



OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Roll Call.

**William Snavelly, Mayor Chantel Raghu, Vice-Mayor Amber Franklin
Jason Bracken Alex French Glenn Ellerbe David Prytherch**

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor William Snavelly on Tuesday January 4, 2022 at 7 p.m. Members in attendance were, Amber Franklin, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, and Alex French. Jason Bracken was excused.

Staff members in attendance were: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Chris Conard, Law Director; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; and Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Prytherch moved to adjourn to Executive Session immediately pursuant to Section 121.22 (G)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code for the purpose of consideration of the employment and compensation of an employee or official. Ms. Raghu seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Ellerbe, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mayor Snavelly (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Raghu moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Franklin seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Approval of Agenda.

Mr. Ellerbe moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Raghu seconded. Mayor Snavely asked to pull item 3B City Staff Service Awards off the agenda. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Public Participation.

Presentation – Mike Everett from McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital with a COVID Update and Discussion

Mr. Everett from McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital started his presentation by sharing this morning's capacity was 88% full and the ICU was 75% capacity, current capacity is 52%. Mr. Everett explained that was a normal rotation. Mr. Everett shared the hospital currently has eight COVID patients, during the summer months they had one or two. Mr. Everett noted within the last two weeks they have seen a spike in cases, and with one in four symptomatic patients testing positive. The hospital serves 14 zip codes, focusing on the 45056 zip code for the last 14 days we are a 29% positivity rate at patients tested within TRI-Health at MHMH, Good Samaritan, Bethesda North, which is high compared to what it was during the summer. Mr. Everett reported in the past 14 days in the 45056 zip code that 77 people tested positive, 2 of them are at Bethesda North, 3 are at Good Samaritan, and 1 at McCullough-Hyde. Total hospital admissions just in December are up 20% from December 2020, ER volume is up 32% from December 2020. Mr. Everett advised the primary reason for the surge is COVID and Flu. Mr. Everett noted we are currently in the fourth wave or surge, trends suggest Omicron bumps up fast and levels off quickly unlike the Delta variant. The expected peak will be late January maybe a little bit into February. Mr. Everett encouraged everyone to take precautions such as masks, social distancing, using hand sanitizer, and vaccinations and boosters. Looking back on the data from 2020 COVID cases peaked in mid-January. In 2021 we peaked 2 weeks ago and COVID cases are still rising when it comes to admissions. During 2021 the total of COVID patients at McCullough-Hyde 88% were not fully vaccinated, ICU 80% were not fully vaccinated, thus making vaccination a requirement for hospital staff as well as the flu shot. The expired patients that passed from COVID the total number is 4 and they were not fully vaccinated. McCullough-Hyde has cared for 389 COVID patients only transferring 7.8% 15 of those were automatically transferred through ER. Mr. Everett mentioned the Urgent Care on Morning Sun Road have had 48 positive tests out of just that facility. Drive-thru testing was opened early in December seeing almost 400 people get tested just at the hospital. Mr. Everett plans to extend the drive-thru testing service for the remainder of January. Mr. Everett reported 6 team members are currently out with COVID. Mr. Everett remarked that in Oxford we have vaccinated 18k people. Mr. Everett McCullough-Hyde has been able to gain access to obtain and administer vaccinations, to provide booster clinics, and access to infectious disease doctors who have prescribed some of the latest medications for COVID patients. Mr. Everett concluded his presentation by commending the physicians, nurses, hospital staff, and McCullough-Hyde Foundation. Mr. Everett thanked Mr. Elliott, and the Chamber and City for the weekly updates call, and the commitment the City of Oxford has offered. Mr. Everett shared McCullough-Hyde is safe and ready, throughout the pandemic continuing to manage up, manage down, surge in, surge out. By having daily bed capacity calls between McCullough-Hyde, Bethesda, Butler County Hamilton to reallocate any resources to include physicians as needed. Mr. Everett offered to answer questions.

Mayor Snavely thanked Mr. Everett for his presentation and for the wonderful job McCullough-Hyde does for our Community.

