



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 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, January 7, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Michael Smith, Alex French, Amber Franklin, David Prytherch, Jason Bracken, and Chantel Raghu.

Staff Members in Attendance:

Mr. Douglas Elliott, City Manager; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Michael Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Ms. Lara Fening, Police Lieutenant; Mr. Geoff Robinson, Police Lieutenant; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Mr. Ben Mazer, 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 # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. Proclamation - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2025

Ms. Vanessa Cummings, Vice President of the Oxford NAACP Branch, was in attendance to accept the Proclamation. Ms Cummings thanked Mayor Snavelly and the City Council for the proclamation and invited everyone to the community observance on Monday, January 20, 2025, at the Oxford Community Arts Center. Ms. Cummings mentioned that the viewing of the art entries begins at 10:00 am, the program starts at 10:30 am, and our speaker this year is Tarah Trueblood. Ms. Cummings shared that this year's theme is Meaningful Dialogue Across Differences, which is very relevant today. Ms. Cummings offered to answer any questions to contact Ms. Cummings; please email NAACPoxfordohio@gmail.com.

B. Swearing-In of New Officer (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones introduced the new officer: Mr. Wade Estes. Mr. Ben Mazer began swearing in the new officer by instructing Mr. Estes to recite the oath. Chief Jones called Mr. Estes's father up to complete the pinning ceremony. Officer Estes thanked the City of Oxford for the opportunity to be an Officer here in Oxford and is looking forward to helping the community. Officer Estes also thanked his parents, friends, and family.

C. Presentation - Oxford Farmers Market Annual Report

Ms. Madison Wetzel, Oxford Farmers Market Manager, thanked the Council for allowing her to come present this month. Ms. Wetzel apologized for missing the meeting last month and is appreciative that the Council moved forward with granting the permits for 2025. Ms. Wetzel noted she has just completed her first year as the market manager and is so grateful for the time she has spent. Ms. Wetzel shared that her motto for her first year was to observe and absorb everything around her, learn the ropes, and create relationships with everyone. Ms. Wetzel highlighted a few events, programs, and statistics from the past year. Ms. Wetzel offered to answer any questions. Mayor Snavelly thanked Ms. Wetzel for her presentation.

D. Notice To Legislative Authority - Oxford Smoke Time Inc. DBA Oxford Smoke Time
109 West High Street Oxford, Ohio 45056. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

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

E. 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. Sam Perry, Community Development Director - Introduced Elena Zicarelli. Ms. Zicarelli is working in the Community Development Department during the month of January under the Ohio Public Leader Fellowship Program at Miami University. Ms. Zicarelli is a senior political science major who will be drafting a Black History and Culture Plan. Ms. Zicarelli expressed excitement to be here and meet everyone and work on this project.

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 from the December 17, 2024, City Council Work Session Meeting (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

B. Minutes from the December 17, 2024, City Council Meeting (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Extending The Existing Moratorium, On Alley Development To March 20, 2025, Within The City Of Oxford, Ohio (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7664
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Raghu
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

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

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

None.

- B. Second 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)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3794
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 7

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

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

8. Discussion

A. Discussion And Update On The City's Deer Management Program

Mr. Elliott began the discussion by presenting slides on the 2024-2025 deer management program (slides included in minutes). Mr. Elliott provided a brief history of the deer management program beginning in 2009. Mr. Elliott gave updates on the changes made to the program this year and introduced a few other options. Mr. Elliott offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - Mr. Hank Stevens, Melissa Drive - Mr. Stevens is an Ecologist at Miami University. Mr. Stevens thanked the Council for taking time today to discuss this issue. Mr. Stevens noted that 1.5 million people in the US hit deer with their vehicles each year. Mr. Stevens mentioned that the average cost per deer hit is around \$4,000.00, which causes insurance companies to raise everyone's rates. Mr. Stevens stated the damage the deer have done to our forests has aided in the decline of the population of songbirds. Mr. Stevens offered to provide scores of this information.

Public Comment - Mr. Steve Sullivan, 104 Marti Court - Mr. Sullivan is a Naturalist and the Director of the Hefner Museum at Miami University and co-chair of the Natural Areas Committee. Mr. Sullivan supports the comments made by Mr. Stevens. Mr. Sullivan supports Mr. Elliott's remarks about the previous program. Mr. Sullivan expressed interest in the combined lot idea that Mr. Elliott had mentioned. Mr. Sullivan noted the importance of enforcing a feeding ban on all outside feeding all animals except for birds.

Mayor Snavely thanked Mr. Elliott for his presentation and asked that City Staff work to create a Deer Management Task Force, a working group composed of experts, Councilors, Environmental Commissioners, and City Staff.

9. 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. Jan 8	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Municipal Building	6:00 p.m.
Jan 13	Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Municipal Building	5:30 p.m.
Jan 14	2025 City Council Retreat Work Session	The Elms Hotel	1:00 p.m.
Jan 14	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
Jan 15	Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
Jan 20	City Offices Closed - Holiday		
Jan 21	Municipal Records Commission	Municipal Building	4:30 p.m.
Jan 21	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
Jan 27	Oxford Recreation Board/TRI Board Joint Meeting	LaRosa's Pizzeria	11:00 a.m.
Feb 4	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
Feb 5	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	7:00 p.m.

10. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 8:48 pm
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. French
AYE # 7

NAY # 0
ABS # 0