



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 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.

Motion – To Enter Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(3) To consider pending and threatened litigation and O.R.C. Section 121.22(G)(1) To Consider Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Motion – To Return from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(3) To consider pending and threatened litigation and O.R.C. Section 121.22(G)(1) To Consider Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Snavely on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Amber Franklin, Alex French, David Prytherch, Michael Smith, and Jason Bracken. Chantel Raghu was excused.

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; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Mr. Goeff Robinson, Police Lieutenant; 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 Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. Swearing-In of Lt. Adam Price (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones introduced Sergeant Adam Price and presented slides highlighting Sergeant Price's career with OPD. Mr. Conard began swearing in the new Lieutenant by instructing Lieutenant Price to recite the oath. Chief Jones called Lieutenant Price's wife and daughters to the podium to complete the pinning ceremony. Lieutenant Price thanked the City for the opportunity and is looking forward to working with the staff and other officers. Lieutenant Price thanked the friends, family, and community members who came out.

B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Motion – To reappoint all members of Council to current boards and commissions until November 30, 2025.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

C. 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. Tekeia Howard, Cincinnati, OH - Ms. Howard asked for support for the American Heart Association Go Red For Women campaign. Ms. Howard stated that the Go Red For Women campaign is a national initiative dedicated to increasing awareness about heart disease, which remains the number one killer of women in the United States. Ms. Howard noted that Go Red For Women empowers women to take control of their heart health through advocacy, education, and community action. Ms. Howard is asking Oxford to get involved with raising awareness of this health issue within our community. Ms. Howard is serving as a woman of impact this year to raise awareness and raise funds. Ms. Howard mentioned that she would love to partner with the City of Oxford and Miami University next year to launch Oxford Go Red.

Public Comment—Ms. Sarah Meaney, 1329 Dana Drive—Ms. Meaney stated that if this is not the time for her trail comment, please let her know. Mayor Snively asked Ms. Meaney to please wait until the item comes up on the agenda.

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 Adopt the Consent Agenda
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

- A. Minutes from the March 4, 2025, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
- B. A Report Regarding the March 5th Environmental Commission Meeting (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

- C. 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 Authorizing The City Manager To Apply For An Interact For Health Public Health Policy Grant For A Three-Year Eviction Diversion And Housing Stability Program For \$90,000.00 And A Local Match Of \$30,000.00 In Year One, With A 4% Increase In Each Following Year. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7685
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Franklin 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.

- B. A Resolution To Adopt A Title VI Plan To Demonstrate The City Of Oxford's Commitment To The Civil Rights Act Of 1964 And Our Intention To Foster An Inclusive And Diverse Community, Ensuring That All Residents Have Fair And Equal Access To City Programs And Services, And Complying With All Federal Civil Rights Regulations. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7686
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. French
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - Ms. Kathie Brinkman, 404 Emerald Woods Drive - Ms. Brinkman noted during a time when the state department is deporting immigrants in defiance of a federal judge's orders, at a time when the executive branch is ordering the detention of a legal permanent resident without resident evidence of a crime or ties to terrorism because they object to what he's saying. Ms. Brinkman shared at a time when Arlington National Cemetery, the Department of Defense, and many other Federal websites were removing stories and photos of women, people of color, Native Americans, and many others. Ms. Brinkman also noted at a time when a sixth-grade school teacher in Idaho was in danger of losing her job unless she removed a sign from her classroom stating everyone is welcome here. Ms. Brinkman shared that at a time when Congress is considering a bill named the Save Act, it would result in significant voter suppression of people of color, women, the elderly, the disabled, the poor, and many others. Ms. Brinkman stated that she is proud to be a resident of a city that is looking at reaffirming their civil rights policies, and she applauds the Council for considering this Resolution and hopes that you vote unanimously in favor.

- C. A Resolution Making An Appointment To The Butler County 9-1-1 Program Review Committee. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7687
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Motion – To strike the third Whereas statement in the Resolution.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

- D. A Resolution Designating Public Depositories And Extending The Deposit Of Active Public Funds For A One-Year Period Commencing April 6, 2025. (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7688
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Council.

Public Comment - None.

- E. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Submit A Grant Application To The Ohio Department Of Natural Resources (ODNR) For Up To \$52,000.00 To Increase And Strengthen Oxford's Tree Canopy By Removing And Replacing Callery Pear Trees In The Uptown Area. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7689
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. French
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

None.

