



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 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 Snavelly on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 7:32 p.m. Members in attendance were Amber Franklin, Michael Smith, Alex French, Jason Bracken, Chantel Raghu, 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 Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Zachary Moore, City Planner/ GIS Coordinator; Mr. Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation 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. Appointments to the Community Assistance Grants City Council Sub-Committee

Motion – To Reappoint Mr. Smith, Mr. Bracken, and Ms. Raghu to the Community Assistance Grants City Council Sub-Committee

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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. Suzy Hummel, 4689 Hickory Hill Drive—Ms. Hummel wanted to thank everyone who attended the TOPSS groundbreaking ceremony last week in person and in spirit. Ms. Hummel shared that 102 people attended despite the heat and the little bugs flying around. Ms. Hummel noted the ten-month building process, making June 2026 the possible move-in date. Ms. Hummel mentioned that excavation would begin soon. Ms. Hummel thanked everyone for supporting TOPSS throughout the years. Mayor Snavelly congratulated TOPSS and thanked the people who cooperated: Scott Webb, the architect, Ann Fuehrer, who pushed this forward, the Butler County Commissioners, and, particularly, Cindy Carpenter for the grant assistance. Mr. Prytherch thanked Congress and President Biden for the recovery act dollars that gave the county the money.

Public Comment - Mr. Charlie Stevens, Oxford Township Resident - Mr. Stevens works at ACE Hardware and is the co-president of Wild Ones. Mr. Stevens spoke in favor of the deer management program. Mr. Stevens shared that the goal of Wild Ones is to increase biodiversity, and the way you do that fundamentally is to plant native plants. Mr. Stevens mentioned that insects make everything happen after that. Mr. Stevens noted that without native plants, you wouldn't have insects, and so on. Mr. Stevens shared that Butler County allows you to harvest two does and a buck. Mr. Stevens explained that deer will eat the native plants first, particularly tree seedlings. Mr. Stevens noted that because there are so many deer, they will eat anything. Wild Ones is hosting a deer management event at the Lane Public Library on Sunday, September

21st, at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Stevens would like City Representatives to be there.

Public Comment - Ms. Barbara Smyth, Hill Top Road - Ms. Smyth spoke in favor of the deer management program. Ms. Smyth mentioned a herd of 13 deer regularly traveling through her quarter-acre lot. Ms. Smyth noted that two does and five fawns are eating down everything, and, as a gardener, the cost of deer grazing in her yard has been significant. Ms. Smyth shared that her biggest concern is safety. Ms. Smyth mentioned reading that wildlife experts agreed that the most dangerous mammal in the United States right now are deer, partly because of Lyme disease and automobile accidents. Ms. Smyth noted that OU researchers say that Lyme disease is a growing issue in Ohio, and according to the map of occurrences, Lyme disease is moving towards us rapidly. Ms. Smyth shared that she had a personal experience with this and was treated for suspected Lyme disease this spring. Ms. Smyth believes she was bitten right here in Ohio, or certainly within Butler County. Ms. Smyth mentioned that does with fawns are known to attack dogs. Ms. Smyth shared that she had a first-hand experience while walking along Hill Top with her dog on a leash, a doe with fawns nearby came to attack her dog. Ms. Smyth mentioned that it was frightening enough, very frightening, since she had two young children with her. Ms. Smyth hopes that the City Council will adopt the most aggressive and comprehensive plan possible to address this problem.

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 July 15, 2025, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

6. Resolutions.

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 Authorizing The Purchase Of 4.9 Acres From EVR Investments, LLC For The Oxford Area Trails Multimodal Transportation Project Phase V. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3831
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 7

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

Ms. Greene reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

2. An Ordinance Accepting The Planning Commission Recommendation To Amend 2.71 Acres On The Official Zoning Map At 6099 Fairfield Road, From Two-Family Residential (R-2A) District to Multi-Family Residential (R-3) District (Sam Perry, Community Development Director) (Tabled From The July 15, 2025, Meeting)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3832
(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 Snavely

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment - Mr. Scott Webb, 103 West Walnut Street - Mr. Webb reminded the Council that this project would fill a need the Council specifically asked for, and he feels it's a strong project. Mr. Webb noted they have no issues with the conditions brought forth by planning, or the one that was added for the second reading. Mr. Webb stated that he hopes for the Council's support and that they look forward to moving forward. Mr. Webb offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Moore briefly reviewed the staff report and addressed the changes since the first reading. Mr. Moore offered to answer any questions.

3. An Ordinance Accepting The Planning Commission Recommendation To Approve A Preliminary And Final Planned Development For Senior Housing At 6099 Fairfield Road (Sam Perry, Community Development Director) (Tabled From The July 15, 2025, Meeting)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3833

(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 Snavely

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment - Mr. Scott Webb, 103 West Walnut Street - Mr. Webb stated that, due to the shape of the building, the number of units ended up being the maximum of 42; they had extra space to make two-bedroom units to use some of the space. Mr. Webb explained that marketing hasn't begun, and the opportunity still exists to create more two-bedroom back-to-back units with single units. Mr. Webb mentioned that if they find, when doing the pre-marketing, that the demand is up for two-bedroom units, we have that flexibility.

Mr. Moore reviewed the changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

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. Aug 7	Housing Advisory Commission	Municipal Building	5:00 p.m.
Aug 11	Oxford Recreation Board	Municipal Building	12:00 p.m.
Aug 11	Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Municipal Building	5:30 p.m.
Aug 12	Oxford Parking & Transportation Advisory Board	Municipal Building	8:30 a.m.
Aug 12	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
Aug 13	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
Aug 19	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
Aug 20	Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
Sep 1	City Offices - CLOSED		
Sep 2	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 8:23 p.m.
 (Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. French
 AYE # 7
 NAY # 0
 ABS # 0