A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, William Snavely and Edna Southard.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Smith requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Snavely moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 7, 2020 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the January 8, 2020 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the January 8, 2020 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

RESOLUTION
SURPLUS PROPERTY

A Resolution No. 7149 declaring certain property in the Police Division's possession as surplus and not needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing its advertisement and sale to the highest bidder by internet auction. (John Jones, Police Chief)

RESOLUTION
SALVAGE PROPERTY

A Resolution No. 7150 authorizing the sale of salvaged, junk and/or abandoned motor vehicles. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Mr. Snavely moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
CLIMATE ACTION
STEERING COMMITTEE

A Resolution No. 7151 creating a standing City of Oxford Climate Action Steering Committee and establishing its purpose, membership and structure. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised in 2019 Council committed to climate action and a pathway towards carbon neutrality by signing the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Mr. Elliott noted the Resolution discussed the need for a Steering Committee to be formed. Mr. Elliott advised the proposed Resolution outlines the purpose of the Steering Committee, membership and structure. Mr. Elliott offered to answer any questions.

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

Mr. Snavely referred to page 36 of Council's packet "Council and community appointees shall ensure representation of and liaison to the City of Oxford Planning Commission, Environmental Commission, Parking and Transportation Advisory Board; and key community organizations and stakeholder groups" and inquired if that can be done with 2 City Councilors or if it meant among the 5 community members there will be members of the Planning Commission, Environmental Commission and Parking Advisory Board. Mr. Prytherch advised it allowed flexibility noting if a Councilor is already on one of those boards it would kill two birds with one stone which would allow a community member to be from a different group. Mr. Prytherch advised this was meant to be high level with representatives from different divisions within the City that represent the different boards. Mr. Prytherch noted ideally they would meet quarterly focusing on policy.

Ms. Southard noted her hope a lot of community members will be engaged in this and advised even if they were not on the Steering Committee she hoped they will know what is going on, speak up and be involved.

Mr. Snavely noted he felt Council should be strategic in recruiting community members that are not on Council.

Mr. Prytherch advised there was enough space on the committee to include people who understand local construction and trades including the HVAC industry as that kind of collaboration would be necessary.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 7151. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH CINTAS

A Resolution No. 7152 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Cintas Corporation to provide uniform rental, cleaning, and building services for the City of Oxford at pricing defined in the US Communities Government Purchasing Alliance Contract for a period of thirty six (36) months. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach addressed his staff report as presented on page 38 of Council's Packet noting based on the new contract he forecasted the City saving approximately $351 per week or $18,000 annually for the services provided by Cintas.

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

Mayor Smith noted he felt this was a great money saving contract adding if staff was happy with Cintas he was all for it.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No.7152. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
BOND RELEASE

A Resolution No. 7153 authorizing the release of a public improvement bond in the form of a letter of credit in the amount of $908,719.57 for Heritage Vineyard Subdivision and accepting a new public improvement bond in the form of a letter of credit in the amount of $240,577.42. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach addressed his staff report as presented on page 44 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

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

Mayor Smith noted he felt the work that has been done on the subdivision looks very nice.

Mr. Prytherch inquired if the bond was for the first phase only and Mr. Dreisbach advised yes.

Ms. Southard referred to pages 46-47 of Council's packet and inquired if Mr. Dreisbach felt the costs were reasonable and Mr. Dreisbach advised staff felt the costs were covered amply by the amount of the new bond.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7153. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION CONTRACT WITH LEBANON FORD

A Resolution No. 7154 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Lebanon Ford for the purchase of three (3) Ford Interceptor utility vehicles with specified options at state contract pricing at a cost not to exceed $96,834.00. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones advised OPD typically purchases three vehicles per year noting the 2020 Capital Equipment budget includes $141,000 for these three vehicles. Chief Jones advised OPD currently has 7 Ford Interceptor vehicles in their fleet which they are very satisfied with. Chief Jones noted $44,000 will remain to equip the vehicles and a Resolution will come before Council once those quotes are received.

