The Work Session of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Prue Dana on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 6:45 P.M. Those Council members present were: Kate Currie, Richard Keebler and Ken Bogard. Greig Rutherford arrived at 6:47 p.m. and Doug Ross arrived at 6:50 p.m.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Currie moved approval of the Agenda. Mr. Keebler seconded. The motion carried 4-0-0.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Work Session was for Council to receive information regarding the possibility of 'soft billing' for costs associated with investigating motor vehicle accidents.

Chief Schwein discussed a hand-out he provided to Council noting if the concept was adopted the Fee Ordinance would need to be amended and a new chapter would need to be added to the Codified Ordinances.

After discussion it was determined another Work Session should be held to discuss potential rates, how many local municipalities participated in such an agreement and how many companies provided the service. An RFP was also requested by Council as well as a definition for 'taxpayer' and 'resident'. Budgetary concerns were also raised by Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bogard moved to adjourn at 7:18 p.m. Mr. Ross seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Prue Dana on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Kate Currie, Doug Ross, Richard Keebler and Greig Rutherford. Alysia Fischer was excused.

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

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Currie moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) for the purpose of discussing (1) compensation of public employees. Mr. Keebler seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ross, Mr. Bogard, Mr. Rutherford, Ms. Currie, Mr. Keebler, Ms. Dana (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bogard moved to return from Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. Mr. Ross seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Currie, Mr. Keebler, Mr. Bogard, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Ross, Ms. Dana (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Dana requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Currie moved to amend the agenda by tabling the Presentation until the proper equipment was in place. Mr. Rutherford seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Mr. Bogard moved to approve the agenda as amended. Ms. Currie seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION
'DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY'

Mayor Dana summarized the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day events held yesterday and read the Proclamation she gave in the Uptown Park and at Hall Auditorium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Doug Ross, 6114 Fairfield Road, advised if residents did not wish to receive the 'Oxford Shopper' advertisements they should call Cox Publishing at 513-755-5118

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the December 16, 2008 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Deputy Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the December 3, 2008 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Accepting the minutes of the December 5, 2008 Student Community Relations Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the December 9, 2008 Records Commission Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Deputy Clerk of Council)

Report regarding the December 9, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the December 11, 2008 Recreation Board Meeting. (Gail Brahier, Parks and Recreation Director)

Report regarding the December 17, 2008 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Report regarding the December 17, 2008 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH OCE'

A Resolution No. 4406 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Oce' for a 60-month lease for an Oce' CM 5520 color copier through State contract pricing. (Kim Newton, Assistant to the City Manager)

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION

A Resolution No. 4407 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Zoll Medical Corporation for the purchase of two 12 Lead Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillators at a cost not to exceed $39,998.00. (John Detherage, Fire Chief)

Mr. Bogard moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Currie seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
EASEMENT AGREEMENT

An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Purchase A Permanent Easement Over Approximately 4.09 Acres Of Land Owned By The Robert G. Sherman Trust At A Cost Not To Exceed $61,500.00, For The Purpose Of Obtaining Compliance With Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Regulations Regarding The Reopening And Operation Of A Well Field Near Trenton-Oxford Road And Four Mile Creek. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach discussed his staff report on page 32 of the agenda noting the City applied for and received a grant to pay for approximately 80% of the easement acquisition costs.

Mr. Rutherford noted the price for this land was approximately $15,000 per acre. Mr. Rutherford advised in an easement situation the price paid was the difference in the value of the land before and after the easement was assigned to it. Mr. Rutherford noted the majority of the easement was in the floodway and not buildable and a large percentage of the land was right-of-way not owned by Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Dreisbach advised those factors were taken into consideration in the appraisal.

Mr. Rutherford noted he was surprised the land could not be purchased for $61,500.00.

Mr. McHugh advised the appraisal took into consideration the loss of density if the remaining property was ever developed. Mr. McHugh advised the land had been under contract for approximately $50,000.00 per acre and the 4.09 acres was the document provided by the surveyor.

Mr. Rutherford noted the easement applied to private land not public land and inquired how many acres the City would really be paying for the use of.