- B. Second Reading

- 1. An Ordinance To Appropriate For Public Use, All Right Title And Interest In A Certain Parcel Of Property Located On Or Near Oxford-Reily Road For The Purpose Of Acquiring Permanent And Temporary Rights-Of-Way To Construct Oxford Area Trail System Phase V, In The City Of Oxford, Ohio. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3811
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 6

Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Prytherch, Mr. Smith, and Mayor Snively

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - Ms. Sarah Meaney, 1329 Dana Drive - Ms. Meaney expressed her excitement about the OATS system. Ms. Meaney shared that the trail would go behind her house, and she was happy that her kids would be able to connect with the whole community and safely get out of their neighborhood. Ms. Meaney stated that this is important to her because her children are getting to the perfect age to get out, and they need a safe way to get around town. Ms. Meaney noted that the recent trail addition going to the middle school and then connecting to the community park is like a dream living in our neighborhood. Ms. Meaney mentioned the practical implications of kids getting from high school into middle school and back on a trail are really exciting.

Public Comment - Ms. Genevieve O'Malley Knight, 527 Sandra Drive - Ms. O'Malley-Knight shared that she has similar comments but will not have backyard access to the trail. Ms. O'Malley-Knight expressed excitement that the trail would connect the middle school to the high school. Ms. O'Malley-Knight noted her oldest is a first-year high school student, and they aren't sure the trail will be built in time, but her younger child is in fourth grade, so they are looking forward to that. Ms. O'Malley-Knight mentioned that the trails are great for recreation, her family loves walking the dog there, and the park connector from their neighborhood helps her family get to Grandma's house off-road and safer. Ms. O'Malley-Knight stated that when the trail connects to the high school, it will be so great for commuting; with no buses, it's an extra burden to get there and back and again for extracurricular activities. Ms. O'Malley-Knight expressed excitement for her children to build that independence that transportation independence safely disconnected from vehicles. Ms. O'Malley-Knight thanked the Council for supporting this great amenity over the years.

Public Comment - Ms. Megan Kuykendall, 1304 Dana Drive - Ms. Kuykendall commented on the trail and the growing excitement as it had expanded into different areas and neighborhoods with similarly aged children and really thinking about the possibilities. Ms. Kuykendall shared that her family had chosen to be a one-car family living and working in the same town, which is a real privilege. Ms. Kuykendall agreed with Ms. O'Malley-Knight's statement that the trail is not just for recreation; it adds a transportation aspect to this new piece of the trail and adds value to our community. Ms. Kuykendall added that several property owners will be affected by this, and she hopes that they will see the value it provides to the community, specifically the monetary values that typically property values go up when we have some of those kinds of trail systems in place. Ms. Kuykendall mentioned the overall impact on the health and well-being of our community, the commute, and the transportation aspects. Ms. Kuykendall wanted to highlight the opportunities to travel and connect with different neighborhoods and areas that currently feel

very separated from each other. Ms. Kuykendall stated the trails provide a safer option to have those kinds of identified paths, similar to what happened with some of the bike lanes that we utilize regularly as a family with one car; we use bikes to get around. Ms. Kuykendall thanked the Council and publicly thanked the property owners who are going to be directly affected by construction and extended gratitude to those folks on behalf of all the folks in our community who will be able to enjoy the trail for many years to come.

Public Comment—Mr. Paul Reidy, 618 David Drive—Mr. Reidy introduced himself as a father of five, a cyclist, an exercise physiologist, and the founder of Oxford Area Cycling Group. He is also a one-car family, so he bikes everywhere. Mr. Reidy stated that, given the unpredictability of Talawanda school transportation, it's a benefit to his family and many others to have a route that provides active transportation opportunities for students. Mr. Reidy noted this is essentially important because we know that students and children are becoming increasingly sedentary, and Physical Activity Alliance, the nation's largest national coalition dedicated to advancing regular participation in physical activity, has released a 2024 report card. Mr. Reidy mentioned the students were given a grade of D- essentially, with just 20% to 28% of children getting the recommended daily hour of physical activity, especially those older kids 16 to 17 years old who typically taper off as they get older they become less active. Ms. Reidy stated that the middle school and high school connections really enable those students, who are really only getting 20% of students, to actually hit their physical activity needs and targets. Mr. Reidy shared that the benefits of activity are realized by a lot of environmental and infrastructural changes that you've started to build the trail, and I commend you for that, especially the strategic route placement that will get in active transportation. Mr. Reidy encouraged the Council's continued support and progress on the trail.