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

Ms. Raghu inquired when the practice of purchasing 3 vehicles per year began or if it had been the practice for 30 years. Chief Jones advised it occurred under former Chief Schwein after a study had been performed noting the take home cruiser program was part of that. Chief Jones noted rather than running a vehicle 24-7 like many agencies do it was determined this was a better way to replace them. Chief Jones advised the vehicles being replaced were 2008 models that will have been in service more than 12 years. Chief Jones noted after the recession in 2008 the department did not buy cars for a few years. Chief Jones advised he felt OPD was finally back to the point they had well maintained cars. Ms. Raghu referred to the take home vehicle program and inquired if the City owned more cars now compared to before the program. Chief Jones advised it was before his time although he knew there was an extensive study done in the 1990's about this issue. Chief Jones noted back then there were a lot less Police Officers too. Chief Jones advised the City owned approximately 30 police vehicles.

Mr. Bracken inquired what the estimated mileage was for a vehicle being retired and Chief Jones advised approximately 100,000.

Mr. Elliott advised the take home program was only for officers living in Oxford or Oxford Township.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7154. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mayor Smith read the following statement into the record "City Council values your comments and Council rules limit public comments to 5 minutes for each person. Presentations are not to be in the form of public debate, personal attacks on Council, City staff or other members of the public are not accepted".

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3538. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 1 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2020. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed his staff report as presented on page 52 of Council's packet with regard to the receipt of an EMS grant and subsequent purchases and updating the project cost for the High Street Pedestrian Safety Improvements.

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

Mr. Snavely noted he was at a little disadvantage since he was not on Council when the High Street project was discussed. Mr. Snavely advised the median installed on Patterson Avenue has made it difficult noting farmers can not get through there with large equipment so they are using High Street. Mr. Snavely advised now medians were going to be installed on High Street and inquired why it was a good idea.

Mr. Dreisbach advised a few years ago Miami University commissioned to have a pedestrian study done to observe where and how pedestrians make their way about campus. Mr. Dreisbach noted over 10,000 pedestrian crossings per day over High Street were documented and advised High Street needed to be as safe as possible for the pedestrians and still keep traffic moving. Mr. Dreisbach noted the pros for someone in a vehicle is there will be fewer crosswalks and Miami University is redefining their sidewalks and points of entry to the sidewalk system and limiting the number of crosswalks. Mr. Dreisbach advised a con was how to get emergency apparatus through if there is nowhere to pull over because of the medians. Mr. Dreisbach noted as part of this contract Miami is paying for GPS preemption which uses computers and satellites to clear an intersection prior to a fire engine coming up to that area. Mr. Dreisbach advised efforts have been made to address concerns to make it as safe possible for the 10,000 crossings per day and still move traffic on a US highway.

Mr. Prytherch advised overall it was a traffic calming scheme noting the designated speed limit was 25 mph along those streets but the width of asphalt makes people want to drive 35 mph. Mr. Prytherch advised Miami was concerned about the safety of pedestrians and took into account the preemption for emergency vehicles although he was not sure they took into account farm equipment such as combines. Mr. Dreisbach advised he was not sure of the permitting requirements for farm equipment or whether they have to follow ODOT permitting requirements like an oversized truck would. Mr. Snavely inquired how oversized loads were accommodated. Mr. Dreisbach advised loads over certain widths are required to have ODOT permitting and noted the City is contacted to try to accommodate them if necessary. Mr. Prytherch advised ODOT has reviewed and approved this design and noted it is a US Highway.

Mayor Smith advised the second reading of the Supplemental Budget would take place in two weeks.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
AMENDED FINAL
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

An Ordinance Accepting The Planning Commission's Recommendation For Final Plan Approval Of A Major Change To An Existing Planned Development At 5990 Contreras Road With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised there were no changes regarding the proposed Ordinance from the first reading. Mr. Perry noted this was a recommendation from the Planning Commission that was discussed and forwarded to City Council. Mr. Perry advised this was an amendment to the previously approved Planned Development that would remove the commercial use and make it a short term rental or Bed and Breakfast instead and allow a lot split within two years. Mr. Perry advised there was a detached garage on the property that would not be allowed to remain if it was not a Planned Development. Mr. Perry noted there were questions at the first reading regarding alternative options and advised a Conditional Use permit would have been one option although it would not preserve the detached garage. Mr. Perry advised the applicant chose the Planned Development amendment option since they had a Planned Development approved previously. Mr. Perry noted the proposal is to adaptively reuse the building as a short term rental/Bed and Breakfast. Mr. Perry advised if regulations were adopted in the future regarding short term rentals they could only apply to this proposal in a limited way and they would pertain to safety measures not occupancy or number of beds.