Mr. Dreisbach reiterated that was accounted for in the appraisal. Mr. Dreisbach advised the City had been trying to acquire the property for quite some time and the rehabilitation of the well should be a number one priority since it was a major source of water.

Mr. Keebler noted he could see both sides. Mr. Keebler advised as soon as the land became something else the density was decreased on the remaining parcel.

Mr. Rutherford advised he was all for protecting the well and it was important to have the easement. Mr. Rutherford noted he was not happy with the way the appraiser assembled the information as it incorporated the right-of-way and did not give an accurate understanding of the size of the easement.

Mr. McHugh advised the initial appraisal was for the purchase of the land which the owner rejected. Mr. McHugh noted the negotiations had taken approximately two years. Mr. McHugh advised this was a permanent easement which allowed the owner to maintain density and Mr. Elliott and Mr. Dreisbach felt the price was reasonable.

Mr. Bogard noted the ultimate purpose of the easement was for the welfare and good of the City and citizens and advised it should move forward.

Mr. Ross noted his support for the proposed legislation.

ORDINANCE
FINAL SUBDIVISION RE-PLAT

An Ordinance Approving The Final Subdivision Re-Plat Of Juniper Hill Subdivision, Section Two. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen discussed his staff report on page 40 of the agenda and noted the agent for the applicant was in attendance.

Ms. Tara Jones, Agent, advised the application arose out of a mutual misunderstanding of where the property line stood. Ms. Jones noted both parties agreed and signed the re-plat.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
AMENDING SALARY
ORDINANCE NO. 3035

An Ordinance No. 3041 Amending Salary Ordinance No. 3035, Section 3. Part-Time Positions. (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

Council had no questions or comments with regard to the proposed Ordinance.

Ms. Currie moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3041. Mr. Rutherford seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Keebler, Mr. Ross, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Ms. Dana (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Ms. Currie moved to remove item 3.B. Presentation from the table. Mr. Rutherford seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PRESENTATION
GREEN OXFORD

Ms. Lauren Saulino, advised she was a graduate student with the Institute of Environmental Sciences.

Ms. Dori Bahir, advised she was a student with the Institute of Environmental Sciences and International Studies and that she and Ms. Saulino were members of Green Oxford. Ms. Bahir advised Green Oxford was a student organization dedicated to environmental education and action in the Miami University and Oxford community. Ms. Bahir advised the Oxford Comprehensive Plan and the Miami University Environmental Task Force both noted bike lanes were an alternate form of transportation. Ms. Bahir advised there was an interest in biking in the community although there was a lack of designated areas for biking. Ms. Bahir noted it was dangerous and unsuitable for riders to share the road with vehicles or share the sidewalks with pedestrians. Ms. Bahir advised their proposal would create separate lanes for bicycles on each side of Spring Street from Patterson Avenue to the Tollgate area. Ms. Bahir discussed the benefits of biking such as a reduction in bike/vehicle accidents, aid in the enforcement of motor vehicle speed limits, bike lanes would create a buffer between vehicles and pedestrians, bike lanes would improve the feel of a walkable community, reduce the carbon footprint, and would improve the health and quality of life for residents.

Ms. Saulino discussed a previous bike lane proposal noting it consisted of a one-way bike lane and a one-way shared bike lane along Spring Street which was found to be unsafe. Ms. Saulino noted her group felt one direction on each side of Spring Street was the safest choice and was also suggested by a representative of the OKI Regional Council of Governments. Ms. Saulino offered to bring data back to Council regarding alternate modes of transportation on Spring Street once the weather improved. Ms Saulino noted the condition of the road was good on Spring Street and the width could accommodate bike lanes.

Ms. Currie inquired if parking spaces along Spring Street would be replaced with the bike lanes. Ms. Saulino noted this would have to be addressed possibly by implementing long-term and overnight parking elsewhere.

Mr. Keebler inquired how many bike/car accidents occurred in Oxford per year. Ms. Saulino noted statistics from 2006-2007 indicated 11 and she would send updated statistics to Council when she received them. Mr. Keebler noted he would have difficulty loosing nearly 100 parking spaces to accommodate the proposed bike lanes on Spring Street.