Mr. Prytherch thanked Mr. Everett for his presentation and asked about the Tri-Health network and the regional capacity.

Mr. Everett expressed his pride in the Tri-Health partnership, and the ability to tap into a lot of additional hospitals and beds. McCullough-Hyde can balance those cases if at full capacity because Bethesda North, Good Samaritan, Bethesda Butler all hold beds so McCullough-Hyde is never really out of beds.

Ms. Raghu thanked Mr. Everett for his presentation. Ms. Raghu expressed interest in Mr. Everett's comment about advocating for taking precautions. Ms. Raghu noted feeling nervous when others say they would like to wait until the hospital is at capacity before taking those precautions.

Mr. Everett noted precautions have helped the hospital get through the pandemic and protect our team members, we have a playbook and we're following it.

Ms. Raghu commented on not knowing what the end date will be, and this is a moving target we need to take the information and data as it comes.

Mayor Snavely referenced Mr. Everett's comment regarding 88% of people admitted for COVID being not fully vaccinated. Mayor Snavely advised the best thing for people in the Community to do is to get fully vaccinated and boosted.

Mr. Everett urged everyone to look at all the precautions they need for themselves. Mr. Everett noted no two individuals are the same, find the best precautions you can take, it may be a mask or a vaccination.

Ms. French thanked Mr. Everett for his presentation. Ms. French asked if Mr. Everett was concerned with the rising number of cases and the other Tri-Health network hospitals reaching capacity.

Mr. Everett mentioned having several plans prepared to keep the other hospitals from reaching capacity. If they should reach capacity the elective surgeries would be canceled.

Ms. Franklin thanked Mr. Everett for his presentation and shared her appreciation for nurses. Ms. Franklin asked what the procedure was for medical staff testing positive.

Mr. Everett advised the protocol started at 14 days, then went down to 10 days, and now the CDC recommends 5 days after a negative test, including now fever or symptoms. Mr. Everett noted that after the 5 days if the employee still doesn't feel right they stay home until they are healthy.

Ms. Franklin expressed feeling encouraged to hear that the hospital is prepared to take on whatever cases and hospitalizations we might face in the Community. Ms. Franklin mentioned that so far the discussion has been about the hospital's ability to handle the people who need to be hospitalized to keep in mind our goal should be to prevent people from having to be hospitalized.

Presentation – City Staff Service Awards – Power Point by Jessica Greene

The Staff Service Awards Presentation has been rescheduled for the January 18, 2022 City Council meeting.

Notice of Legislative Authority- Transfer of permits C1 and C2 to Sai Anjaneya LLC DBA Red Ox 95 E Chestnut Street Oxford, Ohio 45056

Notice to Legislative Authority

Mr. Ellerbe moved to proceed without comment. Ms. Raghu seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Public Comments.

Mr. Steven Snell - 6 Old Stone Court - Thanked Mr. Everett for his presentation. Mr. Snell mentioned the divisions in the Community such as; masks, vaccines, boosters, and remote learning. Mr. Snell noted the two groups that are really divided in Oxford. Those that have already had COVID and those who have not. Mr. Snell shared information on the effectiveness of cloth masks and asked what healthy really means.

Ms. Amy Shiaman - 11 Heather Ridge Court - Thanked the Councilors, and City Staff, and Police, and Fire, and McCullough-Hyde and Mr. Everett for all that everyone is doing to keep our Community healthy and safe. Ms. Shiaman spoke in favor of reinstating the indoor mask mandate.

Consent Agenda.

Minutes of the December 21, 2021 City Council Meeting (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

Ms. Franklin moved to pull item A off briefly for discussion. Mr. Prytherch moved to pull item C off.

Ms. Franklin wanted to amend page 14 of the December 21, 2022 minutes to clarify the comment she made regarding the divisions in the Community between people who choose to wear a mask and those who do not, and the division is unhealthy for our Community. Ms. Franklin noted this was not caused by the mask mandate, but the people's decision to wear a mask or not and the way people view others is what is causing the division.