Mr. Snavely advised the current use is short term rental and two family dwelling and they are allowed a professional office noting the proposed use is the same thing except a lot split and no professional office. Mr. Snavely advised Council's discussion this evening should be focused around those two items since the residential use is not changing.

Mr. Scott Webb, Applicant, advised he felt the discussion two weeks ago got sidetracked onto processes and not so much about the result he and his client are trying to achieve. Mr. Webb provided slides of the property in question and noted what was currently approved was a professional office plus two dwelling units or three dwelling units. Mr. Webb advised based on the zoning code two dwelling units would be for 8 unrelated occupants plus 2,500 feet of commercial space noting three dwelling units would be for 12 unrelated occupants. Mr. Webb advised the building has been operating as a Bed and Breakfast so he is not proposing a change except to create the single family R1-B lot, to eliminate the commercial use but to continue the Bed and Breakfast use as it is now. Mr. Webb noted at the last meeting some felt the Planned Development application should be abandoned and come back as a Conditional Use application. Mr. Webb advised he and his client absolutely had to pursue the Planned Development application for the first pass for the ability to have a commercial use that exceeded the home based business requirement. Mr. Webb noted they met the requirement of having a minimum of one acre and went through the entire process and received approval. Mr. Webb advised that would not have been possible as a Conditional Use noting through a Conditional Use process they could not have created a three unit building in the R-1B zone but the Planned Development allowed that to happen as well as the mixed use portion of it to happen.

Mr. Webb noted a lot of the conversation at the last meeting centered around the new proposal coming in as a Conditional Use rather than an Amended Planned Development and outlined in detail what the differences would be and why the Amended Planned Development application was submitted. Mr. Webb also discussed the fact that zoning codes are not retroactive noting should legislation be adopted in the future for short term rentals the existing uses would become nonconforming permitted uses that would be allowed to continue. Mr. Webb advised he and his client are asking Council to accept a less intense use within the umbrella of the already approved Planned Development noting no extra rights are granted by doing this and no rights are eliminated by doing this. Mr. Webb advised the decision standards in the zoning code for Planned Development approval and Conditional Use approval were exactly the same. Mr. Webb noted at the last meeting a Council member suggested restricting the new R-1B lot the same as Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Districts are restricted (no more than 2 unrelated occupants) and advised he and his client believe that condition to be arbitrary and a restriction on property rights that is not consistent with the underlying zoning district. Mr. Webb asked Council not to add additional restrictions to this property noting he and his client would appreciate Council's consideration.

Mr. Prytherch referred to a copy of the original ordinance on page 72 of Council's packet which contains the condition regarding no more than 2 unrelated persons.

Ms. Kathleen Zien, Joseph Drive, noted she was under the impression without the professional office the applicant was asking for 5 short term rental units. Mr. Perry advised the proposal is for 5 short term rental suites noting the two dwelling units will remain.

