A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Steve Dana, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, Mike Smith and Edna Southard.

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. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation 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. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION
NU ALPHA WEEK

Mayor Rousmaniere read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Jean Luechauer, Chapter Founder, who was in attendance with other chapter members.

Ms. Jean Luechauer, thanked Mayor Rousmaniere and Council for the Proclamation and noted a meeting took place last night to celebrate their 50th anniversary and she told everyone the highlight of her sorority time was Chartering this Chapter and having it last this long. Ms. Luechauer advised the Nu Alpha Chapter of the Delta Theta Tau sorority had done many things for organizations within the community and she was very proud of that.

Mayor Rousmaniere thanked the sorority for all the work they do.

NOTICE TO LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Transfer permit from Stella 12 Beech LLC DBA Stella 12 Beech 1st Floor 12 S. Beech Oxford, Ohio 45056 to Soaring A&R LLC 1st Floor 12 S. Beech Oxford, Ohio 45056. (Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director)

Mr. Kyger explained this was a liquor permit transfer due to the business changing hands. Mr. Kyger noted the permit was for beer, wine, liquor and Sunday sales.

Ms. Southard moved to accept the notice without comment. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sam Perry, 8953 Simpson Road, College Corner, Ohio, noted he was speaking on behalf of the Oxford Day of Prayer Committee and advised it would take place on May 3, 2018, the same day as National Day of Prayer. Mr. Perry noted a breakfast would be held at the Elms Hotel that Thursday morning for City leaders. Mr. Perry advised it was a no strings attached breakfast and a prayer would be given to honor and support City leaders. Mr. Perry noted invitations would be delivered to the invitees.

Ms. Amy Macechko, 110 Prevalent Drive, noted she was in attendance as the project coordinator for the Coalition for a Healthy Community to thank Council and staff for all of their support of the Coalition's work. Ms. Macechko noted the financial commitment, people power and general support has been overwhelming. Ms. Macechko noted the Coalition's Mental Health Work Group has been very intentional about providing Mental Health First Aid Trainings for as many members of the community as possible. Ms. Macechko advised the Coalition was fortunate to have folks from Montgomery County provide a training for Public Safety Officials. Ms. Macechko noted 24 individuals from the City, Miami University and from a few surrounding areas gave up 8 hours of their day to be intentional about learning skills so they can better help the folks they serve in the community. Ms. Macechko thanked Chief Jones for getting the word out to all of the agencies and for rallying everyone to attend. Ms. Macechko advised it was a wonderful day of learning for all involved.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the January 2, 2018 City Council Work Session. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Minutes of the January 2, 2018 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the January 3, 2018 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the January 3, 2018 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Ellerbe moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION
TAX LEVY**

A Resolution No. 6037 declaring it necessary to levy an additional tax in excess of the ten-mill limitation, as stated in Section 5705.19 and Subsection 5705.19(H) as amended, of the Ohio Revised Code, for Parks and Recreational purposes, which levy shall be Three and Twenty Five Hundredths (3.25) Mills to run for ten (10) years, and declaring the question of the additional tax levy shall be submitted to the electors at the Primary Election to be held May 8, 2018. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised City Council held a Work Session in December and one item discussed was funding for the Oxford Area Trail. Mr. Elliott noted as a result of that discussion Council requested legislation to place an additional property tax levy on the May 8, 2018 ballot. Mr. Elliott advised the purpose for the proposed levy is the Oxford Area Trail and the legislation states for Parks and Recreational purposes which follows the Ohio Revised Code for levies in excess of the ten mill limit adopted by Municipalities. Mr. Elliott noted at the January 2 meeting Council adopted three resolutions for 3 different tax rates, 2.5 mills, 3.25 mills and 3.65 mills all 3 for 10 years. Mr. Elliott advised the City received the Butler County Auditor's certificates of estimated property tax revenues for the 3 resolutions so Council would have some options given the tight time limit to place a levy on the May ballot. Mr. Elliott noted it is estimated the first levy will generate $808,819 each year, the second will generate $1,051,465 each year and the third will generate $1,180,876 each year. Mr. Elliott advised he and the Finance Director recommend Council adopt the 3.25 mill levy rate to provide sufficient funds to meet the future revenue requirements of the OAT project. Mr. Elliott noted if Council chooses the higher or lower levy rate staff would provide substitute legislation. Mr. Elliott advised the legislation must be adopted and submitted to the Butler County Board of Elections before February 7, 2018 to appear on the Primary Ballot May 8, 2018. Mr. Elliott referred to pages 28-29 of Council's packet and explained the financial impact for people. Mr. Elliott advised if Council chooses to adopt legislation tonight to move forward with the levy the message needed to get out to the public because it is an additional levy.

