



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 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 6:52 p.m. O.R.C. 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 Snavelly

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Motion – To Return from Executive Session at 7:11 p.m. O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(1) To Consider Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Snavelly on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Amber Franklin, Jason Bracken, Alex French, David Prytherch, Michael Smith, and Chantel Raghu.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Michael Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Ms. Stephanie Gray, Assistant Finance Director;

Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Geoff Robinson, Police Lieutenant, Mr. Adam Price, 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 Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. Franklin

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. Public Hearing - 2026 Tax Budget (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

Motion – To Open the Public Hearing.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Ms. Ridenour gave a brief explanation and history. Ms. Ridenour addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

Motion – To Close the Public Hearing.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

B. Public Hearing- Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator)

Motion – To Open the Public Hearing.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Ms. Murphy shared that it was the Council's goal to explore alternatives to aggregate, along with other models from our current broker. Ms. Murphy introduced Mr. Phil Leppla, the Deputy Director and General Counsel for SOPEC, and Ms. Jennifer O'Donnell, Regional Director of South West Ohio. Mr. Leppla, Germantown, Ohio - Mr. Leppla began his presentation by presenting slides and sharing that this was the second public hearing for the electric aggregation plan of operation and governance for SOPEC (slides included in minutes). Mr. Leppla mentioned that SOPEC is governed by the members we serve. Mr. Leppla announced that SOPEC now has 43 members. Mr. Leppla addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

Motion – To Close the Public Hearing.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

C. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Motion – To Nominate to reappoint Mr. Philip Russo to the Board of Zoning Appeals, to appoint Ms. Roxanne Ornelas to the Civil Rights Commission, to reappoint Mr. Michael Vanni and Mr. Jim Vinch, and to appoint Mr. Ken Vincent to fill an unexpired term ending June 2027 to the Environmental Commission, to appoint Ms. Kelsey Stryffe to fill an unexpired term ending June 2028 on the Historic Architectural & Preservation Commission, to reappoint Mr. Jock Pitts and Ms. Nicola Rodrigues and to appoint Ms. Mary Piper to an unexpired term ending June 2029 to the Housing Advisory Commission, to reappoint Ms. Ann Kaufman Webster and Ms. Shana Rosenberg to the Planning Commission, to reappoint Ms. Edna Southard and Fritz Wellman to the Police Community Relations & Review Commission, to reappoint Mr. Beissel to the Recreation Board, to Mr. Matt Arbuckle to the Student Community Relations Commission, to reappoint Ms. Karen Baker and Mr. Patrick Sidley to the McCullough-Hyde Foundation.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

D. 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. Sean Scott, Foxfire Dr., Outgoing Editor for the Oxford Free Press - Mr. Scott thanked everyone and wanted to give an update on the next steps. Mr. Scott started covering the City Council in the Spring of 2021 with the Miami Student. Mr. Scott noted that it has been his favorite beat to cover since then, including with the Student and with the Oxford Free Press. Mr. Scott mentioned that this has been one of the greatest communities to learn about and do journalism. Mr. Scott stated that sometimes the government and local government get a kind of reputation regarding transparency and interaction with journalists, and in his experience here, he can't remember when people turned down an interview request or were not forthcoming with information. Mr. Scott shared that this has been a very very good learning experience for him. Mr. Scott mentioned after launching the Oxford Free Press last summer that the community response to the Oxford Free Press has been phenomenal and has greatly exceeded his expectations. Mr. Scott shared that this was his last City Council meeting and his last day with the Oxford Free Press is June 27th. Mr. Scott mentioned the new editor would be Adian Cornue, and his start date is July 16th. Mr. Scott noted that there would not be print editions on July 4th or July 11th. Mayor Snavelly thanked Mr. Scott, and the Council applauded and gave remarks.

Public Comment - Mr. Brian Revere, Campus Ave - Mr Revere, the founder of ONE United, a new organization here in Oxford. Mr. Revere noted that he was assembling the first annual Juneteenth Celebration here in Oxford. Mr. Revere brought up his right-of-way permit and asked the Council to waive the fees associated with the event. Mayor Snavelly thanked Mr. Revere.