Ms. Zien noted the application or plan for this property should have officially ended when the deadline was up last month December 2019. Ms. Zien advised all previous plans, the most recent for mixed use residential and professional is done. Ms. Zien noted this was not an amendment major or otherwise reiterating the proposal expired last month and it should be started over if at all. Ms. Zien advised minutes from Council's first reading reflect Council's cautionary concerns noting in the past ten years there has been a changeover of three staff in the City Planning Department and a collective rollover of 57 Councilors, Planners and BZA members. Ms. Zien advised no one on a sitting board has been with this start to finish with consistent overlap of personnel since the initial concept meeting November 2009 to tonight noting this address has been in chambers over 123 months and 14 pounds of agendas. Ms. Zien advised more attempts than any case in the history of the City since she has attended 34 years of meetings. Ms. Zien noted the applicant should be embarrassed not proud of this record. Ms. Zien advised Council can not honor this new request as presented or as a convenience noting there were multiple resubmissions over a decade that came with a two year extension with every game plan. Ms. Zien advised the last plan extended to the absolute deadline of December 2019 was never fulfilled. Ms. Zien noted the applicant never got a buyer for the property not only because it was always overpriced to sell as single family and no one wanted the office option. Ms. Zien advised procedurally it is not an amendment and the case should be dropped at second reading. Ms. Zien noted it either goes back to an initial application with all the steps for new use with a new headcount with 5 short term units and a new purpose or it dies tonight. Ms. Zien advised this is all new use compared to what was agreed to in 2017 that expired last month noting it is not an amendment. Ms. Zien advised it was a new use of interior space without office option. Ms. Zien noted even the current 3 unit short term rental was not not part of the PUD. Ms. Zien advised the short term rental use morphed out of the blue for income 4 years ago.

Ms. Zien noted other than Mayor Smith and Councilor David Prytherch who pass it daily the rest of Council would not know its been used as a short term rental for years. Ms. Zien advised B&B Plumbing has worked there for days perhaps prepping for additional units as they assume this will be uncontested. Ms. Zien noted if the lot is divided into 6/10 of an acre for the current house and 4/10 for another house is the investment carrot and a PUD status is officially off the table, no longer qualifying for special privilege. Ms. Zien advised this address has been called reuse and repurpose for 10 years noting the owners subjective statement on page 90 that it is in a barrier zone is false. Ms. Zien advised the historic plaque on the porch is a token gesture but does noting to save the building. Ms. Zien noted in 9 years the home was never priced for single family ownership and has served as an excuse for asking for a rezone. Ms. Zien advised minutes reflect the owners would like to keep the building intact and transfer it to a new owner by finding an adaptive reuse for the property. Ms. Zien suggested the owners price the house right to sell as is noting it was not Council's problem to solve their misjudgment.

Mr. Prytherch noted as someone who has spent a fair amount of hours discussing this property that it does have a very long administrative history some of it due to the uniqueness of the property. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the City has tried to work with the owner to find a use that is good for the neighborhood and respects the property. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt the Planning Commission evaluated this proposal and relative to some of the other proposed uses and the conditional use approach he felt this was a reasonable outcome for the property. Mr. Prytherch clarified that short term rentals are not in the zoning code and are not currently legal and suggested it be referred to as a Bed and Breakfast. Mr. Prytherch advised he was going to make a motion to maintain a previous condition for approval from Ordinance 3334 adopted November 17, 2015 regarding occupancy.

Ms. Southard agreed with referring to the property as a Bed and Breakfast.

Mr. Ellerbe agreed with referring to the property as a Bed and Breakfast noting he felt the end goal is going to be short term rental. Mr. Ellerbe advised the property left the market and several years later it reappeared with commercial pricing noting there was a big difference. Mr. Ellerbe noted residential pricing was based on comps and commercial pricing was based on income generated on the property. Mr. Ellerbe advised in his opinion this was a commercial property that resides in a residence. Mr. Ellerbe noted the only thing that fits is Bed and Breakfast right now and advised he felt it should read "Bed and Breakfast or other short term rental".

Mr. Snavely advised the fact the owner wants to split the lot does not change the fact the whole thing is a PUD and can have several lots. Mr. Snavely noted from the perspective of the Planning Commission it was a net advantage to remove the commercial and the office use and keep it residential. Mr. Snavely noted if the lot is split he would like to see the historic garage remain and advised there could be a shared driveway either way. Mr. Snavely advised the neighbor next door does not want another driveway next to her property and he felt this would solve that problem.