Ms. Jessica Greene, Enjoy Oxford, noted she was in attendance as a member of the Oxford Area Trails Committee and advised this was very exciting. Ms. Greene noted the committee has worked on this project off and on for 30 years. Ms. Greene advised the Oxford Area Trails committee was willing to lead and educate the public about this initiative and already have donors to help with advertising and signage.

Mr. Mark Boardman, 4385 Harris Road, noted he was in attendance of behalf of the Three Valley Conservation Trust and in addition he personally supported the trail system. Mr. Boardman advised this was a question of quality of life and it was something for the future. Mr. Boardman noted the trail would take years to complete but at the end it is going to be a huge benefit. Mr. Boardman urged Council to adopt the legislation noting it was a legacy of conservation and a legacy of quality of life that Council could add to.

Mr. Jon Ralinovsky, 3 Peabody Drive, advised he would be happy to serve on a committee to help educate the public about the proposed levy should Council choose to approve it.

Mr. Chris Adrian, 517 Winding Brook Drive, advised he was a longtime biker. Mr. Adrian noted he wanted to compete with Mr. Ralinovsky in helping to educate the public. Mr. Adrian noted he worked on the school levy and he felt the new High School was a benefit to the town and a legacy for the future. Mr. Adrian advised as a biker he was not really a trail person but he sees it as a huge benefit to the community. Mr. Adrian noted when he has been on the trail he sees a variety of people using it and it was something that can touch so many people in the community.

Mr. Dana advised he felt the recommended millage had been very carefully thought through and all the factors had been weighed. Mr. Dana noted he was a strong proponent of the proposition submitted by the City Manager.

Ms. Southard agreed with Mr. Dana and noted her hope the proposed levy moves forward.

Mayor Rousmaniere referred to pages 28-29 of Council's packet and noted she would like clarification with regard to costs of the levy for people who live in their home, rent a home and for businesses. Mr. Elliott advised in general the 10% reduction applies to farmland and residential property containing single family, two family or three family dwellings. Mr. Elliott noted staff could talk to the county auditor for further clarification. Mr. Elliott advised the 2.5% rollback is for an owner occupied dwelling.

Mr. McHugh noted all the properties would be taxed and the category would be for residential or commercial.

Mr. Elliott noted Oxford had the lowest property tax rate in the county and the highest income tax rate which includes a 1% school tax and a 2% City tax.

Mr. Ellerbe inquired what Oxford's property tax rate would be if the proposed levy passes and Mr. Elliott advised he would research the issue and get back to Council.

Mr. Prytherch thanked everyone who helped get this project to where it is today noting it had been a conversation for a very long time, people worked very hard to envision it and worked hard to make sure it was included in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Prytherch noted like all good plans it did not implement itself, there were lulls and the baton was passed to new people along the way. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt incredible progress was made absent a dedicated funding stream through the initiative of citizens. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt Phase I was an incredible community asset. Mr. Prytherch noted Council was not passing a tax levy they were asking the voters if this was a priority and it was up to the voters to say whether or not this is a priority to them. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the trail was connectivity and it was an economic development tool that brings visitation to Oxford. Mr. Prytherch noted he did not doubt the trail would raise property values. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the 3.25 rate was a good number that allows Oxford to apply for the big grants to bring money in for the trail.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 6037. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**RESOLUTION
AMENDING THE BAYER & BECKER
CONTRACT**

