

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor, Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Those members present were Steve Dana, Glenn Ellerbe, Mike Smith and Edna Southard. David Prytherch was excused and Chantel Raghu arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Zachery Moore, Planner; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Ms. Amy Blankenship, City Attorney and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn to Executive Session immediately in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)1 and 3 for the purpose of discussing the employment of a public employee and pending litigation. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mayor Rousmaniere (5)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rousmaniere requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dana moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION

“REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY”

Mayor Rousmaniere read the Proclamation and presented it to Mrs. Fran Jackson.

Mrs. Fran Jackson, President, Oxford Unit, NAACP, thanked Mayor Rousmaniere and greeted Council members and City officials. Ms. Jackson noted it was an honor for her to receive the Proclamation for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Ms. Jackson noted this celebration was dedicated to keeping Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy vibrant in the Oxford community. Ms. Jackson advised the theme for this year's event was "Continuing the Dream in 2019". Ms. Jackson noted Dr. King was a great leader who pursued a dream of freedom, peace, justice and racial equality for all Americans. Ms. Jackson advised in these times his dreams are being shaken by what is happening with justice, healthcare, voting rights, education and outright hatred and racism. Ms. Jackson noted we must keep fighting to keep his dreams alive and thanked Council for their dedication. Ms. Jackson asked for Council's continued efforts in working with the Oxford community, to take action to stop the hatred and discrimination, to address injustice issues and to keep the community safe. Ms. Jackson quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as follows "Darkness can not drive out darkness, only light can do that, hate can not drive out hate, only love can do that". Ms. Jackson noted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man of action by the way of love and peace never to hate but to respect the worth and dignity of all human beings. Ms. Jackson invited everyone to attend the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration on Monday, January 21 at the Shriver Center beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Rousmaniere thanked Ms. Jackson for her comments noting she would see her on Monday.

PROCLAMATION
"PUBLIC EDUCATION WEEK"

Mayor Rousmaniere read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Kathleen Knight Abowitz noting Ms. Knight Abowitz leads the *Talawanda Community Advocacy for Public Education* (T-CAPE) group.

Ms. Kathleen Knight Abowitz, advised she has lived in Oxford for 24 years. Ms. Knight Abowitz noted a few years ago she was on the Community Advocacy Board for the Talawanda School District along with some Council members and advised they would meet with Superintendent Spivey regularly to talk about what was going on with public education issues both in our community and around the state. Ms. Knight Abowitz advised through that work she started a Facebook group consisting of 330 citizens in the community and noted they share news about public education and advocate for positions that strengthen public education not only in the Talawanda School District but in the state in particular which was where there had been a lot of legislation on public education and various things that do not support education. Ms. Knight Abowitz advised the idea was to get local citizens involved in advocating for strong public education in the community and around the state. Ms. Knight Abowitz noted the Proclamation is being issued in several communities across the state and advised a group called Public Education Partners is helping to spread the word on this so communities like ours can stand up for public education and celebrate it and let it be known that we support it as a vital part of our community. Ms. Knight Abowitz advised she appreciated Council's support with that work and noted if anyone had questions about T-CAPE or wanted to join T-CAPE all they had to do was ask.

Mayor Rousmaniere thanked Ms. Jackson and Ms. Knight Abowitz for requesting their Proclamations to help educate the community and get the community involved in these important issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Perry introduced Zachery Moore, the City's new Planner noting he was happy to have a full compliment of staff in the Community Development Department. Mr. Perry advised Zachery comes from the Warren County Regional Planning Commission and was a highly qualified and experienced Planner.

Mr. Moore advised he was very happy to be in Oxford noting it had been a pleasure working with Mr. Perry and the rest of the staff. Mr. Moore advised his start date was January 2 and noted he had met many of the Councilors already and looked forward to meeting each of them eventually. Mr. Moore advised he looked forward to working for the City.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the December 18, 2018 City Council Meeting (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the December 18, 2018 Recreation Board Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Report regarding the January 2, 2019 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

RESOLUTION

HEALTH SCREENING

A Resolution No. 7037 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Interactive Health to provide the annual employee and covered spouse health evaluations for 2019 at a cost of \$125.00 per person. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Ms. Southard moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

A Resolution No. 7038 of the Council of the City of Oxford, Ohio, calling on the U.S. Congress to introduce and pass carbon fee and dividend legislation. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised at the January 2, 2019 Environmental Commission Meeting a motion was passed by a vote of 4-0-2 that City Council consider and recommend approving this draft Resolution.