Mr. Prytherch referred to the second paragraph on page 57 of Council's packet and moved to replace short term rental with "Bed and Breakfast (or as may later be defined in this code as short term rental). Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mr. Prytherch moved to add a new condition as follows "the primary uses of the new lot shall be governed by the underlying zoning, and shall be limited in the following manner; maximum occupancy of any dwelling for which a rental permit is required shall be 4 persons, no more than 2 of which may be unrelated unless constituting a family as allowed in the Oxford Zoning Code Sections 1146.02(a) and 1146.02(b).

Mr. Snavely inquired why the amendment was necessary. Mr. Prytherch advised the original PUD contained that language noting there had been an attempt to rezone this property RO and advised the minute there are multiple dwelling units they could become occupied by 4 unrelated persons. Mr. Prytherch advised there was fear of this property becoming a high density investment property and that condition was placed on the units that could have been subdivided in the big house. Mr. Prytherch noted the big house is now going to be a short term rental but the split lot can be a single family home that be occupied by 4 unrelated persons.

Mr. Ellerbe referred to page 57 of Council's packet and suggested changing condition 1. to read "The conditions of Ordinance 3334 and 3506 shall be void with the exception of 3334 condition b. and e. as revised".

Mr. Perry suggested just limiting it to no more than 2 unrelated as noted in the Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Ordinance.

Mr. Snavely noted this sounds like trying to take Neighborhood Overlay which has been clearly defined as something people voluntarily petition for and now we are using it as a catchall. Mr. Snavely advised he felt this would be spot zoning against the wishes of the owner on one property that is not contiguous to any other area. Mr. Snavely noted he did not think Council wanted to change the intent of Neighborhood Overlay which is voluntary.

Ms. Connie McCarthy, noted she felt a compromise could be that the new lot maintains the same zoning as the lots adjacent to it and surrounding it but if in the future the neighborhood decides to create an overlay that the new lot becomes part of the overlay at that point.

Mr. Prytherch moved to amend the proposed Ordinance by adding the following: the primary use of the new lot shall be governed by underlying zoning, and residential uses shall be limited to not more than 2 unrelated persons. Mr. Ellerbe seconded.

A lengthy discussion ensued between Council, staff, the applicant and the owners.

The motion failed by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Southard, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch (3)

NAY: Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavely, Mayor Smith (3)

ABS: Mr. Bracken (1)

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3548. Mr. Snavely seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavely, Mr. Bracken, Mayor Smith (4)

NAY: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Southard (2)

ABS: Mr. Ellerbe (1)

ORDINANCE
AMENDED FEES

An Ordinance No. 3549 Amending Fees And Charges For Fiscal Year 2020. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Mr. Wooddell advised there have been no changes since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Wooddell noted he has received a couple of comments, one from the community and one from the local swim team both in favor of the new proposed fees. Mr. Wooddell offered to answer any questions.

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

Mr. Snavely advised members of the public thanked Council for amending the Ordinance to make aquatic center passes more available and noted he felt it was pretty popular in the community.

Mr. Prytherch advised he felt it was a good idea that Council listened to people and gauged the market noting he thought the City might have better aquatic pass sales as a result.

Ms. Southard noted she felt the amendment accommodated multiple perspectives.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3549. Mr. Snavely seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTION 521.14

An Ordinance Amending The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Oxford, Ohio, By Adding New Section 521.14 Entitled Expanded Polystyrene Ban To Chapter 521 Entitled Health, Safety And Sanitation. (Doug Elliott, City Manager) **Tabled.**

Mayor Smith advised the proposed Ordinance would stay on the table until the next meeting after the Environmental Commission reviews it during their Special Meeting on January 23, 2020.

DISCUSSION

Alternative Strategies for Waste Reduction. (David Prytherch, Councilor)