Planning Commission Report

Report regarding the December 14, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Ms. Raghu moved to approve item B. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Amended minutes were approved and the motion passed 6-0-0.

Mr. Prytherch asked Mayor Snavelly if Council pulls item C off and have a about discussion what happens to the Ordinance. Mr. Prythech noted the other option would be to make a motion that the Ordinance be adopted.

Mayor Snavelly clarified the pathway starts with discussion and at any point councilors can ask to remove from the consent agenda to be treated as an Ordinance if seconded.

Mr. Prytherch noted if the consent agenda is approved the Ordinance is not because it is a report and discussion item.

Mayor Snavelly confirmed that statement was correct and asked if Mr. Elliott had anything to add.

Mr. Elliott thanked Mr. Everett for his presentation. Mr. Elliott mentioned Mr. Prytherch had asked if Miami and Talawanda had updated mask policies. Mr. Elliott stated that Miami will be reviewing their policy, but they are currently still requiring masks indoors. Mr. Elliott noted Talawanda School District had spoken about lifting the mask requirement, but no updates have been provided. Mr. Elliott advised this is not the usual procedure to put an Ordinance on the consent agenda, but City Staff complied with what Council had asked for. Mr. Elliott noted a few updates to the mask Ordinance such as an expiration date of February 28, 2022 and updated the number of cases and deaths from last week. Mr. Elliott mentioned that if the Ordinance is adopted as an Emergency it takes 6 votes to pass, meaning everyone here would have to vote in favor.

Mr. Prytherch expressed his appreciation for developing the Ordinance. Mr. Prytherch mentioned letting the mandate expire purposely because vaccination rates were up and cases were down, and the hospitals weren't seeing any pressure. Mr. Prytherch noted that was the right thing to do a month ago, but that was then and this is now. Mr. Prytherch stated the importance of keeping elective procedures and surgeries going and not letting the hospitals get overwhelmed. Mr. Prytherch commented on the economic hardships and sees public health, safety, and general welfare as justifications for taking action. Mr. Prytherch mentioned Councilor Ellerbe's critiques from the last discussion and felt like it was anticipatory. Mr. Prytherch commented to not act might be to abdicate responsibility.

Ms. Franklin referred to the concept of disparities, health disparities of some groups are being affected more than others. Ms. Franklin mentioned that oftentimes this was talked about within the context of racial disparities, but that isn't the only type of disparity that we might see. Ms. Franklin stated the University Student population is highly vaccinated reporting at 92% many might be getting boosters over break. Ms. Franklin noted when returning to campus they will have an added layer of protection of coming back into the school system that has a mask mandate in place. Ms. Franklin commented that the public school does not have the same level of vaccination that the Miami students do, and on January 10, 2022 to her understanding is that they will no longer have a mask mandate in public schools, these factors could create a disparity. Ms. Franklin expressed concern that by not doing something we are creating a disparity within our Community. Ms. Franklin remarked that the lack of illness is not the only measure of health, it's the presence of wellbeing.

Ms. Raghu referred to Mr. Prytherch's comment in regards to elective surgery and how important it is. Ms. Raghu mentioned the spread of diseases and unnecessary pain that could be caused if elective surgeries are canceled. Ms. Raghu noted this is not easy, but we need to take precautions to make sure Council is doing everything they can. Ms. Raghu asked what the definition of the City of Oxford was, and what it includes.

Mayor Snavelly responded that is in the City limits of Oxford.

Ms. Raghu asked if that includes Miami University.

Mayor Snavelly answered no, Miami operates under State laws, and Miami not subject to City laws.

Ms. French clarified her comment that Mr. Snell referenced in regards to being fully vaccinated means vaccinated and boosted. Ms. French would like everyone to be aware of that definition should change. Ms. French agrees with Mr. Prytherch's comment regarding what happened a month ago is very different from what is happening now. Ms. French noted upholding responsibilities to the City and its citizens by considering the mask mandate.

