



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 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 Snavely on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 7:35 p.m. Members in attendance were Michael Smith, Amber Franklin, Chantel Raghu, Jason Bracken, Alex French, and David Prytherch.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Michael Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; 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 # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. 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. Glenn Ellerbe, Jr., 158 Silverleaf Drive - Mr. Ellerbe mentioned it might be helpful for the City to work with a partner such as the Oxford Chamber of Commerce to gather business feedback. Mr. Ellerbe stated that if the City has other similar initiatives, the City might want to collaborate with an associated entity to reach stakeholders of those initiatives.

B. Notice To Legislative Authority-DORA Hospitality LLC DBA Fairfield By Marriott Hotel 5186 Morning Sun Road Oxford, Ohio 45056. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Receive without Comment.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Raghu
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

C. Notice to Legislative Authority - Weisman Enterprises Holdings Inc DBA Calendula Bourbon & Tequila Bar 131 West High Street Oxford, Ohio 45056. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Receive without Comment.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Raghu
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

D. Presentation - Oxford Farmers Market Annual Report

Rescheduled for the January 7, 2025, meeting.

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 # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

- A. Minutes of the December 3, 2024 City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
- B. A Report Regarding the December 4, 2024, Environmental Commission Meeting (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)
- C. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Close The Uptown Municipal Parking Lot Each Saturday In 2025 From 5:30 A.M. Until 1:00 P.M. To Permit The Operation Of The Farmers Market Within The Municipal Parking Lot And On East Park Place Between Main Street And 24 East Park Place During Said Times. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)
- D. A Resolution Approving Then And Now Certificates For Purchase Orders Issued Above \$3,000 Where An Invoice Was Received Prior To The Purchase Order Date, As A Requirement Of Ohio Revised Code 5705.41 (d). (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Accepting The Recommendation Of The Oxford Parking And Transportation Advisory Board Selecting A Route Alignment Plan For The Northern Arc Of The Oxford Area Trail. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7661.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 1

ABS # 0

Motion – To Amend Section 2 should now read; The City of Oxford resolves to study and address traffic safety issues in the affected street corridors (e.g. Hester, Northridge, Dufour, Honor) in the short-term through enforcement and minor improvements and in the medium- to long-term through traffic calming and similar permanent roadway design improvements.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - Ms. Carla Blackmar-Rice OPTAB Chair, 400 West Vine Street - Ms. Blackmar-Rice agreed that the public meeting for trail planning was excellent and the tools from the City Staff were great, kind of next level by showing what the trail could look like going through a suburban area. Ms. Blackmar-Rice noted concerns at the meeting about existing traffic on Northridge, Honor, and the U-shaped intersections. Ms. Blackmar-Rice mentioned the importance of those concerns and thinking about how we can enforce traffic calming and ensure the three-way intersections are safer. Ms. Blackmar-Rice stated the trail is a conceptual line that gives us the opportunity to seek funding and do planning in the future. Ms. Blackmar-Rice offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - Mr. Jim Vinch, 85 Lantern Ridge Road - Mr. Vinch gave several reasons why he would like to see this bike path completed. Mr. Vinch commented on the City Council's role and responsibilities in completing this trail. Mr. Vinch noted that the Council should establish a vision for the City of Oxford.

Public Comment - Mr. Sean Wagner, 601 Honor Lane, and Ms. Karin Virk, 796 Dufour - Mr. Wagner also mentioned Mr. Khan (not present), who lives on 591 Honor Lane, are in a unique position. Mr. Wagner explained the residents already have an existing bike path that is adjacent to their properties and it's part of the HOA. Mr. Wagner wanted to state this information for the public record that they have shared concerns with the City, and the question of the actual right of use and the easement. Mr. Wagener shared that they have negotiated in good faith and think

that an agreement has been reached and want that to be understood, but also want the record to reflect that even if the Council approves this, that is going to be addressed.

Public Comment - Mr. Thomas Misco 598 Honor Lane - Mr. Misco explained part of his property is on Honor, and the other is on Northridge, so he is just across the street from Mr. Wagner. Mr. Misco shared a German phrase meaning what is to be done is to be done properly. Mr. Misco voted for the funding of this trail and uses the trail every day. Mr. Misco noted that he drives to the Black Covered Bridge because he doesn't want to see traffic and houses on his daily walks. Mr. Misco recommended waiting until we have more funding and more approvals until something changes.

Public Comment - Mr. Brian Ballou, 212 Northridge Drive- Mr. Ballou echoed the comments made by Mr. Misco. Mr. Ballou, in addition to being a resident, is an accounting professor and questioned the cost-benefit of the Northern Arc. Mr. Ballou mentioned going behind the properties and having a more rural setting.

Public Comment - Mr. Ken Vincent, 345 Cobblestone Court - Mr. Vincent moved to Oxford about a year and a half ago and was excited about the OATS trail. Mr. Vincent agrees we need to finish the trail, but wonders what would happen if we don't approve the trail tonight. Mr. Vincent noted he doesn't think the trail should go through people's yards.