Mr. Dreisbach noted this would be a steadily rising fee on fossil fuels trying to encourage alternative fuel development and return that income minus costs to the American public as a dividend. Mr. Dreisbach advised City staff has not evaluated the economics of this initiative and noted the Environmental Commission has asked for Council's consideration of it. Mr. Dreisbach referred to page 35 of Council's packet and advised a cover letter from the Chair of the Environmental Commission was attached to the staff report.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted the Resolution calls on the US Congress to introduce the carbon fee.

Ms. Carla Blackmar, Vine Street, thanked Council for considering the Resolution noting it was modeled after a similar Resolution adopted by the City of Oberlin, Ohio supporting the approval of a carbon fee and dividend. Ms. Blackmar advised a carbon fee and dividend is a national level policy whose goal is to use price signals to transition the economy away from fossil fuels. Ms. Blackmar noted the idea is to place a fee on carbon at the point of extraction which could be a coal mine, a natural gas well, or an oil well. Ms. Blackmar advised some portion of the fee would likely be passed on to consumers at the gas pump, in their utility costs or in the price of consumer goods. Ms. Blackmar noted this sounds very aggressive however the legislation as proposed would pay all adults in the US a monthly dividend check comprised of 100% of the proceeds from the carbon fee divided across the adult population. Ms. Blackmar advised this would offset the increased costs of households. Ms. Blackmar noted additionally this legislation envisions a boarder adjustment tax which would ensure goods coming from other countries that do not have a price on carbon would be taxed commensurate with the level of taxation occurring in the United States. Ms. Blackmar advised a 2016 study of this legislation suggests that households in the bottom 3 income quintiles would receive a net benefit economically from this legislation. Ms. Blackmar noted at the same time the increased costs associated with fossil fuel use would drive consumers to seek efficiencies making this a powerful tool for the gradual De-carbonization of the US. Ms. Blackmar advised the Resolution before Council asks them to show support for carbon fee and dividend legislation when it is reintroduced in the Congress in the coming legislative session. Ms. Blackmar noted it was introduced both in the House and the Senate in the past legislative session at the very end. Ms. Blackmar advised she felt climate action in Oxford needed a two pronged approach noting first it was essential that the City work to quantify and act to reduce emissions within the reasonable scope of its municipal power. Ms. Blackmar noted she felt it was amazing that Oxford has the resource of Miami University its faculty and students to help make this first action possible. Ms. Blackmar advised secondly at the same time it is essential for Oxford to seek out better federal level climate policy to prevent local actions from being undermined by the unevenness of municipal regulations in this area and across the country. Ms. Blackmar noted we can do everything in our power but if our neighbors are not doing anything we do not get anywhere and our children's future is still in jeopardy. Ms. Blackmar inquired how frustrating it would be for us to be carbon neutral and then have our emissions reduction overwhelmed by what others are doing. Ms. Blackmar advised she felt this was an important opportunity for the City of Oxford to stand up and participate in a national policy discussion that a lot of our representatives have been afraid to take on that is essential for the protection of our future. Ms. Blackmar offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired how the carbon fee was determined. Ms. Blackmar advised the legislation that has been proposed in congress sets an initial price of \$15 per ton. Ms. Blackmar noted through a variety of studies there has been determinations of what price points will actually lead to reductions.

Ms. Blackmar advised the legislation as proposed envisions a rise in price each year until emissions are significantly reduced at which point the program would end.

Mayor Rousmaniere reminded everyone this was a Resolution of Council calling on the US Congress to introduce and pass carbon fee and dividend legislation.

Ms. Raghu advised the Environmental Commission's members had a lot of support for this Resolution. Ms. Raghu noted she felt it complimented what Ms. Southard and Mr. Prytherch have said about Council approaching sustainability from the local level while also advocating on a national level. Ms. Raghu advised she felt it was interesting that this initiative carries such bi-partisan support. Ms. Raghu noted she felt this was a good way for Council to advocate for sustainability.

Mr. Dana noted he felt efforts to bring the townships into an association with the City on this initiative should be thought of as Council moves forward.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised Miami University students will be doing a greenhouse gas inventory of the municipal services this spring.

Ms. Southard advised she felt everything Council can do to advocate nationally is important as well as working locally noting each person may be doing the best they can on an individual level to save energy and preserve the environment.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 7038. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION

CREDIT CARD POLICY

A Resolution No. 7039 repealing Resolution No. 4237 and accepting the recommendation of the City Manager and the Finance Director to update the Procurement Card Policy as recommended by the Finance Director and in accordance with House Bill 312 which became effective November 2, 2018. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised House Bill 312 effective November 2, 2018 lays out what shall be in various political subdivisions in the State of Ohio credit card policies. Mr. Newlin noted Council previously adopted a Procurement Policy by Resolution 4237 on January 16, 2007. Mr. Newlin advised he reviewed the current policy and made additions according to House Bill 312. Mr. Newlin highlighted the changes and offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted the House in Columbus was telling the City how to run its credit card policy. Mr. Newlin advised House Bill 312 pertained to municipalities, school districts and colleges. Mr. Newlin advised he felt it was good policy to have one in place.