A Resolution No. 6038 authorizing the City Manager to amend the existing professional services contract with Bayer & Becker, Inc. a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" for the design of the OATS Trail Phase II at a cost of $246,205.00 plus a contingency amount of 2.35% of the contract price or $5,795.00 for a total cost not to exceed $252,000.00. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised this resolution piggybacks on the resolution Council just approved as it will help design and engineer the next segment of the trail to be constructed in 2019 and 2020. Mr. Dreisbach provided a PowerPoint and noted this segment will ultimately connect SR73 by the Water Treatment Plant and Ditmer Field along Four Mile Creek, across Collins Run and come out to US27 at Peffer Park. Mr. Dreisbach advised the design will include 2 options, one would connect the Ditmer parking lot with the trail and the other would connect the Art Museum with the trail. Mr. Dreisbach noted design and engineering costs for both options are included in the proposed resolution. Mr. Dreisbach advised this segment will build approximately 8,000 linear feet which would be a 10 foot wide asphalt trail that easily accommodates a bicycle in one direction and two people walking in the other. Mr. Dreisbach thanked Sam Perry, Jung-Han Chen and Jessica Greene for keeping the funds rolling and keeping the project moving forward. Mr. Dreisbach noted they were successful in getting a $750,000 grant from OKI. Mr. Dreisbach congratulated City Engineer, Victor Popuscu who has qualified with ODOT for LPA status which will save 10% of the project costs. Mr. Dreisbach noted this segment of the trail was expected to cost 1.2 million dollars and the City had a substantial commitment from Miami University to help with the local match on this project as they will benefit from it greatly. Mr. Dreisbach advised the design and engineering will include improvements at the 73 parking lot at the DeWitt Cabin such as a kiosk with information for visitors, a sitting wall and improved parking areas. Mr. Dreisbach noted the proposed resolution will cover the costs of engineering and design for the next segment of the trail and Bayer Becker was the selected vendor advising they designed the last phase through an extensive and exhaustive RFQ process and they were a local engineering firm. Mr. Dreisbach noted Bayer Becker partnered with Stantec who will provide the geotechnical and structural work for the project as there are two bridges involved on this segment of the trail. Mr. Dreisbach advised the costs for this segment were higher than what was budgeted almost a year ago so this resolution goes hand in hand with the Supplemental Budget that Council will be asked to approve for second reading this evening. Mr. Dreisbach noted if Council approves the proposed resolution the Supplement Budget will need to be approved as well to proceed with the project.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if the trail segment was going underneath SR73.

Ms. Etta Reed, Bayer Becker, advised yes, it was going over Four Mile, under 73, under 27 and over Collins Run. Ms. Reed noted Stantec will also provide environmental services because of the large streams and creeks involved.

Ms. Southard noted this segment will link with the Miami Natural Area paths which is a very valuable resource in the community for hikers.

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

Mr. Dana referred to page 44-47 of Council's packet and noted he felt the environmental review is very impressive which makes this a strong proposal.

Mr. Prytherch noted it was wonderful that Mr. Popescu obtained the LPA status as it would allow additional money to be spent on the trail and design. Mr. Prytherch noted he was pleased to have good local engineering expertise.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 6038. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
CUSTODIAL SERVICES

A Resolution No. 6039 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Mid-American Cleaning Contractors, Inc. to provide custodial services for the Oxford Parks and Recreation Department at the costs outlined in Exhibit "A" attached hereto. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Mr. Wooddell noted the proposed Resolution would allow the Parks and Recreation Department to contract their housekeeping and custodial services at the TRI Community Center and the municipal pool. Mr. Wooddell advised over the past few years it had been difficult to retain in-house employees for this position. Mr. Wooddell noted the Talawanda School District used the services of Mid-American Cleaning Contractors and local employees and supervisors were in Oxford everyday of the week.

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

Mr. Dana noted he felt Mid-American Cleaning Contractors had a good track record especially since they service other entities in Oxford.

Mayor Rousmaniere asked for clarification regarding the need to contract these services. Mr. Wooddell advised it had been difficult to retain employees in this position and there had been 6 in the position over the last 2 years. Mr. Wooddell noted the money spent hiring, recruiting and training for this position would be better spent on using a contractor.

Mr. Elliott noted this was a part-time position with no benefits and he felt that was part of the reason for the high turn-over in employees.

Ms. Raghu noted there was some controversy when Talawanda hired this contractor because some School District Employees lost their jobs. Ms. Raghu inquired if the City had any control over which employees were selected by Mid-American to work for the City and Mr. Wooddell advised no.

Mr. Smith moved to adopt Resolution No. 6039. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 6-1-0 with Ms. Raghu voting nay.

RESOLUTION AGREEMENT WITH NUPARK, INC.

A Resolution No. 6040 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with NUPARK, INC. for the purchase of an Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) Parking Management System through the National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (Contract #05-17) at a cost not to exceed $63,775.00. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones advised OPD was responsible for managing the Parking Unit which manages the public resource of parking in Oxford. Chief Jones advised OPD needed to upgrade their parking software in order to improve certain customer services related items and to improve the effectiveness of enforcement. Chief Jones noted along with the software OPD needed a new automated license plate recognition system as the existing one failed and has been out of service for a year. Chief Jones advised staff evaluated three software vendors and the current vendor on their ability to meet OPD's list of requirements as well as future integration abilities with technological upgrades such as pay-by-phone services, online citation payments and appeals, and multi-space meters. Chief Jones noted NuPark was determined to best fulfill all of the requirements needed of a LPR parking management system and was the most economical. Chief Jones advised staff felt the new system would improve enforcement, encourage turnover and meet the goals of the Parking Unit.