Mr. Prytherch distributed a draft Resolution declaring Oxford, Ohio's Commitment to Zero Waste. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt Council had heartfelt and compassionate conversations that started from a place of shared concern about waste, plastics and harmful containers that motivated the polystyrene ban Councilor Raghu has proposed. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt some of Council wanted to get to that place but had concerns about the process of how to get there in terms of interacting with City Boards and Commissions and stakeholders. Mr. Prytherch noted the proposed Ordinance was tabled to allow time for the Environmental Commission to review it and provide their input. Mr. Prytherch advised he started reading about what people will go to if they stop using polystyrene and found that some of the other products have similar problems. Mr. Prytherch noted he created an alternative strategy that Council could hypothetically refer to the Environmental Commission for consideration along with the polystyrene ban. Mr. Prytherch advised his intent was to do some research on communities that have declared themselves to be zero waste communities noting it was similar to the climate commitment. Mr. Prytherch suggested Council think about not going for one solution immediately but stepping back to see where Council wants to get to. Mr. Prytherch inquired if Council could take time to articulate a goal to work with stakeholders as he felt they needed to be part of the solution to increase recycling, get away from single use plastics and ultimately phase out polystyrene. Mr. Prytherch noted that could be done straight up through an ordinance although he felt the waste reduction problems were significant. Mr. Prytherch advised the City currently only recycles approximately 18.5% of the waste stream. Mr. Prytherch noted many of the businesses and apartment complexes do not have recycling. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the Resolution communicates Council's seriousness and commits Council to setting goals to research. Mr. Prytherch noted within this process Council could commit to a timeline for targeting not only polystyrene but looking at some of the other things. Mr. Prytherch advised his fear was targeting one thing and building ill will as people might have to do other things that might be harder. Mr. Prytherch noted he wanted to communicate to people a target to reach with Council's assistance. Mr. Prytherch advised this is like the Climate Action issue, it does not commit to discrete action right away but it commits to a process within a timeline and that Council will take action on these things starting with voluntary compliance which may end up back as a ban. Mr. Prytherch noted he would like Council and the Environmental Commission to consider this draft along with the polystyrene ban before one is done after the other.

Mr. Snavely inquired if this might be a topic for Council's Retreat on February 3 to discuss in more detail as one of Council's goals.

Ms. Southard advised she was in favor of a resolution noting it sets a goal of saving the planet. Ms. Southard suggested involving the university, the school district, the hospital and other stakeholders. Ms. Southard suggested getting everyone involved in finding ways to solve the problems and make a list of ways to reach zero waste.

Ms. Southard noted she felt there were many different steps to take and if everyone feels engaged that is the best way to achieve the goal.

Ms. Raghu advised she was a fan of zero waste and she did not think there was anything wrong with making big goals such signing on to the Mayors Covenant. Ms. Raghu noted she supported the draft resolution and advised it was not an alternative to passing policy. Ms. Raghu advised she felt we should always learn from other cities and what they have done. Ms. Raghu noted when we think about zero waste cities we think about San Francisco who passed a zero waste ordinance in 2002 to say they want to be zero waste by 2020. Ms. Raghu advised they did that and they passed other policy to restrict very dangerous substances noting in 2018 they passed a polystyrene ban. Ms. Raghu noted she felt we should learn from other cities and see what else they have done so Oxford does not wait 16 years to realize that it is not going to happen. Ms. Raghu reiterated her support for the draft legislation as well as adopting other policies.

Mr. Bracken noted he agreed with Ms. Raghu and advised he also agreed with the general sentiment although he felt it gets complicated due to competing interests outside of business concerns. Mr. Bracken noted when looking at zero waste, reducing waste and material pollution it is not always the same as reducing the carbon footprint which is not always the same as reducing habitat destruction or human health concerns. Mr. Bracken advised he did not see many complications when he researched the polystyrene ban. Mr. Bracken noted he felt the polystyrene ban was a simple modest step and advised in terms of sentiment this should be part of what Council adopts moving forward.

Mr. Snavely inquired if Mr. Prytherch wanted the Environmental Commission to review the draft resolution and recommend back to Council. Mr. Prytherch referred to the polystyrene ban and noted before he wants to take an action for which there may be unintended consequences he wanted to run the scenarios. Mr. Snavely inquired what impact the draft resolution would have on the Environmental Commission's discussion of the polystyrene ban. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the Environmental Commission should have the draft resolution to consider along with the polystyrene ban. Mr. Snavely noted he was concerned with what the state legislature will do and he felt Council was under the gun. Mr. Snavely advised if Council does not get something done for the community the state will remove Council's ability to do anything. Mr. Snavely noted he felt the draft resolution was a good way to go although he did not want it to prevent Council from acting on the polystyrene ban. Mr. Prytherch advised he envisioned having both items as agenda items and Council could vote yes on one of them or both of them.