Mr. Dana inquired if there were fees associated with the use of the credit cards and Mr. Newlin advised no.

Ms. Southard inquired if the City has always had a credit card policy and Mr. Newlin advised since 2017.

Mr. Smith inquired how many credit cards were issued to staff members and Mr. Newlin advised approximately 15-20 and noted he audited them on a monthly basis.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 7039. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION

NEW AMBULANCE

A Resolution No. 7040 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Horton Emergency Vehicles for the purchase of a 2019 ambulance and specified options at state contract pricing at a cost not to exceed \$230,000.00. (John Detherage, Fire Chief)

Chief Detherage advised money was budgeted in 2019 for the purchase of a new ambulance to replace the 2003 unit which has outlived its useful life. Chief Detherage noted a dodge chassis would be purchased and outfitted for the ambulance.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

Mr. Elliott noted Miami University was participating on the purchase of the ambulance by paying 1/3 of the cost.

Mr. Dana inquired if there were any features on the new vehicle that are new or improved over the existing one. Chief Detherage advised it has an upgraded air conditioning system and lighting system.

Mr. Smith moved to adopt Resolution No. 7040. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCES

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE

OVERLAY DISTRICT

An Ordinance Accepting The Planning Commission's Recommendation And Granting A Zoning Map Amendment To Establish A Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District In A R-1A (Single Family Low Density Residential) District For 50 Parcels Located On McKee Avenue, Peabody Drive, Thomson Court And Tenney Court In The City Of Oxford, Ohio. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised the Planning Commission recommended adopting the proposed Ordinance for the 17th Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District. Mr. Perry noted the overlay district reduces the number of permitted occupants from 4 unrelated persons to 2 unrelated persons. Mr. Perry advised the petition was organized by Anita Jones and her neighbors for 50 parcels.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if the petitioner wished to make any comments and Ms. Jones advised she had nothing new to add.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised this was a long process noting the petition comes to Council first then to the Planning Commission for recommendations and then back to Council for two readings and a vote. Mayor Rousmaniere noted this was done to make sure everyone is aware of what is happening and that it undergoes a full democratic process.

Mr. Ellerbe noted with the widespread use of this process he felt Council should start amending some of the actual zoning. Mr. Dana advised the Planning Commission would take that under advisement.

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3493. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 1 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2019. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed his staff report as shown on page 89 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if there were any comments from the public or from Council and there were none.

ORDINANCE
SECOND READING
NEW FUND

An Ordinance No. 3508 Approving The Creation Of A New Fund For The 2019 Operating Budget To Provide For Fire Loss Claims. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advise the proposed Ordinance was an accounting method to record all Fire Loss Claims proceeds as security against the total cost of removing, repairing, or securing incurred by the City of Oxford. Mr. Newlin noted it also records the release of the proceeds once the repairs, removal, or securing of the building or structure have been completed and the required proof has been received by the City Manager.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired when the demolition of the burnt building on Beech Street would occur. Mr. Perry advised he expected to see a demolition permit very soon for 12 S. Beech Street.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3508. Mr. Smith seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Raghu, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott thanked Bob Ratterman for writing an article for the Oxford Press and Journal News about the new Oxford Police Station project noting the project was moving along quite well. Mr. Elliott advised the new Aquatic Center project was moving along well also.

Mr. Elliott discussed the snow removal regulations and messages on the City's website regarding snow removal. Mr. Elliott encouraged residents and property owners to clear their sidewalks of snow to make it much easier for pedestrians to get around town.

Mr. Elliott updated Council and the public with regard to the Oxford Cemetery Association and their declining financial position.

Mr. Elliott updated Council and the public regarding the vacant buildings at 45 E. High Street and at 110 E. High Street.

Chief Jones addressed Council and the public regarding the Citizens Police Academy which begins February 4, 2019 and encouraged those interested in attending to contact John Buchholz.

Chief Jones reminded everyone to move their cars from snow routes during a snow emergency and to sign up for Nixle to stay up to date with regard to snow emergencies.

Mr. Wooddell advised he attended the Oxford Township Trustees meeting last night to update them on the progress of the aquatic center noting a lot of people did not know it was being built and would be open this year. Mr. Wooddell noted he has also talked to Rotary, Kiwanis the Lions Club, the Senior Center and would speak at the Knolls of Oxford tomorrow. Mr. Wooddell noted he would be happy to speak to any organization with regard to funding and fund raising efforts.

