



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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, September 16, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Amber Franklin, Michael Smith, Jason Bracken, Chantel Raghu, and David Prytherch. Alex French was excused.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager; Mr. Michael Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Chris Conrad, Law Director, and Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion – To Amend the Agenda by adding the Executive Session to be the New Number 9 and to Approve the Agenda as Amended.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. Proclamation - Constitution Week

Ms. Jo Malicote and Ms. Alison Haskins were in attendance to accept the Proclamation. Ms. Malicote, regent president of the Oxford Caroline Scott chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Ms. Malicote noted that for nearly 110 years, our chapter has been meeting at the OCAC building. Ms. Malicote thanked the Council for the opportunity to proclaim the whole week for Constitution Week and tomorrow, Constitution Day. Ms. Malicote noted that it is a true honor to partner with you in proclaiming and promoting patriotism. Ms. Malicote introduced Ms. Allison Haskins, who serves as the registrar.

B. 2025 ESP Levy Presentation by the Elderly Services Program Advisory Council

Ms. Jennifer Heston-Mullins is a representative of Age Friendly Oxford and the president of Butler County ESP Advisory Council. Ms. Heston-Mullins shared that she is also a licensed social worker, having worked with older adults and their families for over 30 years. Ms. Heston-Mullins also serves as the associate director of research for Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center. Ms. Heston-Mullins introduced Ms. Emily Liechty, Executive Director of Oxford Seniors, who is also a licensed Social worker with aging practice experience and serves on the ESP Advisory Council. Ms. Heston-Mullins began the presentation by sharing slides and information about the Butler County Senior Services Levy and its vital importance to our community (slides and handout included in minutes). Ms. Heston-Mullins noted that the current levy expires this year. Ms. Heston-Mullins mentioned that in November, voters will be asked to approve Issue One. Issue One is a senior services levy that includes the renewal of the existing 1.3 mil levy and a .7 mil increase. Ms. Heston-Mullins mentioned that the new levy will generate \$20.2 million per year and cost homeowners \$50 per \$100,000 of property value annually. Ms. Heston-Mullins reminded everyone that if the levy fails, ESP ends. Ms. Liechty reviewed some of the changes since the last levy increase in 2005. Ms. Liechty reviewed the requirements for enrollment in the ESP Program. Ms. Liechty and Ms. Heston-Mullins offered to answer any questions. Mayor Snaveley thanked Ms. Heston-Mullins and Ms. Liechty for their presentation and wished them good luck on their levy.

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. Mark Boardman, 4385 Harris Road - Mr. Boardman shared an update on the Three Valley Conservation Trust Boardwalk (slides included in minutes). Mr. Boardman also wanted to thank the City and offer an invitation. Mr. Boardman mentioned that the boardwalk itself is completely ADA-compliant. Mr. Boardman wanted to ensure that everyone had access, regardless of their mobility. Mr. Boardman noted that the boardwalk features benches every 150 feet, which is in accordance with ADA recommendations. Mr. Boardman stated it's smooth and has handrails. Mr. Boardman shared that the OATS trail was paved around that time, and the boardwalk connects directly to it with an ADA-compliant connection. Mr. Boardman thanked the City for the new accessible parking area signs and the bike rack. Mr. Boardman invited everyone to the ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 12th. Mayor Snively thanked Mr. Boardman for his presentation.

Public Comment - Mr. Glenn Ellerbe, 158 Silver Leaf Drive - Mr. Ellerbe thanked the City for addressing concerns that the residents of Silverleaf Meadows had about the fifth phase of the OATS trail. Mr. Ellerbe also spoke on behalf of the Oxford Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ellerbe explained that he loves the collaborative nature of working with residents, businesses, and other entities in town. Mr. Ellerbe shared that he was here tonight because of concerns raised when the word 'mandate' was mentioned regarding recycling, especially for businesses. Mr. Ellerbe noted that he understood what was being discussed during the work session and was pleased to learn that it was one of several options. Mr. Ellerbe was pleased that the general sentiment was to go towards a more collaborative and tiered approach to business recycling. Mr. Ellerbe will go back and report to the chamber that the City is going to talk to the businesses and tap a couple of volunteers to do some of those things. Mr. Ellerbe recommended that the City consider offering incentives to businesses to encourage buy-in. Mr. Ellerbe suggested that the City provide the businesses with the outcome they hope to achieve.

