

A Work Session of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor, Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Council members present were Steve Dana, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, Mike Smith and Edna Southard.

Staff members present: Doug Elliott, City Manager; Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; John Jones, Police Chief; Geoff Robinson, Police Lieutenant; John Detherage, Fire Chief; Amy Blankenship, Assistant Law Director and Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

Mr. Wayne Chapman and Mr. Greg Horn were in attendance from Management Partners.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dana moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion carried 7-0-0.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Work Session was to discuss Management Partners assessment of the City of Oxford's options if the current Butler County area court system is modified. The modification proposed by the Butler County prosecutor would result in Area 1 Court being moved from Oxford to Hamilton.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Mr. Elliott welcomed everyone and advised the report prepared by Management Partners with regard to court services options was posted on the City's website. Mr. Elliott turned the meeting over to representatives from Management Partners.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Wayne Chapman, provided a PowerPoint and advised Council wanted to know its options if the current court structure is modified. Mr. Chapman noted Management Partners, Inc. was retained to analyze options and present advantages and disadvantages of each for Council's consideration.

Mr. Chapman discussed the project methodology including: interviewing stakeholders, examining workload data and budget information for current Area 1 Court, researching Ohio Supreme Court Administrative Rules and Ohio Revised Code Chapter 19, reviewing the prosecutor's proposal for restructuring and using information from Bowling Green Municipal Court and Dublin's Mayor's Court.

Mr. Chapman discussed the prosecutor's proposal implementation requirements and advised the prosecutor does not have the authority to unilaterally implement his proposal.

Mr. Chapman noted state legislators must sponsor court restructuring and having the Butler County Commissioner's and the Ohio Supreme Court's support was crucial.

Mr. Chapman discussed the stakeholder viewpoints noting they nearly unanimously favor the current court structure and strongly advocate retaining court services in Oxford if the prosecutor's proposal is implemented. Mr. Chapman advised the stakeholders expressed strong affinity for court service options with local control characteristics such as a locally administered diversion program.

Mr. Greg Horn, discussed the various options including Alternative 1 – Mayor's Court, Alternative 2 – Oxford Municipal Court, Alternative 3A – Prosecutor's Proposal, Alternative 3B – Oxford Sited Court and Alternative 3C – Oxford Satellite Court.

Mr. Chapman summarized the rankings for each Alternative relative to convenience, cost and local control noting the status quo was ranked the best in terms of convenience and cost.

A question and answer period followed along with comments from Council and staff.

Comments were taken from members in the audience including Mr. Jim Robinson, Attorney, and Judge Robert Lyons.

Mr. Elliott advised his goal this evening was for Council to be well informed of their options in the event the prosecutor's proposal for court restructuring ever comes to fruition.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion carried 7-0-0.