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

Mr. Ellerbe inquired what Chief Jones felt the payback period would be on the new device. Chief Jones advised approximately a month once the APLR was activated and up and running. Mr. Ellerbe inquired if the app would warn people of their meter expiration and Chief Jones advised it would be a third party app but he felt that was possible.

Mr. Prytherch asked Chief Jones to remind him how enforcement works with the ALPR. Chief Jones advised an alert is received in the parking vehicle when the ALPR detects a vehicle with outstanding parking tickets. Chief Jones noted the Parking Control employee would verify the information and take the appropriate action. Mr. Prytherch inquired if the ALPR could be used to detect vehicles parked over the time limit and Chief Jones advised yes. Mr. Prytherch noted turnover in parking was key for economic development and for the vibrancy of Uptown Oxford.

Ms. Raghu inquired if the proposed system would eventually be outdated. Chief Jones advised the proposed parking software was very up and coming and he did not think it would be outdated very quickly.

Mr. Ellerbe moved to adopt Resolution No. 6040. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

An Ordinance No. 3460 Approving A Conditional Use Permit To Allow For The Expansion Of A Place Of Worship In The MU (Miami University) District At 800 Maple Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 With Conditions. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised he had no new information since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance and asked for Council's approval of the Planning Commission's recommendations.

Mr. Garrett Nates, Pastor of Oxford Bible Fellowship, advised he had noting new to add.

Mr. Dana inquired if the issue of signage was resolved and Mr. Chen advised the applicant would follow the zoning code which allows one sign on the site in question. Pastor Nates added that the sign would be placed on Maple Street rather than on Chestnut Street.

Mr. Vincent Hand, thanked Pastor Nates for taking into consideration the concerns of the neighborhood.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted Council appreciates the communication between all involved regarding the proposed redevelopment.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3460. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe
Mayor Rousmaniere (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3461 Amending Ordinance No. 3449. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 1 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2018. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin referred to page 117 of Council's packet and explained the adjustment Mr. Dreisbach mentioned with regard to OAT funding.

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

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3461. Mr. Dana seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Raghu, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch Mayor Rousmaniere (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott noted he would address the issue of sidewalks and snow removal. Mr. Elliott advised the City has 64.5 miles of sidewalk excluding Miami University sidewalks and of that total 24.8 miles are in the Mile Square. Mr. Elliott noted things to keep in mind were how to effectively accomplish the task of snow removal and how to pay for it. Mr. Elliott advised one option was to pay a contractor to plow the snow and the other option was to purchase the equipment and hire additional staff. Mr. Elliott noted it could be paid for through special or betterment assessment on Mile Square property owners. Mr. Elliott advised the other option is to use General Fund dollars which raises an issue of equity if the City does not clean all sidewalks or if a person lives in a neighborhood without sidewalks. Mr. Elliott noted any of the options would add significant costs to the City depending on the miles of sidewalk serviced, the amount and frequency of snowfall and the extent of voluntary compliance. Mr. Elliott advised the City has never budgeted for snow removal on sidewalks and he estimated it would cost $10,000-$15,000 to clear one snow event. Mr. Elliott noted the City had Ordinances that require property owners or occupants with abutting lands to keep their sidewalk free of ice and snow and if violated a person would be guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Mr. Elliott advised he would not address the court cases surrounding similar Ordinances at this time. Mr. Elliott noted each year the City reminds citizens of their responsibility to keep their sidewalks free from ice and snow and presently the City does not cite anyone for failure to comply. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Dreisbach created a chart that indicates how other cities handle the issue of sidewalk maintenance and provided the chart to Council members.

Mr. Wooddell advised the Parks and Recreation Department is taking registrations for tickets to the Bows and Bowties Dance. Mr. Wooddell noted this event used to be called The Daddy-Daughter Dance. Mr. Wooddell advised the event was moved to Kramer Elementary School this year to better accommodate everyone for a 1 day event verses a 2 day event. Mr. Wooddell noted the goal moving forward was to move the event to the Oxford Community Arts Center.

Mr. Kyger noted it was the middle of Miami's winter term and most students were out of town. Mr. Kyger reminded everyone the Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Bureau and the City of Oxford partnered to create a "Warm Up Oxford" video to encourage citizens to attend the many events in January and to visit all of the local businesses.