Mr. Ellerbe noted his thoughts remain the same in regards to legislating behavior to the constituents of this City. Mr. Ellerbe mentioned creating a Resolution stating the urgent need for everyone to be vaccinated and wear a mask when possible. Mr. Ellerbe stated he would much rather ask people to comply rather than force them. Mr. Ellerbe referenced Governor DeWine's comments regarding not reinstating the mask mandate. Mr. Ellerbe commented that at this point everyone knows that masks and vaccines help, but also should know Omicron spreads so quickly that it's a matter of when it will affect you and how severe. Mr. Ellerbe mentioned if Mr. Everett comes back and says the hospital has a problem then asks for the mask mandate, he could have recommended the mask mandate.

Mayor Snavelly stated his observation that Council probably would not have 6 votes this evening. Mayor Snavelly encouraged Council to keep the report and Ordinance on the agenda for the next meeting. Mayor Snavelly requested updates to section 4 of the Ordinance. Mayor Snavelly mentioned erring on the side of caution, to protect people.

Mr. Prytherch mentioned looking forward to moving the Ordinance because he thought he understood Mr. Ellerbe's position that he was concerned about stress on the hospitals. Mr. Prytherch noted it appears to be more philosophical and we cannot debate the philosophy tonight.

Ms. Franklin asked to update the Ordinance by removing the fourth Whereas regarding the return of Miami students. Ms. Franklin stated this is not so much about Miami students coming and going, we're seeing a rise in our Community while students are away. Ms. Franklin referenced Governor DeWine's report from December 29, 2021 DeWine encouraged mask mandates saying if he could he would mandate them. With the passing of State Legislature passed Senate Bill 22 he recognized he would be vetoed. Ms. Franklin referenced the TRI fitness room and with the mask mandate expiration will be moving from one user to two users at a time, reservations are still heavily encouraged. Ms. Franklin explained that she pulled this statement because it reminds her of the domino effect with the expiration of the mask mandate she was thinking about it just ask masks and people wearing and not wearing masks. Ms. Franklin soon realized that other policies were put in place that were protective measures, and after the mask mandate expired that may have signaled the shift in these policies, creating the domino effect. Ms. Franklin wondered if this would sway anyone.

Mr. Ellerbe commented he is curious as to why Council hasn't passed a Resolution urging all Oxford citizens to get either get vaccinated or wear masks at this time. Mr. Ellerbe asked Council why would we go straight to a mandate.

Mr. Prytherch noted Council spoke very passionately in December and feels like Council has expressed its resolve. Mr. Prytherch mentioned this is more about policymaking and the effect it has on other people and organizations.

Mr. Ellerbe stated not wanting to get into the business of legislating the behavior of people that I represent. Mr. Ellerbe noted to ask first and if people comply then the issue ends. If people resist or push back and things get worse we have justification to enforce a mandate. Mr. Ellerbe mentioned we could call an emergency meeting if needed. Mr. Ellerbe addressed Ms. Franklin's point on disparities and targeting a certain group, and how that may not represent all the people.

Ms. French asked how many citations were handed out during the previous mandate.

Mr. Elliott explained the types of citations the Police could issue.

Chief Jones estimated the number of face-covering citations to be around 5, 4 to individuals and 1 to a business, and the mass gathering citations to be around 23.

Mr. Elliott explained that these citations were written under the first Ordinance we passed when the State and County had mandated.

Chief Jones added that there was more legitimacy with the first mandate than there was with the last one because it was only the City of Oxford no one around us, and the police didn't issue any citations during this time.

Mr. Ellerbe moved to accept the report from the City manager. Ms. Raghu seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

COVID Report from the City Manager including face coverings. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Resolutions.

Milford Township EMS

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a new agreement with Milford Township, Butler County, Ohio, and authorizing the City of Oxford to provide Emergency Medical Services to the Western portion of Milford Township Pursuant to the agreement. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised the current contract expired December 31, 2021. Mr. Elliott read the terms of the new agreement that will expire in 2024.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Prytherch expressed his excitement about these kinds of partnerships.