Public Comment - Ms. Peggy Branstrator, 18 Meadow Circle - Ms. Branstrator wanted to invite everyone to two upcoming events. Ms. Branstrator mentioned that the first event is called Sun Day, and it takes place on Sunday, September 21st, which coincides with the autumnal equinox. Ms. Branstrator noted that the Cincinnati public radio station is holding an event in its new building. Ms. Branstrator mentioned the second event is happening the first weekend in October, the 3rd, 4th, and 5th, for the 30th anniversary of the ASES (American Solar Energy Society) National Solar Tour. Ms. Branstrator stated that details would be in the Oxford Free Press. Ms. Branstrator encouraged the Council to think about City incentives, even small ones.

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 # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

- A. Minutes from the September 2, 2025, City Council Work Session. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
- B. Minutes from the September 2, 2025, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
- C. Minutes from the September 8, 2025, City Council CIP Work Session. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
- D. A Report Regarding the September 3, 2025, Environmental Commission Meeting (Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator)
- E. Uptown Park Permit - Cub Scout Pack 961 ROW 01000 (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)
- F. Noise Abatement ROW 00975 Uptown Madness Miami Basketball (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Amend An Existing Agreement With AECOM Technical Service, Inc. For The Development Of Construction Plans And Specifications For An Amtrak Rail Station Platform. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7741.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

- B. A Resolution Of The City Council Subcommittee Recommending The Disbursement Of The Community Assistance Funding In The 2026 Proposed Budget. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7742.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

- C. A Resolution Authorizing A Grant To The Oxford Vineyard Church In The Amount Of \$70,000 For The Operation Of An Emergency Cold Shelter. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7743.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Elliott presented Ms. Greene's staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - Mr. John Baylor, 131 Prevalent Drive - Mr. Baylor strongly encouraged the City Council to adopt this Resolution. Mr. Baylor mentioned that this cold shelter would help meet the needs of our neighbors with the greatest need during the coldest months of winter. Mr. Baylor noted that this is a collaboration between many faith communities in the city and will involve volunteers from throughout our community during the cold winter months. Mr. Baylor stated that a warming center during the winter months is evidence of a community that cares, and I hope you will support that.

Public Comment - Ms. Ann Fuehrer, Dana Drive - Ms. Fuehrer is a member of the Oxford Area Solutions for Housing (OASH) and has participated in a group of representatives from seven different faith communities that have met for several months to plan the operation of the cold shelter. Ms. Fuehrer shared that some members from that planning group will speak tonight, and that it's important for the Council to meet the people who've been involved. Ms. Fuehrer stated that the vision is for sheltering this winter, with the possibility of expanding to year-round sheltering, but at the very least, developing a model that is sustainable in Oxford. Ms. Fuehrer spoke in favor of the Resolution, and Ms. Greene prepared a very detailed report. Ms. Fuehrer noted the amount of City support was significantly higher than in previous years, and the ARPA interest is being used to fund this project. Ms. Fuehrer mentioned the considerable unkind contributions from the churches, and OASH is prepared to fundraise to supplement available funds. Ms. Fuehrer stated seeking grant support from local foundations. Ms. Fuehrer noted that half of the \$70,000 would be allocated to hiring professionally qualified staff to ensure the security of our guests, volunteers, and staff. Ms. Fuehrer mentioned that the staff will also assist with case management, providing access to social services that will complement meeting physical and hygiene needs. Ms. Fuehrer shared that sheltering is intended to be a step on the path to housing stability, and the congregate sheltering model is consistent with best practices. Ms. Fuehrer noted that safety nets are disappearing due to changing priorities in federal government decision-making. Ms. Fuehrer thanked the Council for appointing her to the HAC and has now become the chair.

Public Comment - Mr. Rick Bailey, 192 Stone Creek Drive - Mr. Bailey wanted to recognize the amount of effort from the City, the Council, the attendance at meetings, the dialogue back and forth, and the evidence of caring to make Oxford a better place, all of which are reassuring. Mr. Bailey thanked the Council and asked for their support of this Resolution.