Public Comment - Ms. Ann Wicks, 205 Northridge Drive- Ms. Wicks enjoys the trail but agrees that she doesn't want to walk by houses and traffic. Ms. Wicks expressed safety concerns about walking through neighborhoods.

B. A Resolution To Accept The Recommendation Of The Oxford Parking And Transportation Advisory Board To Clarify That When The Oxford Area Trail Multi-Use Path Replaces A Sidewalk, Property Owners Are Not Responsible For Its Maintenance Or Repairs. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7662.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - Ms. Carla Blackmar-Rice, 400 West Vine Street- Ms. Blackmar-Rice stated she was sorry to see so many folks leave because this is a huge benefit. Ms. Blackmar-Rice mentioned that if your sidewalk was part of the trail, the City would pay for its repairs and maintenance.

Public Comment - Ms. Tokomo Brown, 100 Prevalent Drive - Ms. Brown asked for clarification that the City Maintenance of that portion includes snow clearance because students use the path to get to the bus stop.

- C. A Resolution Directing The Finance Director Or Designee To Calculate The Difference Between The Excise Hotel Tax Budget Estimate Vs. Actual Revenue Collected From January 1st To November 30th Of Each Year. If Revenue Exceeds The Budgeted Amount, A Supplemental Budget Appropriation Will Be Created To Transfer Up To \$50,000 To The Housing Trust Fund. (Councilors Bracken And Raghu)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7663.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - Mr. Pete McCarthy, 6073 Contreras Road - Mr. McCarthy is not opposed to funding the housing trust fund; he doesn't like taking it from the hotel taxes. Mr. McCarthy mentioned developing new businesses coming into the community.

Public Comment - Ms. Carla Blackmar-Rice, 400 West Vine Street- Ms. Blackmar-Rice spoke in favor of this Resolution. Ms. Blackmar-Rice is speaking as the current board president for Moon-Coop, and one of the biggest challenges is finding and retaining quality employees. Ms. Blackmar-Rice noted finding places where they can live affordably in our town is a challenge that many face.

Public Comment - Mr. Glenn Ellerbe, Jr., 158 Silverleaf Drive- Mr. Ellerbe asked that when the Council moves forward with creating City Policies, please consider that there are people outside this city who are looking intently at whether they want to move here, invest here, start businesses here or create jobs. Mr. Ellerbe mentioned that a Resolution like this one sets an example of where you want to go based on the kind of money that you are putting forward. Mr. Ellerbe agrees with both comments made before him but urges the Council to consider the economic growth and financial health of our City.

Public Comment - Ms. Ann Fuehrer, 1345 Dana Drive - Ms. Fuehrer thanked Councilors Bracken and Raghu for the Resolution and for being active participants in the work of Oxford Area Solutions for Housing over the last two years. Ms. Fuehrer noted that OASH asked what the role of the City is in relation to ensuring housing for all means where the biggest need is, according to your 2020 housing assessment, is for affordable rentals. Ms. Fuehrer stated that this Resolution validates an earlier commitment to putting some financial support behind a high priority of the City.

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 Correcting The Calico Acres Subdivision Plat To Affirm The Name "Jeffrey Drive" For Certain Public Streets Therein. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

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

Public Comment - Ms. Anne Lorberau, 49 Jeffery Drive - Ms. Lorberau recently moved to Jeffery Drive and is happy that this issue is being addressed. Ms. Lorberau has experienced problems with receiving deliveries.

B. Second Reading

1. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3750 Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 6 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2024. (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3792.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 7

Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Smith, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mr. Prytherch, and Mayor Snavelly

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Ms. Ridenour reviewed the changes since the first reading. Ms. Ridenour recommended a friendly amendment with the adoption of Resolution No. 7663 to add \$34,190.58 to the Housing Trust Fund for 2024. Mayor Snavelly asked if there was an objection to a friendly amendment to that extent, and hearing no objections, so ordered it to be accepted.

Public Comment - None.

2. An Ordinance To Accept the Recommendation Of The Planning Commission To Approve A Conditional Use For An Indoor Entertainment Facility Located At 110 South Locust Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056, (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3793.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 7

Mr. Bracken, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Smith, and Mayor Snavley

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Mr. Perry mentioned no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

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. Dec 18 Board of Building Appeals-CANCELED | Courthouse | 5:30 p.m. |
| Dec 18 Board of Zoning Appeals-CANCELED | Courthouse | 6:30 p.m. |
| Dec 24 City Offices CLOSED | | |
| Dec 25 City Offices CLOSED | | |

Jan 1	City Offices CLOSED		
Jan 2	Housing Advisory Commission-CANCELED	Municipal Building	5:00 p.m.
Jan 7	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
Jan 8	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
Jan 14	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
Jan 15	Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
Jan 21	Municipal Records Commission	Municipal Building	4:30 p.m.
Jan 21	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 9:35 pm.
 (Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. French
 AYE # 7
 NAY # 0
 ABS # 0