Ms. Franklin moved to adopt Resolution No. 7368. Ms. French seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Ordinances.

First Reading.

Owl's Landing Preliminary Subdivision & Development

An Ordinance Accepting the Recommendation of the Planning Commission and Approving the Preliminary Subdivision and Preliminary Planned Development Applications for Owl's Landing Located Along Brookville Road in the City of Oxford With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry presented the preliminary subdivision and preliminary planned development application details that can be found starting on page 31 of Councils packet. Mr. Perry introduced Mr. Todd Hall of Todd Homes LLC. and Mr. John Bayer of Bayer Becker and offered to answer any questions.

Amy Shiaman 11 Heather Ridge Court - Ms. Shiaman asked for clarification for pages 32 and page 66 regarding high water tables. Ms. Shiaman lives near this area and can personally confirm high water tables, and asked if the City can require the developer to disclose this information to potential home buyers.

Dana Miller - 1211 Dana Drive- Mr. Miller asked about the decision to have a Home Owners Association and the process and why not have the City maintain.

Mr. Perry addressed the comments from Ms. Shiaman, she is absolutely correct, and as a builder and developer that would be in their best interest to maintain a good rapport by making potential buyers aware.

Mr. Perry addressed comments from Mr. Miller, the developer and builder would have more control over how the common space is maintained. Providing a more narrow street than what would otherwise be required, is all part of the planned development process.

Mayor Snively asked if the width of the street would be sufficient for parking if homeowners had company. Mayor Snively also asked if there will be enough room near lot 12 for the OAT's Trail to go through.

Mr. Perry responded that the 10 foot path has buffers on each side, on this particular side there would not be a sidewalk, just the path.

Mr. Ellerbe asked if this was just a preliminary planned development, not something that's actionable.

Mr. Perry commented that is correct, but if there is something about the layout or number of lots that are potentially problematic this is the time to bring it up.

Mr. Prytherch ask if the developer and builder would like to speak, he has some comments for them.

Mr. Hall of Todd Homes LLC. thanked Council for the decisions they make for the City. Mr. Hall mentioned working with Mr. Perry and Mr. Moore for over a year now on this plan, trying to provide what the city needs and wants. Mr. Hall noted he will stand behind his work if a homeowner has an issue with water in the basement. Mr. Hall stated that 6 cars per house can be self-contained.

Mr. Bayer of Bayer Becker, stated Mr. Perry's report covered everything and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Prytherch thanked everyone involved in the planning process and all the work that has gone into this project.

Oxford Court Village Preliminary Subdivision & Development

An Ordinance Accepting the Recommendation of the Planning Commission and Approving the Preliminary Subdivision and Preliminary Planned Development Applications for Oxford Court Village (Episcopal Retirement Services) With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mayor Snavelly requested that someone else volunteer to have their name associated with the introduced by line on the Ordinance. Mayor Snavelly will be refusing himself from voting on this item because he lives nearby. Mr. Prytherch volunteered to introduce the Ordinance.

Mr. Perry presented slides and details regarding the preliminary subdivision and Preliminary planned development applications found starting on page 86 of Councils packet. Mr. Perry offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Bayer of Bayer and Becker on behalf of the project team. Mr. Bayer introduced members of the team, ERS owner and developer of the project upon completion would become the property manager and supportive service coordinator for the residents of the neighborhood, Model Group will be the General Contractor, ATA Beilarz Architects will be the project architect, Bayer and Becker will be the provide engineering, land surveying, and landscape architecture. Mr. Bayer gave a brief overview of Episcopal Retirement Services (ERS). ERS has been operating in the Cincinnati area for almost 70 years, they have 30 independent living communities and 3 continuing care communities. ERS's mission is to own and maintain projects for the long term to ensure affordability for their residents. Striving to create a community atmosphere conducive to their residents aging in place. Providing services and programming to support residents. Mr. Bayer offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Janet Westrich development project manager thanked Council for hearing their presentation and offered to answer any questions.

