police Division saw improvements that needed to be made to our policies and procedures. Mr. Williamson and Mr. Hollingsworth addressed questions and comments from the Council and the public in attendance.

Public Comment - Ms. Ann Fuehrer, Dana Drive - Ms. Fuehrer serves as the Secretary of the Oxford branch of the NAACP. Ms. Fuehrer mentioned concerns in the form of 16 sets of questions from the PCRRC meeting on February 15, 2024. Ms. Fuehrer noted that the Council needs to give direct direction to staff about what needs to happen in this situation to implement

the recommendations.

Public Comment - Ms. Fran Jackson, 114 Country Club Drive - Ms. Jackson serves as the President of the Oxford branch of the NAACP. Ms. Jackson mentioned one of the NAACP recommendations was for an external independent investigation be made and followed by a public presentation of the report and this happened. Ms. Jackson thanked the Council and City Manager for having the discussion tonight. Ms. Jackson expressed after reading the report that she has some dissatisfaction with unanswered concerns.

Public Comment - Ms. Linda Musmeci Kimball, Melinda Drive - Ms. Kimball shared she was wearing her NAACP hat, but is speaking as an individual. Ms. Kimball has hoped that the report would have addressed more of her concerns or answered more questions and had let to policy improvements. Ms. Kimball asked about de-escalation tactics, and if better policies could have been in place.

Public Comment - Ms. Vannessa Cummings, Marti Court - Ms. Cummings questioned what Johnson knew on page 6 of the report. Ms Cummings also questioned the verbal command given by Blauvelt to roll over, while being held down by three people Johnson was unable to roll over. Ms. Cummings stated the NAACP is requesting a public meeting with PCRRC and Civil Rights Commission, Student Community Relations Commission to allow the Community to discuss and understand what's happened and how to improve relations with the Police Division, our students, and our Community.

Public Comment - Mr. Rajarshi Banerjee, 201 E Chestnut St. - Mr. Banerjee shared that he's a student and a resident here. Mr. Banerjee thanked Ms. Cummings for her amazing summary and agreed with what she had already mentioned. Mr. Banerjee noted he and many others in the Community disagree with the charges Devin Johnson was convicted of when the video evidence clearly shows that he acted in self-defense.

Public Comment - Mr. Steve Schnabl, 44 Autumn Drive - Mr. Schnabl mentioned he appreciates the work that Chief Jones and his Division do and reads the weekly school year summaries in what the Police Officers go through to protect this Community. Mr. Schnabl noted he thinks we've been overly concerned and the Courts had found the young man guilty of some behaviors.

Public Comment - Mr. Dylan Halpin, South College Ave - Mr. Halpin is from Columbus and has worked at Brick Street Bar for two years. Mr. Halpin mentioned that one of the Brick Street employees uncle was a Police Officer and he found it bizarre that most of the people that were interviewed were Police Officers and Brick Street employees. Mr. Halpin questioned how a statement was worded in regards to the interviewing Mr. Johnson. Mr. Halpin agreed that as a person Officer Blauvelt may not be the problem, if the guidelines should be reviewed and changed.

Public Comment - Mr. Pat Meade, Lantern Ridge - Mr. Meade noted this is a sad situation, because we have spent so much time in Oxford trying to improve Police Community relations. Mr. Meade shared that years ago the Police Community Relations and Review Commission was formed to improve trust between the Police Division and the Community. Mr. Meade stated this incident has really taken us back and that's sad, because of some mistakes in the Police Division that were in the report regarding handling evidence. Mr. Meade shared that he hopes this is given

to Mr. Nadler and the PCRRC to host a public forum, that we continue to listen to citizens that we continue to listen to the Police Officers.

Chief Jones and Mr. Conard addressed questions and comments from the Council and the public. Mr. Conard mentioned when the decision was made to retain special counsel we knew that would not be the end of the process. Mr. Conard noted it was well known that given the timing to have the report completed that Devin Johnson was unlikely to have gone to trial so that piece wasn't going to be there which is another reason for follow-up. Mr. Conard shared we can now order the transcript from the trial that can be layered into the conversation and move forward accordingly. Mayor Sanvely thanked everyone for coming and speaking at the meeting. Mayor Snavelly noted that hearing everyone is what our Community is about.

G. 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. To speak, you may approach the podium and wait to be addressed by the Mayor. You will need to state your name and address for the public record. 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.

Public Comment - Mr. Steve Schnabl, Autumn Drive - Mr. Schnabl mentioned serving on SCRC several years ago and expressed his frustration. Mr. Schnabl hopes things have changed since he had been on the commission.

Public Comment - Mr. Rajarshi Banerjee, 201 East Chestnut Street - Mr. Banerjee mentioned a comment made by Mr. Conard regarding changing the law. Mr. Banerjee disagrees with this statement. Mr. Banerjee hopes the PCRRC gets the power to reprimand officers directly.

5. Consent Agenda.

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.

Motion – To Approve the Consent Agenda.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 6

NAY # 0
ABS # 0

- A. Minutes of the April 2, 2024, City Council Meeting (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
- B. A Report Regarding the April 4, 2024 Environmental Commission Meeting (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)
- C. A Resolution Approving Then and Now Certificates for Purchase Orders Issued Above \$3,000.00 Where an Invoice was Received Prior to the Purchase Order Date, as a Requirement of Ohio Revised Code 5705.41 (d). (Heidi Hill, Finance Director)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution of the City Council of Oxford, Ohio, to Continue as a Member of the World Health Organization's and AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Cities and the AARP Liveable Communities for a Second 5-Year Cycle of the "Age-Friendly Oxford" Initiative. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7592.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Perry presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- B. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager and Law Director to Sign the Subgrant Agreement Between Butler County, Ohio, and the City of Oxford for \$1,000,000.00 of American Rescue Plan Act/State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Assist with

Affordable Housing Infrastructure, as Allocated by the Butler County Board Of Commissioners. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7593
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Ms. Greene presented her staff report and addressed questions from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- C. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding Between Duke Energy and the City of Oxford to Receive Funding for a Mural to be Located at the Duke Substation at the Intersection of Locust and Spring Street and for the City to Develop an Artist Agreement that will Outline the Care and Upkeep of the Mural for a Period of 10 Years. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7594.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Ms. Greene presented her staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- D. A Resolution in the Matter of the Approval of the Solid Waste Management Plan for Butler County Solid Waste Management District. (Douglas Elliott, City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7595
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Elliott presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.
Visit the [City's website to view the full Butler County Solid Waste Management Plan](#).

Public Comment - None.

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.

A. First Reading

B. Second Reading

1. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3750 Supplemental Budget Ordinance #2 to Make Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024. (Heidi Hill, Finance Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3764.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 6

Mr. Smith, Ms. Franklin, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, and Mayor Snaveley

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Ms. Hill presented the changes from the first reading and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

8. Announcements & Communications.

A. 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.

B. Future Meetings.

(Note: Meetings are held at the Court House unless otherwise indicated.)

DATE

Meeting

1. Date	Meeting	Location	Time
Apr 17	Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
Apr 23	Board of Zoning Appeals	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
May 1	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	7:00 p.m.
May 2	Housing Advisory Commission	Municipal Building	5:00 p.m.
May 7	Records Commission	Municipal Building	4:45 p.m.
May 7	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
May 8	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
May 13	Oxford Recreation Board	Municipal Building	11:30 a.m.
May 14	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00p.m.
May 15	Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
May 21	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 10:12 p.m.
 (Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
 AYE # 6
 NAY # 0
 ABS # 0

