

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Steve Dana, Glenn Ellerbe, Kevin McKeehan, Mike Smith and Edna Southard. Bob Blackburn was excused.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rousmaniere requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION

“DR. ELLEN BUERK DAY”

Mayor Rousmaniere read the Proclamation and presented it to Dr. Ellen Buerk.

Dr. Buerk thanked everyone in attendance, and the Oxford, Brookville and Liberty communities as well as the surrounding areas noting it was a perfect match for her to come to Oxford from Preble County. Dr. Buerk advised she felt blessed to practice in a community of physicians and nurse practitioners who emphasize quality in all they do. Dr. Buerk noted McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital was a true gem in the community with so many caring physicians who were compulsive about the way they practiced. Dr. Buerk advised it had been a joy for her to be part of it and part of everyone's lives and thanked everyone for honoring her with the Proclamation.

Mayor Rousmaniere congratulated Dr. Buerk on her retirement.

PRESENTATION – EMPTY BOWLS **CONNIE MALONE**

Ms. Malone congratulated Dr. Buerk on her retirement.

Ms. Malone thanked Council for the Proclamation in November proclaiming November 12th as ‘Empty Bowls Day’. Ms. Malone advised the purpose for her presentation this evening was to share more about what Empty Bowls is and what it does for the community. Ms. Malone advised Empty Bowls was an international hunger relief effort and all activities occurred at the grass roots level. Ms. Malone noted the event started in 1990 by a Michigan teacher looking for ways to involve his students in a local food drive.

Ms. Malone advised the idea of Empty Bowls spread and in the 26 years since its inception the event was now held in all states across the United States and in 20 different countries. Ms. Malone noted millions of dollars had been raised worldwide in the effort toward hunger relief. Ms. Malone advised since 2002 Oxford had raised \$76,811.80 towards hunger relief benefitting the Oxford Community. Ms. Malone noted the second objective of Oxford Empty Bowls was to raise awareness of the issue of food insecurity which was slightly different than hunger in that it referred to a household level of economic and social conditions of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Ms. Malone advised Oxford Empty Bowls tried to raise awareness of this issue through Hunger Fact Posters created by Talawanda students, by preparing educational and informational materials to have on hand at the Oxford Empty Bowls event, through a Facebook Page and Oxford Empty Bowls provides presentations to schools and community groups. Ms. Malone noted another element of Oxford Empty Bowl's mission was to incorporate service learning through the arts which allowed them to engage artists of all ages and introduce the ideas of civic and social responsibility into art and art education. Ms. Malone advised in addition to the artists who provide the bowls for the event Oxford Empty Bowls also partnered with a number of art organizations throughout the community. Ms. Malone noted the final part of their mission was to build a caring and inclusive community and the local Empty Bowls luncheon had been remarkably successful in that regard.

Ms. Malone advised Oxford Empty Bowls was important because the need was so great and noted that according to *Feeding America* about 14% of Butler County residents suffered from food insecurity. Ms. Malone noted here in Oxford 1/3 of the local school children were on a free or reduced meal plan and many of these children go home to empty cupboards.

Ms. Malone advised in 2015 the Oxford Community Choice Pantry served 1,858 people from 578 individual households and each household visited the pantry an average of 7.5 times which represented a total of over 4,000 household visits.

Ms. Malone noted people had asked what the pantry does with the funds received from Oxford Empty Bowls and advised the pantry had a talented staff, board and volunteers and the community regularly held food drives. Ms. Malone noted a gallon of milk or a pound of ground beef couldn't be donated and canned food won't keep the lights on. Ms. Malone advised Oxford Empty Bowls provided the pantry with unrestricted funds to use as they saw fit to benefit community members in need.

Ms. Malone recognized the many sponsors, volunteers and artists who participated in the event and advised the 2017 event would take place Saturday, November 11, 2017 at the Oxford Community Arts Center. Ms. Malone thanked Council for the opportunity to speak about Oxford Empty Bowls.

Mayor Rousmaniere and members of Council thanked Ms. Malone for her presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the December 20, 2016 City Council Work Session. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Minutes of the December 20, 2016 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the December 13, 2016 Planning Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the December 15, 2016 Recreation Board Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Report regarding the December 21, 2016 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the December 28, 2016 Civil Service Commission Meeting. (Candi Fyffe, Human Resources Director)

RESOLUTION

SALVAGED VEHICLES

A Resolution No. 5036 authorizing the sale of salvaged, junk and/or abandoned motor vehicles. (John Jones, Police Chief)

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

AMTRAK SUPPORT

A Resolution No. 5036 supporting an Amtrak Station in the City of Oxford and pledging financial support in the amount of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000.00) towards the construction of an Amtrak platform and shelter in the City of Oxford, Ohio. (Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director)

Mr. Kyger thanked Council for the Work Session held on December 20, 2016 regarding the Amtrak project and the activities that had taken place over the last two years. Mr. Kyger advised pledging financial support for the project in writing would assist Amtrak in helping the City negotiate with CSX Railroad to actually get the Amtrak stop in Oxford.

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

Ms. Southard noted at the Work Session Mr. Kyger indicated the City was seeking matching funds from Miami University for the project and inquired if there had been any progress in that direction.

Mr. Randi Thomas, 239 Northridge Drive, Director of Institutional Relations, Miami University, advised Miami University was waiting for Council's vote on the matter and he felt all parties would be pleased with their decision.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted Council had a great Work Session on the Amtrak project and Mr. Kyger provided a great presentation. Mayor Rousmaniere advised Council was almost unanimously in support of the project at the December 20th Work Session.