Mr. Bogard noted concern with the elimination of parking spaces and noted there were garages on campus that were not well occupied. Mr. Bogard suggested the university could arrange for faculty and staff to park in the garages. Mr. Bogard expressed concern with safety such as a bike clipping an open car door.

Mr. Rutherford noted he supported the use of bicycles. Mr. Rutherford inquired what the curb to curb widths were on Spring Street and if they were consistent. Mr. Rutherford noted his feeling bake lanes would not be a traffic calming strategy. Mr. Rutherford inquired what the state law was with regard to the sharing of the pavement between vehicles and bicycles. Mr. Rutherford inquired if the group looked at using alleys for bikeways and the improvements that would have to be made.

Mr. Ross inquired if there were any bike lanes or paths on university property and Ms. Saulino advised no. Ms. Saulino noted there were bike lanes on University Avenue and Bishop Street.

Mr. Rutherford inquired what Miami was doing to contribute to the biking culture on campus.

Mr. McHugh advised state statute required bikers to ride to the right of the lane to the extent it was reasonable.

Mayor Dana noted in all of the literature she had read the more congested an area was the slower the traffic was. Mayor Dana noted her feeling bike lanes were a traffic calming strategy. Mayor Dana noted there were parking garages available now for faculty and staff that were not available when other bike lane proposals were made. Mayor Dana noted concern with using alleys for bikeways due to safety issues.

Ms. Saulino advised the average width of Spring Street was 42 feet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Dana referred to a memo from Ms. Brahier regarding the 4th of July celebration and inquired if Council should discuss it. Mr. Elliott noted the matter could be discussed at a later date when all of Council was present. Mayor Dana expressed sympathy due to the passing of Mr. Elliott's mother in law. Mayor Dana thanked staff for compiling annual reports for the Boards and Commissions. Mayor Dana thanked the street department for their snow and ice removal efforts. Mayor Dana referred to the letter Council received from Dave Mabry of B&B Plumbing and inquired if they should pass it along to the Parking and Transportation Board for a recommendation and Council advised yes.

Ms. Currie advised she would have a report for Council at the next meeting with regard to the Bicentennial Committee's progress and plans.

Mr. Elliott referred to the memo Council received from Mike Dreisbach regarding the US27 South speed study and noted a lower speed limit of 35 mph was warranted for the study area. Mr. Elliott noted that information would be given to the Ohio Department of Transportation. Mr. Elliott advised he, Mayor Dana and Mr. Kyger attended the Oxford Township Trustees meeting to discuss the annexation of the new High School property.

Mr. Kyger advised the Chamber of Commerce held their annual retreat which he attended noting a major focus was how the Chamber could partner with the City regarding Economic Development efforts. Mr. Kyger noted the Chamber's annual awards event would take place this Friday. Mr. Kyger noted there had been a flurry of activity on the old Wal-Mart site and he hoped Council or the Planning Commission would see something soon with regard to it.

Mr. Ross reiterated if Citizens did not wish to receive the 'Oxford Shopper' they should call Cox Publishing at 513-755-5118.

Mr. Rutherford noted today was monumental with the inauguration of President Obama. Mr. Rutherford advised he was looking forward to renewed focus and energy at the federal level.

Mr. Bogard advised he listened to the inaugural address which was moving and called for the nation to come together and get rid of biases. Mr. Bogard noted he would like to see that spirit of cooperation here at the regional level as well.

Mr. Keebler expressed sympathy due to the passing of Mr. Raleigh Woods who was a 30 year employee of the City and served on the Fire Department for 24 years. Mr. Keebler noted Mr. Woods was a dedicated employee and fine gentleman who would be missed by his friends and family.

Ms. Currie noted her hope everyone watched the inauguration today. Ms. Currie noted it was an inspiring day and she was delighted that Ms. Fischer and her family attended the inauguration.

Mayor Dana noted she heard an interview with Cary Booker, Mayor of Newark, New Jersey who said we were all fortunate to be in the trenches of local and state government to help fulfill the expressed need to work together today. Mayor Dana advised that was how she felt about Council as they moved forward this year.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bogard moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Ms. Currie seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.