Chris Skoglund- 211 Rayan Drive - Mr. Skoglund expressed concern with the current intersection between Oxford Reily Road and Dana Drive. Mr. Skoglund stated currently this intersection has a flashing traffic signal, should it be consideration be given to change this to a full traffic signal.

Mr. Perry responded that a traffic study was completed by Bayer and Becker, the results of the traffic study showed no improvements that were attributable to the proposed development. Mr. Perry explained the full traffic signal could be installed, but it is not currently supported based on the proposal.

Mr. Dreisbach advised City Staff would study post-development, currently, it does not meet the state warrants for a full traffic signal. Mr. Dreisbach noted a rapid flash beacon has been added for pedestrian crossings.

Mr. Prytherch mentioned getting affordable senior housing development is a huge win for Community. Mr. Prytherch noted viewing this planned development without a master plan of the development. Mr. Prytherch stated some concern from neighbors regarding Dana Drive and the extension, residents are questioning the cut thru. Mr. Prytherch brought up the implications of the width of the street and the speed of the traffic. Mr. Prytherch asked for the proposed street width.

Mr. Dreisbach clarified the width of the proposed alignment across from the existing Melissa Drive. Mr. Dreisbach reported Melissa Drive measures 26 feet wide, Dana Drive measures 31 feet wide and meets the definition of a local street. Mr. Dreisbach reminded Council this past summer Brookville Road/St Rt 732 and Melissa Drive, the City installed a new sanitary sewer on Melissa Drive and came across 732 in terminated that in anticipation of this development, the City then resurfaced Melissa Drive this summer. Mr. Dreisbach gave credit to the City Staff who did the work internally and saved a sizeable amount of money. Mr. Dreisbach noted a rapid flash beacon would be a good addition for pedestrians going from Melissa Drive to the OAT's Trail. Mr. Derisbach addressed an inquiry from Councilor Prytherch regarding right-sizing the street, how wide should the street be. Mr. Dreisbach mentioned the merits of a narrower street, such as traffic calming, and cost-efficient. Trade-offs might be room for bike lanes and parking availability. Mr. Dreisbach and City Staff would recommend a continuation of the existing Dana Drive width where it currently terminates at 31 feet and continue build this as a local street and when approaching Oxford Reily Road taper down to match the 26 foot of Melissa Drive across the way making the center lines match for a proper intersection. Mr. Dreisbach advised the importance of right-sizing the project as well as bike and pedestrian safety. Mr. Dreisbach noted between the sanitary sewer and the new street 31 foot the estimated investment would be over \$600K.

Mr. Prytherch asked if direct access to the OAT's Trail was this discussed, or creating sidewalks on both sides.

Mr. Dreisbach noted maintenance and future liability concerns with the oversized trail instead of the sidewalk.

Mayor Snavelly - Dana Drive - as a resident of Dana Drive who and bicycles regularly noted residents don't have any issues currently. Mayor Snavelly didn't think the bike lanes were necessary.

Replacement Pages to the Oxford Codified Ordinances

An Ordinance to Approve Current Replacement Pages to the Oxford Codified Ordinances.
(Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised the approval of the updated and amended pages of the Oxford Codified Ordinances. Mr. Elliott mentioned the City of Oxford utilizes the services of Walter H. Drane Co. to codify City Ordinances. This includes ordinances unique to the City of Oxford such as; planning, zoning, traffic, and general codes which mostly mirror state law. Mr. Elliott stated the total number of changes is 35 of those 33 are amendments, and 2 are additions.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Raghu asked what the change was to Code 505.071.

Mr. Elliott offered to research the update and get back to Ms. Raghu.

Supplemental Budget #1

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3654 Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 1 to make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2022. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed making an advance to High St. Pedestrian Safety (MU) Capital Improvement fund (147). Mr. Newlin mentioned some changes for the next reading. Details can be found on page 194 of Councils packets. Mr. Newlin offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Second Reading

None

A. Announcements & Communications.

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.