Ms. Raghu noted she felt Council was trying to learn what other cities have done and advised a lot of cities have passed a zero waste policy and she felt Oxford should too. Ms. Raghu noted she felt it was not enough and the polystyrene ban was already on the table for the Environmental Commission to review at a Special Meeting on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Raghu advised Council will consider the Environmental Commission's recommendation on February 4th.

Mr. Ellerbe advised he liked the draft resolution because it sets a goal which is zero waste. Mr. Ellerbe noted it was a lofty goal and it signals to everyone in the City that this is what Oxford is trying to do. Mr. Ellerbe advised it also allows all of the stakeholders and all of the Board and Commissions to know this is a goal to start working towards. Mr. Ellerbe referred to the polystyrene ban and noted he was more in favor of collaboration and voluntary compliance and advised he felt the public should be given that opportunity.

Mr. Ellerbe advised he would like to give people the opportunity to prove they can do it and that they want to help verses unilaterally doing something without any input on it and creating ill will. Mr. Ellerbe noted he likes the draft resolution as a first step of many to move towards the goal.

Mr. Bracken referred to the proposed polystyrene ban Ordinance and advised Council went through the normal process with a first reading then it was tabled and referred to the Environmental Commission. Mr. Bracken noted Council would not consider it again until February 4th. Mr. Bracken advised he felt the polystyrene ban was a very easy basic step to take and instead Council might sign something that says we will try but we are not actually going to move on it.

Mr. Ellerbe inquired if stakeholders had been asked if they would comply with the polystyrene ban and noted the answer was no. Mr. Ellerbe advised having discussions at meetings was not the same as going directly to the stakeholders and the Chamber of Commerce and asking for their input.

Additional discussion took place regarding what measures had been taken to inform the public of the proposed polystyrene ban.

Mayor Smith noted he felt Mr. Prytherch did a great job with the draft resolution and that Council supports it. Mayor Smith advised Council will discuss it further during their retreat on February 3, 2020.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott thanked Council for the adopting the amendment to the fees and charges for the pool passes noting he felt it was the right thing to do.

Mr. Elliott advised he shared with Cox Media Group that Council adopted the Unsolicited Written Material Ordinance which identifies where they can be placed noting his hope they intended to comply. Mr. Elliott advised the Ordinance becomes effective February 7th.

Mr. Elliott advised Council's annual Retreat was scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2020 from 4-8 p.m. at the Marcum Center.

Mr. Elliott reminded everyone by April 1 of this year every home in Oxford will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census noting residents can respond online, by phone or by mail. Mr. Elliott encouraged everyone to respond for a complete count.

Mr. Wooddell referred to the new aquatic center being in operation for the full summer of 2020 and noted the school district was contemplating what their academic calendar will look like for 2020-2021. Mr. Wooddell noted if anyone was willing to urge the district not to start around August 12 it would definitely be beneficial to the operations of the aquatic center. Mr. Wooddell advised that concept has been pushing forward more and more each year. Mr. Wooddell noted he would encourage them to push farther away if they are willing.

Ms. Greene extended thanks to Oxford Parks and Recreation, Enjoy Oxford and the Chamber of Commerce for coordinating the Conquer Cabin Fever event this past weekend. Ms. Greene noted new events take a lot of time and energy and advised she thought it was very well done.

Ms. Greene thanked those who coordinated the Dr. Martin Luther King celebration that was held yesterday noting it was a very lovely event. Ms. Greene advised she liked their tag line this year of "Continuing the Dream 2020". Ms. Greene noted the City also values the commitment to peace, inclusion and justice.

Mr. Kyger noted the weather did not cooperate well for Conquer Cabin Fever Weekend and advised he felt the event showed the community is trying to come together, create some new events during winter term and get people out and about.