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 6 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

1. An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 1897 And Dissolving The Student Community Relations Commission (SCRC). (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3835.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - Mr. Tyreke Farquharson, ASG Executive Cabinet as the Secretary of Community Engagement, 21 North College Ave - Mr. Farquharson thanked the Council for the work they do to keep Oxford a thriving community. Mr. Farquharson expressed gratitude for the opportunity to begin his role this week by speaking with you tonight and looks forward to a continued partnership and strengthening the relationship between Miami students and the Oxford community. Mr. Farquharson shared his reflections on the decision to dissolve the SCRC. Mr. Farquharson noted a sense of sadness in seeing the conclusion of a long-standing space for dialogue, but recognizes that the body has not operated as intended, and for quite some time. Mr. Farquharson mentioned that the SCRC still represented an important idea, and as was mentioned in the staff report, the relationship between the City of Oxford and the University has greatly strengthened in the previous years. Mr. Farquharson believes that it still represents an important idea: collaboration between students, residents, and City administrators and leadership matters. Mr. Farquharson also believes that the idea should carry forward. Mr. Farquharson noted that

moments of transition often open the door to new possibilities, and on behalf of ASG, we are hopeful and expectant that another forum will emerge where students, residents, and the City leaders can continue this important work together in a way that is productive, consistent, and impactful. Mr. Farquharson stated that the ASG and the university stand ready to cooperate fully in shaping whatever comes next and to ensure that the students remain active, constructive partners in Oxford civic life. Mr. Farquharson shared that they are excited to engage in that process promptly and thoughtfully.

2. An Ordinance Amending The Official Zoning Map Of The City Of Oxford Ohio For Approximately 18 Acres Of Land Generally Located At 1701 Lake Forest Drive From Multi-Family Residential (R-4) District To Single And Two-Family Residential (R-2A) District. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3836.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - Ms. Roxanne Ornelas, South Locust St. - Ms. Ornelas asked that the Council set aside the vote to reconsider the change in zoning at the location presently called Lake Forest Cove. Ms. Ornelas mentioned that if a change is decided for this location, then, in recognition of more transparency in our governance model. Ms. Ornelas recommends that the steering committee members of the comprehensive plan or other interested citizens be invited to discuss this change by encouraging more public participation in this type of change. Ms. Ornelas stated that, after all, it was the steering committee members, along with the City Staff and commissions, who recommended the present multifamily residential R4 zoning. Ms. Ornelas wished to draw attention to the housing needs assessment that is also described in the comprehensive plan. Ms. Ornelas stated that what is particularly concerning is the critical designation under priority housing at or below 50% of the AMI; however, at recent Council meetings, two areas identified for housing are in the range of 60 to 80% AMI. Ms. Ornelas noted that this still leaves a growing gap and a lack of housing options for those earning less. Ms. Ornelas stated that more attention should be placed on the middle AMI range that the present zoning allows for. Ms. Ornelas would like to see the City think creatively in the future about planning and supporting mixed-use and even multi-generational housing development.

3. An Ordinance Approving A Preliminary Subdivision Named "Lake Forest Cove," Submitted By 4 Leaf Development LLC For 34 Single-Family Residential Lots To Be Situated On 17.947 Acres Currently Addressed As 1701 Lake Forest Drive, Oxford Ohio 45056, With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3837.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 6
Mr. Bracken, Ms. Franklin, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Smith, and Mayor Snavelly
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

4. An Ordinance Approving A Conditional Use For A Golf Simulator Indoor Entertainment Facility Located At 10 N Beech Street, Oxford Ohio 45056, With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3838.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. Raghu 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE # 6
Mr. Smith, Ms. Franklin, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Bracken, and Mayor Snavelly
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Perry 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

1.	Sep 17	Board of Building Appeals - CANCELED	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
	Sep 17	Oxford Parking & Transportation Advisory Board	Oxford Lane Library	6:30 p.m.
	Sep 18	Police Community Relations & Review Commission - CANCELED	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
	Sep 23	Board of Zoning Appeals	Courthouse	5:00 p.m.
	Oct 2	Housing Advisory Commission	College@Elm	5:00 p.m.
	Oct 6	City Council Operating Budget Work Session	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
	Oct 7	City Council Work Session	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
	Oct 7	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
	Oct. 8	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
	Oct 13	Oxford Parking & Transportation Advisory Board	Municipal Building	9:00 a.m.
	Oct 13	Oxford Recreation Board	Municipal Building	12:00 p.m.
	Oct 13	Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Municipal Building	5:30 p.m.
	Oct 14	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To move into Executive Session pursuant O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(3) To Consider Pending And Threatened Litigation at 9:00 pm.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Raghu

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Motion – To Adjourn from Executive Session at 9:15 pm.

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

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

