

A virtual meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Members participating were Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, William Snavely and Edna Southard.

Staff members participating were: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Chris Conard, Law Director; and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Snavely moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavely, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken  
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following e-comment was received prior to the meeting.

Comments submitted on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 - 12:34pm:

- **Name:** Mark E de Saint-Rat
- **Address:** 442 Emerald Woods Dr
- **Email Address:** [desainme@miamioh.edu](mailto:desainme@miamioh.edu)
- **Meeting Date:** Tue, 12/08/2020
- **Agenda Item:** General
- **Comments:**

Last Saturday evening arriving at 8:35 pm my daughter, a long time Oxford resident, drove her 9 year old son, Gawin, to meet Santa Claus up town. They were barred from getting in line by a gatekeeper who claimed that the event would be over by the time that Gavin reached the elf. An otherwise pleasant Saturday evening was marred for Gavin.

- **Position:** Oppose

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Minutes of the December 1, 2020 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Report regarding the December 2, 2020 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Snavelly moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe  
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

## **ORDINANCES** **SECOND READING**

### **ORDINANCE** **CURB, GUTTER & SIDEWALK** **ASSESSMENTS**

An Ordinance No. 3602 Levying Upon The Lots And Lands Enumerated In the List Of Estimated Assessments (Exhibit A) the Amounts Set Forth On Such List And Setting Forth Terms For Payment Of Assessments. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised there were no changes since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance and noted there were no objections from Oxford residents to this piece of legislation.

There were no comments or questions from the public or from Council.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3602. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch  
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

**ORDINANCE**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

An Ordinance No. 3603 Amending Ordinance No. 3538. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 9 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2020. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mayor Smith advised a motion was needed to substitute a corrected version of the Ordinance.

Mr. Snavelly moved to substitute the Ordinance. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu  
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Mr. Newlin discussed the seven issues detailed in the amended Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 9 and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments or questions from the public or from Council. Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Newlin for explaining the last minute corrections to the Supplemental Budget Ordinance.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3603. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly  
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Elliott provided updated figures on Covid-19 for zip code 45056 noting the figures were provided by the Butler County Board of Health.

Mr. Elliott noted he spoke with Mike Everett, CEO at McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital this evening who reported there were seven Covid-19 cases at the hospital with only one from the 45056 zip code and that the hospital was at 50% capacity. Mr. Elliott advised the hospital expected to receive the Covid-19 vaccine the first week in January. Mr. Elliott reminded everyone to remain vigilant by wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands frequently and avoiding large gatherings including family.

Mr. Elliott advised he would share some information that came to the forefront today for a number of reasons with regard to the City's aggregation program. Mr. Elliott noted Vice Mayor Snavelly asked him to comment on the City's agreement with Energy Harbor and read a version the following email into the record as follows:

"I reviewed our agreement with Energy Harbor and discussed it with Jordan Haarmann of Affordable Gas and Electric (our broker). The contract does not permit the City to terminate the agreement unless Energy Harbor loses its certification with the Ohio Public Utilities Commission or is unable to provide the green electric energy. Neither situation exists. Therefore, the City must honor the agreement.

During the bid process only three certified supplier companies provided pricing for three years. Energy Harbor had the lowest rate. AGE vetted the company before recommending the contract to the city. City Council adopted the resolution authorizing the city manager to sign the agreement on May 5, 2020. The fixed rate is 4.71 cents per kWh for green energy for three years.

The charges of racketeering against the former Ohio Speaker of the House and four other public officials were made public on July 21, 2020. No charges have been brought against the company or any of its officials. The former CEO of Energy Harbor and two other company officials have left the organization.

Residents who are in the city's electric aggregation program and do not want to do business with Energy Harbor may simply terminate their service without penalty. If they wish to terminate service, a customer may call 1-866-636-3749 or go online to [www.energyharbor.com/oxford](http://www.energyharbor.com/oxford) to do so.

Then, the customer can either choose their own supplier or use Duke Energy's Standard Service Offer. The Duke Energy price to compare (SSO) is 5.26 cents per kWh until December 31, 2020. The other option of choosing their own supplier may be done through the PUCO Electric Apples to Apples comparison website. There are currently 182 separate provider offers in the Duke Energy service area. However, there are only three offers with a fixed rate, zero early termination fee, 76- 100% renewable, zero monthly fee, and a 24 month term. Those terms are similar to the city's. However, all three rates are higher than the City's."

Mr. Elliott reiterated that if a resident does not wish to do business with Energy Harbor they can choose another supplier on their own.

Mr. Elliott clarified some issues regarding a confusing letter that residents received from Duke Energy about their electric service.

Mr. Snavelly thanked Mr. Elliott for addressing this issue noting it has been a hot topic of conversation. Mr. Snavelly advised he felt the City should send a letter to residents explaining the situation with the aggregation program.

