



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 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. 121.22 (G)(1) To Consider Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Snavelly on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Michael Smith, Amber Franklin, Chantel Raghu, David Prytherch, Alex French, and Jason Bracken.

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; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development

Director; Mr. Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation 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. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Motion – To nominate Ms. Ann Fuehrer to fill an unexpired term ending June 2028 on the Housing Advisory Commission.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

B. Oxford Seniors Update, Ms. Emily Liechty

Ms. Liechty, Executive Director of Oxford Seniors. Ms. Liechty began her presentation by sharing the Oxford Seniors' mission and vision statements (slides included in minutes). Ms. Liechty presented updates focusing on the programs that the City helps to fund, including transportation, outreach, programs, Meals on Wheels, luncheons, support groups, community adult day services, and a lending closet. Ms. Liechty shared upcoming events and invited everyone to International Games Night. Ms. Liechty thanked many organizations and donors for making all the programs and services possible. Ms. Liechty also thanked the board members in attendance and addressed questions from the Council. Mayor Snavelly thanked Ms. Liechty for her presentation.

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 - Mr. Lee Fisher, 88 Whitetail Run - Mr. Fisher began speaking about the OTPAB recommendation for the budget line titled Complete Streets Improvements. Mayor Snavely asked Mr. Fisher to wait to address this item when it was read.

Public Comment - Mr. Wyatt Holmes, 616 South College Ave. - Mr. Holmes mentioned looking over the 2025 City Council Goals and requested an update on goal 3. H. Other category, it was a proposed measure of success that by December 2025, the HAC will explore ways to prevent corporate purchases of homes. Mr. Holmes asked if the Council had received a report yet. Mr. Holmes noted he had also looked over the economic development plan, and one of the recommended industries to invest in is agricultural technology. Mr. Holmes asked if there would be any interest in working with 80 acres farms. Mr. Holmes asked if the City had any roundabout projects being worked on or planned. Mayor Snavley mentioned that City Staff would reach out to address Mr. Holmes questions.

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 August 5, 2025, City Council Work Session. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
- B. Minutes from the August 5, 2025, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Affirming The City Of Oxford's Policy Commitment To Safe, Accessible, And Complete Neighborhood Streets. (David Prytherch, Councilor)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7736.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 2
NAY # 5
ABS #

Public Comment - Mr. T.J. Meloy and Dusty (service dog), Old Farm Road - Mr. Meloy would submit to the Council that streets are not complete or accessible if there are no sidewalks. Mr. Meloy shared that he has a significant stretch of his commute that he takes almost daily that does not have a sidewalk. Mr. Meloy noted a six-house stretch that has a sidewalk, and the rest of Old Farm Road, which he travels until he reaches Contreras Road, does not. Mr. Meloy shared that he fortunately has a guide dog to help him, but imagine trying to walk down a street or navigate it with your eyes closed without a good frame of reference to feel curbs while walking on the side of the road. Mr. Meloy explained that his wife is also blind, and she's afraid to walk in the neighborhood because of the lack of sidewalks. Mr. Meloy mentioned it is a big safety issue, and he appreciates and respects the improvements that have been made in other places, but people need to be able to get out of the neighborhoods to connect to the trail and go to the other places where accessible pedestrian improvements have been made. Mr. Meloy concluded by encouraging a yes vote on this Resolution.

Public Comment - Ms. Carla Blackmar-Rice, 211 Northridge Drive - Ms. Blackmar-Rice has served on the parking and transportation advisory board, or OPTAB, since its inception. Ms. Blackmar-Rice currently serves as chair of that board. Ms. Blackmar-Rice asked for the Council's support of this Resolution affirming Oxford's commitment to safe, accessible, and complete neighborhood streets. Ms. Blackmar-Rice shared that the City has come a long way since she arrived in 2017, adding sidewalks and safety improvements throughout the network. Ms. Blackmar-Rice continues to notice that parts of town where there are not sidewalks on one or both sides of the street. Ms. Blackmar-Rice mentioned our complete streets policy focuses on a network approach, understanding that there may be some areas where other circumstances, like cost or grade, may make it impossible to serve as a complete street. Ms. Blackmar-Rice stated that those situations should be the exception made by the Council, not the rule. Ms. Blackmar-Rice noted that since the adoption of the complete streets policy in 2019, OPTAB has worked to integrate street completion into the annual repaving program. Ms. Blackmar-Rice mentioned that

adding sidewalks, curbs, and gutters where they do not exist can be best and most efficiently and affordably done when it is done in conjunction in concert with repaving. Ms. Blackmar-Rice noted that the repaving assessment gives us an opportunity to evaluate the completeness of our street network according to our policy. Ms. Blackmar-Rice shared that in December, OPTAB recommended to the Council that there be more integration between the repaving process and the completion of streets, both by ensuring funding and by tying street completion to repaving. Ms. Blackmar-Rice stated that OPTAB is asking that the streets be completed within two years of repaving with sidewalks or treatments that are determined to make them complete. Ms. Blackmar-Rice noted that repaving has taken place once again this summer on several streets that currently lack sidewalks, without any public discussion of the incompleteness of those streets. Ms. Blackmar-Rice mentioned that it is possible that sidewalks are not the right answer for these streets for a variety of reasons, but if that is the case, there should be a public process by which those streets are exempted after taking into account the needs of stakeholders. Ms. Blackmar-Rice stated that simply ignoring the policy will not do, and if we don't discuss how to keep all of our users safe.