Mr. Kyger advised the annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Ceremony took place last week and noted Left Field Tavern and the Oxford Copy Shop & Letterman Printing were honored. Mr. Kyger advised Left Field Tavern does a lot of things for the community such as partner with OPD on the "Shop With A Cop" event and also provides meals for the event. Mr. Kyger noted Oxford Copy Shop does a lot for the community and for Miami's First Year Orientation each year. Mr. Kyger thanked the Council members who attended the Chamber event and encouraged Councilors to attend the Business After Hours events noting the business owners notice when Councilors show their support.

Ms. Raghu noted something she feels she has learned in life and with politics is that it seems there is always so much in-fighting, you can be on the same team but you can have this in-fighting, a competition between goals. Ms. Raghu advised we can have recycling and we can also not have polystyrene which is not recyclable. Ms. Raghu noted if something is achieving a similar goal and it is doing some amount of good she encourages it no matter what ways people do it whether it is in their life, in politics or in their job. Ms. Raghu encouraged everyone in whatever way they want to do good, whether it is being a great parent, a great teacher or a great politician to do whatever it is that makes them want to do good.

Mr. Ellerbe noted this weekend the town is about to triple in size because of the students coming back. Mr. Ellerbe advised everyone to take extra precautions this weekend because a lot of individuals will not be used to the cold and they will get agitated and make mistakes. Mr. Ellerbe asked everyone to be careful and noted his hope it will be a smooth weekend.

Mr. Snavely noted a few meetings ago he mentioned the passing of Dr. Jack Gifford who was a member of Council from 1978-1981 and Vice Mayor. Mr. Snavely advised Mr. Gifford's celebration of life event will be held Friday, February 21 from 3-5 p.m. at the Goggin Ice Arena Club Lounge. Mr. Snavely noted Mr. Gifford also served at Miami University from 1972-2007. Mr. Snavely advised Mr. Gifford was a big feature of the City of Oxford for many decades and noted his hope many Councilors can attend the event to represent Council for one of their own.

Ms. Southard advised the Dr. Martin Luther King observance yesterday was very inspiring and a wonderful event. Ms. Southard noted the event was a terrific collaboration between Miami University, the City of Oxford, the NAACP and other groups. Ms. Southard advised she was pleased the university made parking available for the community.

Ms. Southard noted everyone is concerned about the environment and advised one way to support the planet is to support local farmers. Ms. Southard noted the Oxford Farmers Market takes place every Saturday morning from 10:00 a.m. to noon in Lot 52 Uptown and on Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. in the TJ Maxx parking lot.

Ms. Southard suggested when talking to people about the 2020 Census we should also encourage them to register to vote as she felt voting was so important. Ms. Southard also encouraged everyone to make sure their names have not been purged from the rolls so they can vote.

Mr. Bracken reiterated that everyone should make sure they have not been purged from the voting rolls as a lot of states were purging voters right now.

Mr. Prytherch referred to the newly created Climate Action Steering Committee and asked Councilors to think about who among Council would like to serve on the committee. Mr. Prytherch advised the City would post the openings for the committee and encouraged Councilors to recruit people as well. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt Council wanted a representative committee to help them tackle complicated problems.

Mr. Prytherch advised he was very much looking forward to Council's Retreat noting he felt it was great that a facilitator would be utilized to make the most use of 4 hours which can go by very quickly.

Mr. Prytherch referred to Ms. Raghu's comments and advised he was a planner and he was comfortable thinking about long-range issues. Mr. Prytherch noted he was also somewhat of an impatient person who does not like talking about things if they can not be accomplished. Mr. Prytherch advised change was hard whether it dealt with bike lanes, polystyrene or anything else which was why he felt process was important in Council organizing themselves. Mr. Prytherch noted his hope a considerable amount of time could be dedicated during the retreat not only to articulate goals but to discuss how to organize as a Council working with staff and boards and commissions so everyone is on the same page and moving in the same direction.

Mayor Smith commended those who organized the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration noting he was happy to be a part of it. Mayor Smith advised he looked forward to the event next year.

ADJOURN

Mr. Snavely moved to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Ms. Raghu seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.