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 June 3, 2025, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
- B. A Staff Report Regarding the June 4, 2025, 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 Of Oxford To Enter Into The Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (“SOPEC”), The Execution And Delivery Of The Agreement Establishing SOPEC, And Approving The Bylaws Of SOPEC. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7726.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

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

- B. A Resolution Approving The Plan Of Operation And Governance For The Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (“SOPEC”) Electric Aggregation Program, And For The Purpose Of Jointly Establishing And Implementing An Electric Aggregation Program. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7727.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

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

- C. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Waive The Fees Adopted In The Fee Ordinance For The Fees On The Right Of Way Permit For A Juneteenth Event At A Cost Not To Exceed \$438.00. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7728.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Public Comment - Ms. Ann Fuehrer, Dana Dr - Ms. Fuehrer speaking as the Secretary of the Oxford branch of the NAACP. Ms. Fuehrer spoke in support of this Resolution. Ms. Fuehrer noted that Mr. Revere has worked with the NAACP for the past six months to plan a three-day series of events celebrating Juneteenth. Ms. Fuehrer expressed her excitement that Mr. Revere has taken the initiative to expand on the program that occurred last year, sponsored by Oxford Seniors and the NAACP. Ms. Fuehrer mentioned a project that Mr. Perry and Ms. Zikarelli were involved with, proposing ways that the City could be involved in honoring the history and culture of black and African-American members of our community. Ms. Fuehrer shared that the NAACP had also collected donations for the banner displayed over High Street. Ms. Fuehrer encouraged everyone to attend those events on all three days. Ms. Fuehrer mentioned she was happy to hear Ms. Greene is working on a formal fee waiver application and process, and is interested in the conversation that will occur about this request, because the Council is still working without a formal application process. Ms. Fuehrer stated that the Council still has a lot of discretion that will reflect a variety of their perspectives.

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

- D. A Resolution To Adopt The City Of Oxford Economic Development Strategic Plan
(Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7729.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 6
NAY # 1
ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

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

- E. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Settlement Agreement Pertaining To The Oxford Area Trails Multimodal Transportation Project Phase V With Lara C. Osborne, Trustee ("Trust"). (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7730.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

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

- F. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement Of Cooperation With Butler County, Ohio, Pursuant To The Provisions Of The Housing And Community Development Act Of 1974. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7731.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

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

- G. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Option To Purchase Agreement With Empower Me Living.(Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7732.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

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

- H. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Apply For The Ohio Interscholastic Administrators Association (OIAA), 3:1 Matching Grant Program, For Up To \$40,000.00 With A Required Match Of \$16,345.00 For A Total Not To Exceed \$56,345.00 For The Purchase Of A Tiny Mobile Robot Pro X Plus. (Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7733.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

Mr. Smith asked that Council substitute the Resolution on pages 209 - 210 in the agenda packet with the version in front of Council. Mr. Smith explained that after the agenda was published, he received new information from the grant provider. Mr. Smith shared that the name of the organization funding the grant should be the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, not the Ohio Interscholastic Administrators Association, and that was the only change to the Resolution. Mr. Smith presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Motion – To Substitute the Resolution on pages 209-210 of the Agenda Packet with the printed version of the funding organization update to the Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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 Authorizing The Purchase Of Perpetual Easements On Parcels Numbers Identified As 10-SH1 And 10-SH2 Or Around Gardenia Drive From The Lara C. Osborne Trust For The Oxford Area Trails Multimodal Transportation Project Phase V. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

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

Public Comment - None.

B. Second Reading

1. An Ordinance Authorizing The Tax Budget For The Year 2026 And Directing That The Same Be Transmitted To The Butler County Auditor. (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3824.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 7

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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.	June 18 Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
	June 24 Board of Zoning Appeals	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
	July 1 City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
	July 3 Housing Advisory Commission - CANCELED	Municipal Building	5:00 p.m.
	July 4 City Offices CLOSED		
	July 8 Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
	July 9 Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
	July 14 Oxford Recreation Board	Municipal Building	12:00 p.m.
	July 15 City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
	July 16 Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 9:12 pm.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0