Public Comment - Mr. Jon Ralinovsky, 3 Peabody Drive - Mr. Ralinovsky stated he'd been involved with the trail since 2000/2001 before it got into the city. Mr. Ralinovsky shared that he is absolutely in favor of the project and sees it as improving the quality of life for all Oxford residents. Mr. Ralinovsky repeated that the trail would allow kids to get to school and other destinations safely, helping reduce the carbon footprint when people walk or cycle to their destination. Mr. Ralinovsky stated he's enjoyed all the segments that have been created and is looking forward to being able to travel all the way around town when it's finished.

Public Comment - Mr. Jim Vinch, 85 Lantern Ridge Drive - Mr. Vinch moved to Oxford from the suburbs of Washington DC about a year and a half ago. Mr. Vinch mentioned it was a great place to have a career but not such a great place to live and raise a family. Mr. Vinch shared that his family personally chose Oxford for the kinds of amenities that the City offers, along with its sense of community. Mr. Vinch noted that the bike trail was a big draw; being an avid cyclist, he wants to see the bike trail completed, but he also understands the sensitivity of using eminent domain as a tool. Mr. Vinch mentioned being careful and thoughtful when using eminent domain, and you want to make sure it's in the public interest and treat the landowners fairly when negotiating these conservation instruments.

2. An Ordinance To Appropriate For Public Use, All Right Title And Interest In A Certain Parcel Of Property Located On Or Near Gardenia Drive For The Purpose Of Acquiring Permanent And Temporary Rights-Of-Way To Construct The Oxford Area Trail System Phase V, In The City Of Oxford, Ohio. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No.3812
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - Mr. Chris Shoker, Stillwell Beckett Road - Mr. Shoker mentioned having another meeting with City staff last week and felt that significant progress had been made. Mr. Shoker was hoping to have a few things wrapped up before today. Mr. Shoker stated Mr. Conard would send a document to our attorney. Mr. Conard intended to reach out to his attorney today, but things got in the way. Mr. Conard expects that he'll speak with the attorney tomorrow afternoon or Thursday and thinks we have made some progress as well and is hopeful. Mr. Shoker shared that he and Lara are both in favor of this project and realize the benefit to the community. Mr. Shoker stated he wants to make sure it doesn't prohibit them from adding to the community in the future as well.

3. An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement With Cobblestone Community Church, Inc. For The Purpose Of An Easement For The Construction Of The (OATS) Oxford Area Trail System Phase V. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3813
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

4. An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement With South Farm Development, Inc. For The Purpose Of An Easement For The Construction Of The (OATS) Oxford Area Trail System Phase V. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3814
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

5. An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement With South Farm Owners Association, Inc. For The Purpose Of Easements For The Construction Of The (OATS) Oxford Area Trail System Phase V. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3815
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

6. An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement With HPCT Properties, Inc. For The Purpose Of Easements For The Construction Of The (OATS) Oxford Area Trail System Phase V. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3816
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

7. An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement With Abraham A. & Eulin M. Kuranga Family Trust For The Purpose Of An Easement For The Construction Of The (OATS) Oxford Area Trail System Phase V. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3817

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

AYE # 6

Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Prytherch, Mr. Smith, and Mayor Snively

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

8. An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement With CSX Transportation, Inc. For The Purpose Of An Easement For The Construction Of The (OATS) Oxford Area Trail System Phase V. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3818

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

AYE # 6

Ms. French, Mr. Prytherch, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Smith, Ms. Franklin, and Mayor Snively

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

9. An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 127.12 Entitled “Maximum Age For An Original Appointment To The Police Department” And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 127.12 Entitled “Maximum Age For An Original Appointment To The Police Department As A Police Officer.” (John Jones, Police Chief)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3819

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

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Chief Jones reported 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
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9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 8:58 p.m.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A. Mar 18 City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
Mar 19 Board of Building Appeals - CANCELED	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
Mar 25 Board of Zoning Appeals - CANCELED	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
Apr 1 City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.

Apr 2	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	7:00 p.m.
Apr 3	Housing Advisory Commission	College@Elm	5:00 p.m.
Apr 8	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
Apr 9	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
Apr 14	Oxford Recreation Board	Municipal Building	11:30 a.m.
Apr 15	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.