Mr. Elliott thanked the Milford Township for approving the EMS agreement. Mr. Elliott mentioned a possible executive session at the next Council meeting to discuss the Fire-EMS Contract with the Union.

Mr. Wooddell reminded Council of the upcoming Chocolate Meltdown Event taking place on January 15, 2022 from 1 pm -5 pm in the Uptown Parks and 3 pm - 7 pm at the Oxford Arts Center. Mr. Wooddell mentioned several uptown businesses will feature a chocolate-themed menu item or specialty drink.

Ms. Franklin wished everyone a Happy New Year. Ms. Franklin thanked the Oxford Police Department for completing 350 vacant home checks between December 20, 2021 and December 22, 2021.

Chief Jones added updated the total number of vacant house checks to 820 combining efforts with MUPD.

Ms. Franklin invited everyone to the Vigil for Democracy on January 6, 2022 at the Uptown Parks at 5 pm acknowledging how close we came to losing democracy on January 6, 2021.

Mayor Snively encouraged everyone to purchase tickets to the Kiwanis Club Chili Supper on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at Talawanda High School from 5 pm- 7 pm. Proceeds support children in the Oxford Community.

Adjourn.

Ms. Raghu moved to adjourn at 9:48 pm. Ms. Franklin seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Public Comment to Council Form



Submitted by: Scott Smith

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



* **First Name**

Scott

Enter your First Name

* **Last Name**

Smith

Enter your Last Name

* **Address**

111 Acorn Circle

* **City**

Oxford

* **State**

Ohio

* **Email**

sfranklinsmith@hotmail.com

Phone

9379352743

* **I am a...**

- ☐ **Visitor**
☒ **Resident**
☐ **Business Manager**
☐ **Business Owner**
☐ **Employee in Oxford**
☐ **Student**
☐ **Other**

* **Comment(s)**

I am opposed to any further co-vid mandates. Even if there were a crisis--which there isn't--I would still be opposed. A mandate makes you my ruler--which you are unqualified to be. You were elected to be leaders, so it is your job to convince us and to encourage us. Give us the facts, stand back, and give us the room and respect to make our own decisions. Thank you.

Make a public comment for review by City Council

Public Comment to Council Form



Submitted by: Josh Byczek

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



*** First Name**

Josh

Enter your First Name

*** Last Name**

Byczek

Enter your Last Name

*** Address**

14 applewood cir

*** City**

Oxford

*** State**

Ohio

*** Email**

byczekjt@gmail.com

Phone

Ex. (123) 456-7890

*** I am a...**

- ☐ Visitor
- ☒ Resident
- ☒ Business Manager
- ☐ Business Owner
- ☐ Employee in Oxford
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Other

*** Comment(s)**

Here we are yet again with the council mulling over whether or not to institute a mask mandate. So let me start by asking all of you this, and I would encourage a response ... Why did the original emergency mandate end on December 13th? Conveniently ending 2 days after students left town. Was it ever for public safety in its truest form? Or was it to stroke some egos and make certain individuals feel accomplished? I would encourage your efforts spent talking about other actions to help combat the pandemic. Incentivize vaccinations, provide more testing options, publicly applaud and provide benefits to businesses that are taking appropriate steps to ensure safety. The Miami student body is upwards of 90% vaccinated, when the surrounding area, according to the Butler County Board of Health, is about half that at 46% ... but hey this all about safety right? So no one mingled with those unvaccinated during the holidays. No one saw them at Kroger without a mask between December 13th and today. And certainly you'll be ringing in the new year in your own home. To me I think certain members are 40% arrogant, 40% out of touch, and 20% swayed by incorrect logic. I hope you all had a great holiday season and have a great kick off to 2022

Make a public comment for review by City Council

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: Charles Ganelin

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



* First Name

Charles

Enter your First Name

* Last Name

Ganelin

Enter your Last Name

* Address

207 Oakhill Drive

* City

Oxford

* State

OH

* Email

charlesganelin@gmail.com

Phone

513-374-6108

* I am a...