Ms. Southard suggested sending a simple message on the City's utility bill.

Mr. Dreisbach wished everyone happy holidays.

Chief Jones noted it was the time of year for theft and encouraged citizens to take common sense measures and not leave valuables in their vehicles.

Chief Jones advised there was a lack of guardianship in the Mile Square with a lot of students being gone and asked residents to be vigilant and to call OPD if they see anything suspicious. Chief Jones encouraged anyone leaving town for the holiday to sign up for OPD's Vacant House Check service so officers can check on their homes. Chief Jones encouraged landlords to regularly check on their rental property so they can report any issues to OPD.

Mr. Newlin wished everyone happy holidays and noted he looked forward to seeing 2020 in the rearview mirror.

Mr. Wooddell echoed Mr. Newlin's comment and wished everyone happy holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ms. Greene wished everyone happy holidays and Happy New Year.

Ms. Eaton wished everyone safe and happy holidays.

Mr. Conard advised he felt he had many things to be thankful for noting he treasured all the friendships he had at the City of Oxford.

Ms. Raghu noted the loss of an innocent life in Columbus recently and advised Casey Goodson, Jr. was shot in the back trying to enter his home. Ms. Raghu noted he was a 23-year-old black man and the incident was not getting a whole lot of coverage. Ms. Raghu advised she wanted to draw attention to the loss of his life.

Mr. Ellerbe wished everyone happy holidays and encouraged the citizens of Oxford to be considerate of each other.

Mr. Snively advised Corey Watt was appointed the new Chair of the Planning Commission noting his hope everyone would join him in congratulating Mr. Watt. Mr. Snively advised he felt Mr. Watt would do a great job.

Mr. Snively noted he received a request from a neighbor who was involved in a traffic accident to ask whether the Police Department and EMS Department wear facemasks to accidents and other events. Mr. Snively advised his neighbor was involved in a serious accident and a number of different jurisdictions responded with no one wearing a facemask, which terrified his neighbor.

Chief Jones advised he would answer from a police perspective noting oftentimes they are wearing masks although oftentimes they are not. Chief Jones advised it depended on the situation noting police and public safety personnel are exempt from the mask ordinances. Chief Jones noted a lot of times when an officer is out of the car they keep their distance and do not put a mask on right away. Chief Jones advised when an officer is interacting with someone closely and has time to put a mask on they do. Chief Jones noted every situation is different and there are various reasons in some situations why a mask should not be worn. Chief Jones advised officers try to wear a mask when possible especially to make people feel more comfortable.

Mr. Snavelly wished everyone Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mr. Snavelly encouraged everyone to enjoy this festive time even if they cannot be with everyone they would like to be. Mr. Snavelly noted the vaccine was coming out so there was light at the end of the tunnel, which is not another train.

Ms. Southard wished everyone a happy season of light and encouraged everyone to enjoy candles and being together with loved ones. Ms. Southard noted her hope everyone would stay safe and healthy throughout this season. Ms. Southard advised people can find ways to enjoy themselves in Oxford in safe ways noting Oxford has a beautiful trail system which she uses almost every day. Ms. Southard advised she spoke to Gail Brahier, retired Parks and Recreation Director on the trail today who wished everyone a safe and joyous holiday season. Ms. Southard noted she felt we are lucky to have these beautiful areas including a state park within ten minutes of our homes. Ms. Southard advised the lights Uptown and at the Community Arts Center are beautiful and she felt everyone did a great job creating the displays. Ms. Southard noted the DORA was another attempt to bring people Uptown.

Mr. Bracken wished everyone happy holidays and encouraged everyone to stay safe and to make smart decisions for themselves and for their families.

Mr. Prytherch noted 2020 has been tough although he felt the City and the community have a lot to be proud of. Mr. Prytherch referred to all of the changes in 2020 and noted he felt Council and staff made many accomplishments as they dealt with other things that were thrust onto their plates and dealt with them in a really good way to keep moving forward. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt Council can look forward to 2021 not only coming out of Covid-19 but there were plans to revise the Comprehensive Plan, continue conversations about police and public safety reform and concentrate on sustainability efforts so he looked forward to a productive 2021. Mr. Prytherch noted he was grateful to work with everyone and asked Mr. Elliott and Department Heads to communicate to their staff just how proud Council was of the hard work they do. Mr. Prytherch advised the community partners have been amazing in all of this too.

Mr. Prytherch wished everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Smith advised he felt the Uptown was beautiful with the lights and encouraged everyone to drive around the various neighborhoods as well. Mayor Smith encouraged people to visit Oxford noting Oxford was very socially distanced and has a lot to offer.

Mayor Smith wished everyone Happy Holidays, Happy New Year and Happy Chanukah.

Mayor Smith noted we were in the home stretch and encouraged everyone not to give up and to keep doing what they are doing to stay safe.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Snavelly moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard  
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)