Public Comment - Ms. Amy Macechko, Health and Wellness Coordinator for the Talawanda School District and the Director of the Coalition for a Healthy Community- Ms. Macechko thanked the City of Oxford for the many improvements that have been made in active transportation in the city limits to make it easier for both students and adults alike. Ms. Macechko mentioned years ago surveying Talawanda families about the barriers that exist to walking and biking to school as part of the safe routes to school initiative. Ms. Macechko noted that one of the top concerns was the intersection at 732 and Dana Drive. Ms. Macechko shared that today we have a traffic light that ensures students can safely cross that intersection even in the dark winter months in the mornings and eases caregivers' concerns. Ms. Macechko noted that she has never seen so many bicycles on the bike rack at Talawanda Middle School as she has this year. Ms. Macechko expressed her happiness to see so many students walking and biking to school each day. Ms. Macechko also remembers meeting at Kramer Elementary to train community members to conduct walk audits along North Locust and Sycamore Streets. Ms. Macechko mentioned that from that activity, data was compiled and shared with the City. Ms. Macechko noted that now, twice a year, she celebrates National Walk, Bike and Roll to School Day at Kramer, and she stands on the corner to greet families and students. Ms. Macechko stated she is incredibly grateful for the engineering changes that have taken place to ensure that students and families can safely walk, bike and roll to school. Ms. Macechko shared that the Coalition seeks to build a healthier community by making the healthiest choice the easiest choice, and when the physical design of a community allows for individuals of all ages and abilities to engage in active transportation and community members are incentivized for making healthier choices, we are contributing to the overall health and well-being of the community. Ms. Macechko shared that a sedentary lifestyle can contribute to many chronic health conditions, such as heart disease, which was recently identified as one of the top concerns by McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital's health needs assessment. Ms. Macechko stated, as Mark Fenton reminded us when he visited our community many years ago, encouragement and education alone on the benefits of physical activity will not work; other strategies must be used. We need to seek to make the healthiest choice, the easiest choice.

Councilor Prytherch presented his staff report and began the discussion. Ms. Greene presented slides and addressed questions and comments from the Council (slides included in minutes).

- B. A Resolution Accepting The Recommendation Of The Oxford Parking & Transportation Advisory Board To Create A Budget Line Titled Complete Streets Improvements (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7737

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Public Comment - Mr. Lee Fisher, 88 Whitetail Run - Mr. Fisher is a member of OPTAB. Mr. Fisher stated the Resolution before you is a fairly easy administrative decision, and that is to create a budget line item for the Parking and Transportation Board. Mr. Fisher expressed his appreciation for being appointed to the Board, but this issue came up a few months ago, does OPTAB have a budget line item? Mr. Fisher asked why OPTAB doesn't have a budget line item. Mr. Fisher noted that creating the budget line item would allow the Board some leeway for future funding to flow in there that is separate from paving. Mr. Fisher mentioned that there are dozens of ancillary services surrounding parking and transportation, other than paving.

Public Comment - Ms. Carla Blackmar-Rice, 211 Ridge Drive - Ms. Blackmar-Rice is the chair of OPTAB. Ms. Blackmar-Rice mentioned that Mr. Fisher represented the opinion of OPTAB pretty well. Ms. Blackmar-Rice expressed appreciation for the detailed discussion on the previous Resolution. Ms. Blackmar-Rice wanted to reiterate that sidewalk assessments are one of the main ways that people in our city interact with government. Ms. Blackmar-Rice noted that there are a lot of opportunities to do that process right and to seek input in advance of how that process is going to go, so it doesn't feel arbitrary when it comes people's way. Ms. Blackmar-Rice mentioned opportunities to give notice and is grateful to have a reporter here today to make sure this kind of thing ends up in the press as a discussion. Ms. Blackmar-Rice shared that she thinks this is worth investing in, but we have to change our modality a little bit. Ms. Blackmar-Rice praised the Service Department for the incredible way the department is able to leverage each dollar into incredible results. Ms. Blackmar-Rice explained that this happens because they move quickly, and sometimes public process is a slowing down effect. Ms. Blackmar-Rice stated that she thinks it would be worth it to invest a little more in the approach to ensure that we do have a process by which, if we're not going to be completing streets, we tell people we're not going to complete this street. Ms. Blackmar-Rice shared that she would like to see an intentionality and a process brought to all of our complete streets and our sidewalk conversations. Ms. Blackmar-Rice mentioned the benefit of taking this action and having this line item.

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

- C. A Resolution Accepting The Recommendation of the Public Arts Commission For A Mural Installation On The Uptown Parking Garage (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7738.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

Ms. Greene presented her staff report updating the budgeted amount to reflect \$19,869.00 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

1. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3783 Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 5 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2025. (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

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

Public Comment - None.

B. Second Reading

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. Aug 20	Board of Building Appeals - CANCELED	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
Aug 26	Board of Zoning Appeals	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
Sep 1	City Offices - CLOSED		
Sep 2	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
Sep 4	Housing Advisory Commission	Municipal Building	5:00 p.m.
Sep 8	Recreation Board	Municipal Building	12:00 p.m.
Sep 8	City Council Community Assistance Grant Sub-Committee	Municipal Building	3:00 p.m.
Sep 8	City Council CIP Budget Work Session	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
Sep 9	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
Sep 10	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
Sep 11	Civil Rights Commission	Municipal Building	4:00 p.m.
Sep 16	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 9:36 p.m.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Ms. French
AYE # 7

NAY # 0
ABS # 0