



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 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.

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Snively on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were David Prytherch, Michael Smith, Alex French, Jason Bracken, and Chantel Raghu. Amber Franklin was excused.

Staff Members in Attendance:

Mr. Douglas R. Elliott Jr., 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; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Ms. Sarah Sparks, Assistant 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. Proposed Fire/EMS Property Tax Levy (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Mr. Elliott began his presentation by explaining the types of levies and the steps for placing a tax levy on the ballot. Mr. Elliott shared property tax and income tax information for a few Butler County cities (slides included in minutes). Mr. Elliott addressed questions and comments from the Council. Mayor Snavely thanked Mr. Elliott for his presentation.

B. 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 - Ms. Jessica Killy, 4442 Shollenbarger Road - Ms. Killy, a recent Miami graduate and resident, spoke about the step in front of the Subway restaurant uptown on East High St. Ms. Killy held up a photo (photos included in minutes) of the step in front of the doorway, which makes this entrance not ADA accessible. Ms. Killy added the only accessible entrance to Subway is a ramp in the back of the building, which requires passage through the kitchen. Ms. Killy mentioned meeting with Mr. Perry and viewing the approved building blueprints, which were accessible and compliant. Ms. Killy wanted to bring attention to this matter to see if anything could potentially be done to remove the step. Mayor Snavely thanked Ms. Killy and instructed City Staff to look into this issue.

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 Ms. French
AYE # 6

NAY # 0
ABS # 0

- A. Minutes of the May 7, 2024, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

- B. A Report Regarding the Environmental Commission Meeting on May 1, 2024 (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Determining the Necessity of Levying an Additional Tax in Excess of the Ten-Mill Limitation for Fire and Emergency Medical Services Purposes as Authorized by the Ohio Revised Code Which Levy Shall be Two and Six Tenths Mills (2.6) Which is an Additional Levy of Two and Six Tenths Mills (2.6), to Run for Ten (10) Years, Pursuant to Section 5709.19 and Subsection 5705.19(I) as Amended, of the Ohio Revised Code, and Requesting the County Auditor to Certify Matters in Connection Therewith. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7601.
(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.

Public Comment - Ms. Kathie Brinkman, Emeraldwoods Drive - Ms. Brinkman applauded the City Council and City Administrators for bringing sufficient data to Miami University to show the inequity of the current situation. Ms. Brinkman applauded the City for not backing down from the significant amount of money that Miami should contribute to pay their fair share voluntarily. Ms. Brinkman mentioned the 2.6 mill additional property tax levy that voters will be asked to support in November, and the data shows that we've seen tonight and can be found on the City's website. Ms. Brinkman added that the significant usage of services in the 60 and older population is not just the younger demographic. Ms. Brinkman stated although no taxpayer wants to pay more, the deficit is not Miami's alone to pay, and voters need to step up to fund these critical services. Ms. Brinkman noted her support of the Resolution and with the agreement Miami and the tax levy. Mayor Snively thanked Ms. Brinkman for her comments.

- B. A Resolution Approving the City of Oxford Public Records Request Policy. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7602.
(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.

Public Comment - None.

- C. A Resolution Authorizing the Use of \$50,000.00 of American Rescue Plan Act Funds and Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Contract with Red Tiger Investments, LLC for the Creation of an Economic Development Strategic Plan. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7603.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
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 Adopting the Applicable Portions of the Butler County, Ohio Hazard Mitigation Plan on Behalf of the City of Oxford. (John Detherage, Fire Chief)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7604.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Chief Detherage presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- E. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Sign a Letter of Support for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant application for the Ohio Rail Development Commission on Behalf of the City. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7605.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

7. 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.

A. First Reading

1. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3750 Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 3 to Make Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024. (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

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

Public Comment - None.

B. Second Reading

1. An Ordinance Amending Section 1143.10 Uptown District Paragraph (b) Uses (1) Permitted Uses E. Sidewalk Uses By Adding 3.i. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3766.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 2

Mr. Prytherch and Mayor Snaveley

NAY # 4

Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Smith, and Ms. French

ABS # 0

Mr. Elliott presented his staff report, adding no changes had been made since the first reading. Mr. Elliott addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - Ms. Birdie Wespiser, Southern Knolls - Ms. Wespiser mentioned being named citizen of the year in the 1970s and after 51 years of service to Oxford she feels like she's the recipient of an Ordinance. Ms. Wespiser asked why no one came to talk to her about the problem. Ms. Wespiser asked what her options are. Ms. Wespiser would like to keep putting items outside on the sidewalk. Ms. Wespiser addressed questions and comments from the Council.

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.	May 27 City Offices CLOSED - Holiday		8:00 a.m.
	May 28 Board of Zoning Appeals	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
	Jun 4 City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
	Jun 5 Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	7:00 p.m.
	Jun 6 Housing Advisory Commission - CANCELED	Municipal Building	5:00 p.m.
	Jun 6 Police Community Relations & Review Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
	Jun 10 Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Municipal Building	4:15 p.m.
	Jun 11 Oxford Parking & Transportation Advisory Board	Municipal Building	8:30 a.m.
	Jun 11 Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
	Jun 12 Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
	Jun 18 City Council Budget Work Session	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
	Jun 18 City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 9:16 p.m.
 (Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
 AYE # 6
 NAY # 0
 ABS # 0