- ☐ Visitor
☒ Resident
☐ Business Manager
☐ Business Owner
☐ Employee in Oxford
☐ Student
☐ Other

* Comment(s)

I am writing to urge you to reinstate a mask mandate at the upcoming city council meeting tomorrow evening. As both a resident of Oxford Township and a Board member of MOON Co-op I frequent businesses within the city. The fast-growing Omicron variant of COVID has the potential to affect everyone, particularly those who are not vaccinated and those who do not wear masks when inside local businesses. The threat of the spread of COVID could be greatly reduced if masks were required once again; having had a mask mandate, even if not followed 100%, I am sure helped to keep the incidence of COVID lower in Oxford than it could have been. Even with the reduced number of students during Miami's January term a mask mandate is a wise policy, and sets the tone for businesses, schools, and other organizations in the area. The result can only be greater protection for all residents, regardless of shopping, say, in a small store like MOON Co-op or in the larger space of Kroger; these are focal points of concern because of the variety of individuals who frequent them: young and old, healthy and infirm. A mask mandate policy does no one any harm. The discussion is not an easy one to hold in public, I know, and there will be a loud minority clamoring against such a mandate. Everyone is pandemic-weary, but we cannot afford to lower our guard at this particular point. If

the Omicron variant is relatively short-lived, as some epidemiologists suggest, then the mandate can easily be revisited in 4-6 weeks. But not to take, once again, forward-thinking and aggressive action would be a disservice to us all. Thank you for your consideration.

Make a public comment for review by City Council

Public Comment to Council Form



Submitted by: Russell Jones

Status: Open

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



* **First Name**

Russell

Enter your First Name

* **Last Name**

Jones

Enter your Last Name

* **Address**

106 TENNEY CT

* **City**

OXFORD

* **State**

OH

* **Email**

russ@avantomail.com

Phone

5134915300

* **I am a...**

- ☐ Visitor
- ☒ Resident
- ☐ Business Manager
- ☐ Business Owner
- ☐ Employee in Oxford
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Other

* **Comment(s)**

I just became aware that council will be discussing reinstating the mask ordinance during tonight's session. Last time this happened it was pretty clear that everyone, other than Glenn Ellerbe, had already made up their mind before the discussions even began. So, I am not sure it will make any difference but as a resident of the town want to state that I am not in favor of a mandate. If a business wants to decide on their own to implement such a requirement they should certainly be allowed to do so and the residents can in turn base their decision to patronize any business based on their beliefs and the business's position on this. Were this the case, I for one would respect the business and honor their request. However if this is just forced on the community then it should be expected that a large number of residents, myself included, will just ignore this as happened last time.

Make a public comment for review by City Council

Public Comment To Council Form

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: Sarah Dempsey

Status: Acknowledged

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Priority: Normal

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



* First Name

Sarah

Enter your First Name

* Last Name

Dempsey

Enter your Last Name

* Address

3610 Oxford Middletown Rd

* City

Somerville

* State

OH

* Email

DODDSL2@MIAMIOH.EDU

Phone

9373718013

* I am a...

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☐ Other

* Comment(s)

I am asking the City Council reinstate the mandatory mask policy for the City of Oxford; I was presented a statistic this afternoon showing the hospital capacities in Butler County and how most are above 80% and as someone with an immune disorder who frequently has to be in and out of hospitals, it is alarming to think that if I required a bed in the ICU as I have several times before, one would not be available to me. Currently in my house, there are two people with COVID, both who chose not to wear masks and live life as they would pre-COVID, now they cannot even visit their doctor unless it requires a hospital stay. For our small town hospital, we need to consider what it will look like once students return and how regular residents will not be able to receive the care they need. I understand there are plenty of people who refuse to wear a mask, but as I have experienced personally, COVID is real and if more people were required to wear masks during this up-

tick I believe it could help those who really need it. I am an employee of Miami University and we are still required to wear masks; Oxford should do the same.

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