Mr. McKeehan advised since the television and newspaper reports on the Amtrak project he had a couple of citizens approach him in opposition to the project. Mr. McKeehan noted they would like to see the real cash value if the City invested \$350,000 and they inquired why Amtrak doesn't pay for the stop. Mr. McKeehan advised there was no easy answer and sometimes you had to spend money to make money to build a better place. Mr. McKeehan noted far more people thought it was a great idea.

Mr. Ellerbe noted a few people voiced skepticism and some opposition to the project to him. Mr. Ellerbe advised he explained you had to invest in your City and Amtrak seemed to him like a great investment. Mr. Ellerbe noted he expected to see a lot of return on the investment.

Mr. Dana advised he felt an Amtrak stop would attract many people and put Oxford on the map beyond what it already was. Mr. Dana noted Oxford was a mid-point between two big cities.

Ms. Southard noted Oxford was strategically located and could take advantage of an opportunity that was already here. Ms. Southard advised Council was locking in a situation that already exists and she felt it was a wonderful idea.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted Amtrak did not build platforms. Mr. Kyger advised it was up to local communities to invest and Amtrak was not in the business of building platforms at this point.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 5036. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCE **FIRST READING**

ORDINANCE **PRELIMINARY PLANNED** **DEVELOPMENT**

An Ordinance Approving The Planning Commission's Recommendation For Preliminary Plan Approval For Phase I Of A Planned Development At 5728 College Corner Pike To Allow A Self Storage Facility With Conditions And Phase II Use To Be Determined. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised the site in question was part of an annexation from 2015 and was approximately 14 acres. Mr. Chen noted the developer was looking at two phases of development for this tract of land and Phase I went before the Planning Commission in December for a self storage facility. Mr. Chen advised the developer did not have definite users for phase two but wanted to attract business and retail users to the prominent location at US 27 and Todd Road. Mr. Chen advised the Planning Commission recommended approval with eleven conditions as listed on page 33 and 34 of Council's packet. Mr. Chen noted Council should base their decision upon the staff reports, the application, the Planning Commission recommendation and the decision standards as listed on pages 37 and 38 of Council's packet. Mr. Chen advised conditions 1-6 were specifically for Phase I and conditions 7-11 related to Phase II of the project so the developer understands what is expected of him when he has definite users for Phase II. Mr. Chen noted the developer, Tim Macy was in attendance and he and Mr. Macy would be happy to answer any questions.

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

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if the property was zoned GB and Mr. Chen advised yes. Mayor Rousmaniere noted Council recently approved a storage facility on Central Avenue and inquired if it was built. Mr. Chen advised part of Phase I was complete. Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if the developer felt there was a need for more storage facilities in Oxford.

Mr. Tim Macy, Teamwork Property Group, LLC, advised market studies showed there was an undersupply of storage facilities in Oxford.

Mr. McKeehan inquired how tall the fence around the property would be. Mr. Chen advised that was yet to be determined since this was the preliminary application. Mr. McKeehan referred to page 47 of Council's packet and noted the Police Chief mentioned the possible need for a higher fence and additional street lighting. Mr. Macy advised the facility would have security cameras and be fully lit. Mr. Macy noted he was sure an agreement could be made with regard to the fence height.

Mr. Dana referred to the City Engineer's comments on page 45 of Council's packet 'upon the development of the entire site, a northbound deceleration lane and a southbound left turn lane will be required' and inquired if that was a reasonable supposition on the part of the engineer. Mr. Macy advised it would be determined by who the users were for the additional space and noted a traffic study would be required before the approval of Phase II. Mr. Dana inquired if that were true regarding comments from the City Engineer on page 46 of Council's packet and comments from the Police Chief on page 47 of Council's packet and Mr. Macy advised yes. Mr. Dana advised he felt the addition of a commercial use was very good for the City and its tax base. Mr. Dana noted the proposed development was infill as opposed to sprawl which was also good for the City.

Mr. Ellerbe inquired who was responsible for the cost of the traffic study and what the timeframe was. Mr. Chen advised when the developer had a definite user for Phase II it would determine potential improvements on US 27 and on Todd Road. Mr. Chen noted the developer was responsible for the cost of the traffic study and the City Engineer would determine what improvements needed to be made for the site development.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted residents of a farmhouse on Todd Road were notified of the proposal and inquired if any comments were received from them. Mr. Chen advised all residents within 200 feet had been notified.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Kyger wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. McKeehan wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Dana advised Oxford had the opportunity to forge a stronger partnership between municipalities in Ohio and to strengthen the relationship between the state and the cities with respect to opioid abuse. Mr. Dana noted Council was meeting with newly elected State Representative Candice Keller in February and Council would propose that she support the Ohio Municipal League's strategy to create an Action Task Force and a funding mechanism to address opioid addiction because Ohio was the face of opioid addiction. Mr. Dana advised the City had the opportunity to ask Representative Keller if we could work together so the state could help municipalities address the issue of opioid abuse.

Mayor Rousmaniere reiterated that Council would meet with State Representative Candice Keller in a Work Session on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day celebration would take place Monday, January 16th at the Shriver Center on Miami's campus at 11:00 a.m. Mayor Rousmaniere noted the doors would open at 10:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast and the event was free and open to the public. Mayor Rousmaniere advised parking was free behind Shriver Center and along Maple Street. Mayor Rousmaniere noted the guest speaker was Dr. Tammy Kernodle, a Jazz Historian at Miami University who may play piano as well as speak about her work on the history of jazz.

Mayor Rousmaniere reminded everyone the Buckeye Boys State event would take place in Oxford June 11-18th and 2,000 junior high school boys would be in town.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised Thursday, July 27 the Ohio Town Gown Association would meet in Oxford.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.