Mr. Kyger updated Council and the public regarding the efforts of the Housing Advisory Commission noting the meeting this month was moved from January 21 to January 28 in the LCNB Community Room.

Mr. Kyger noted a colleague that was very good with numbers celebrated a very big birthday today.

Ms. Blankenship noted she was very happy to be in attendance as the City's new Attorney.

Ms. Raghu referred to an article in the Miami Student newspaper about a lot of International students not feeling very welcome in Oxford. Ms. Raghu noted in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day which she felt is something that extends beyond what we typically think of and she felt there was a lot of almost hateful speech directed towards International students. Ms. Raghu advised she felt we should feel fortunate that Miami University is able to bring International students into the City and encouraged people to evaluate how welcoming they are towards International students and to treat every person with dignity.

Mr. Ellerbe wished everyone a Happy New Year and wished the person who will remain nameless a Happy Birthday.

Mr. Ellerbe referred to the inclement weather we have experienced recently and encouraged everyone to be careful driving and to give other vehicles ample distance.

Mr. Ellerbe advised he had been in Oxford for quite a while and has observed the genesis of the international population coming to Oxford. Mr. Ellerbe noted he has seen some interesting things online and on various social media outlets and encouraged everyone to be kind to one another.

Mr. Dana referred to the minutes on page 8 of Council's packet and called attention to one of Mr. Fenton's recommendations for Oxford which was to create a regional planning collaborative. Mr. Dana proposed a collaborative of the City of Oxford and surrounding townships, specifically Oxford Township. Mr. Dana noted this means when Oxford addresses issues particularly those of land use and development that the City should work inter-jurisdictionally to coordinate planning and zoning with its neighbor. Mr. Dana advised this would not be easy because each has its own tradition. Mr. Dana suggested that regional planning was highly desirable when issues of climate action are proposed. Mr. Dana urged Council to look at this dimension of Oxford's relationship to its neighbors to see if planning could take the form of complimentary zoning codes to solve issues of planning and development. Mr. Dana noted if we do not plan, others will plan for us.

Mr. Smith advised he also attended the Oxford Township Trustees meeting last night noting the trustees were glad to have him and Mr. Wooddell in attendance. Mr. Smith advised the trustees were currently deciding what roads to pave this summer and noted they had issues with the age of their police vehicle fleet. Mr. Smith noted the trustees were also looking to hire another full-time Police Officer.

Mr. Smith congratulated the Service Department on their snow removal efforts noting it was difficult due to the intensity and length of the storm.

Ms. Southard thanked the Service Department for doing a great job with the snow removal over the weekend and encouraged citizens to sign up for Nixle at nixle.com. Ms. Southard encouraged citizens to help their neighbors and elderly with snow shoveling. Ms. Southard encouraged citizens to offer people rides or other assistance.

Ms. Southard advised she served on the Public Arts Commission of Oxford (PACO) and on the Recreation Board. Ms. Southard noted Casey Wooddell attended the PACO meeting on January 8th to speak about the aquatic center.

Ms. Southard advised the PACO members were excited about the concept of adding an artistic component to the new aquatic center that would engage more people in the community. Ms. Southard noted PACO was working on ideas about how to build art into the new aquatic center. Ms. Southard advised she felt it was nice to see people working together and sharing ideas. Ms. Southard noted Jessica Greene of Enjoy Oxford also attended the PACO meeting and spoke about the next Uptown Window Mural projects.

Mayor Rousmaniere congratulated Bob Ratterman who won a good citizenship award from the Oxford Press this week.

Mayor Rousmaniere welcomed two scouts who were in attendance earning their civics badge and thanked them for attending this evening.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted next Wednesday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m. the Oxford League of Women Voters is sponsoring a forum to address the 2020 Census. Mayor Rousmaniere advised a speaker from the US Census will be in attendance as well as a special guest from the League of Women Voters, Ohio. Mayor Rousmaniere noted the event will take place at the Presbyterian Seminary Building and advised it was free and open to the public.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised on Thursday evening the Oxford Chamber of Commerce is having its Red Bricks to Progress Awards Ceremony and Celebration at the Oxford Community Arts Center at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Rousmaniere noted the event will honor businesses and outstanding Chamber Champions of the year.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration which is being held in partnership with Miami University will take place Monday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Shriver Center.

Mr. Hardy Eshbaugh, advised people have no idea how difficult it was to keep Bob Ratterman's good citizenship award a secret and noted he did not know about it until he read the paper.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.