Mr. Kyger noted Royal 24 Fitness opened at 507 S. College Avenue and he expected another 4 businesses to open once winter term was over.

Mr. Dana noted OKI was instrumental in the passage of the Resolution to work on the OATS trail. Mr. Dana advised the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments is the metropolitan planning organization for the 8 county region in Ohio and their Charter is land use and transportation planning but as Councilor Prytherch said it is really about connectivity. Mr. Dana noted OKI was a vital partner with the City in funding infrastructure that enhances the quality of life. Mr. Dana advised the reason City Council sends a member to the OKI meetings is to cultivate and strengthen the relationships between the two entities. Mr. Dana noted Mr. Dreisbach and his staff play a critical role and they execute it very well. Mr. Dana advised he felt they should be congratulated for that.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised the Town Gown Initiative Team had a Listening Luncheon last week and about 20 organizations from the community attended to speak about the work they are doing related to the community. Mayor Rousmaniere noted the group met afterward for a rap-up session which led to several themes that were issues for this Town Gown Initiative Team including transportation, communication, City/University planning, intergenerational relationships and health and safety issues.

DISCUSSION
SIDEWALKS & SNOW REMOVAL

Mr. Prytherch noted he appreciated all of the research done so far on the issue of sidewalks and snow removal. Mr. Prytherch noted at times the pedestrian infrastructure is impassable which is a problem for kids walking to the school bus or for people in a wheelchair. Mr. Prytherch questioned whether the issue should be discussed by Council as a whole or if a small working group should continue the research. Mr. Prytherch questioned whether a small group should meet with the City Manager and staff to research what can be done legally and what can be done practically. Mr. Prytherch noted he understood Mr. Elliott's point but he felt there could be a phased approach that starts with emails, to working with local groups like Chamber of Commerce to actively reach out to people, to thinking about enforcing the Ordinance. Mr. Prytherch questioned whether people thought it was important enough that a sub-set of Council work on the issue or if we had all the needed information. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt more research needed to be done with regard to what the range of choices were. Mr. Prytherch advised he would like someone to develop a plan that Council can act on and respond to. Mr. Prytherch noted as someone who walks he gets frustrated in the winter time because the sidewalks are not as safe and accessible for pedestrians as the streets are for motorists.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted Mr. Prytherch had some procedural questions. Mayor Rousmaniere advised Mr. Dreisbach provided a terrific chart which was a Municipal Survey of Sidewalk Maintenance Procedures in 8 towns around the region including some college towns.

Ms. Southard advised she would like to hear from Councilors and share ideas as a group first before tackling the procedural question.

Mr. Smith noted compliance seemed to vary depending on how much snow we have and he felt it would be difficult to get compliance from students even if they were in town over winter term.

Mr. Ellerbe advised he felt if would be a great opportunity for philanthropy organizations or for people needing to complete community service requirements. Mr. Ellerbe noted Council could start pointing some of those resources at the problem. Mr. Ellerbe advised he felt some people were lax about complying with the Ordinance because with Ohio weather they know it usually takes care of itself in a few days. Mr. Ellerbe noted it was still a safety issue and suggested engaging philanthropic organizations and those who need to fulfill community service requirements.

Ms. Southard noted she felt there was a difference between the Uptown areas compared to sidewalks on side streets and inquired how much time people would have to clear their sidewalks if the City were to enforce the Ordinance. Ms. Southard inquired who would do the enforcement and how it would work. Ms. Southard noted a goal of the community was to keep people in their own homes, especially the elderly and the infirm and some people can not go outside a shovel snow. Ms. Southard agreed with Mr. Ellerbe's suggestion of recruiting people from various organizations to assist with snow removal. Ms. Southard advised she felt the community has always worked together well and she was sure this was a problem that could be solved by working together. Ms. Southard noted she did not think it should all fall on the City and she felt taxpayers would be unhappy if they had to pay much more for that service.

Ms. Raghu agreed with Ms. Southard.

Mr. Dana noted he felt the issue should be assigned to some kind of a task force of citizens and members of Council. Mr. Dana advised the Planning Commission with public input solved the issue of short term rentals.

Mr. Ellerbe seconded Mr. Dana's suggestion.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted the procedure could be everything from recommending management of snow to City managing and organizing a volunteer program to when the announcement is placed on the webpage. Mayor Rousmaniere advised staff has discussed the issue at length and has explored the possibility of creating a Special Improvement District. Mayor Rousmaniere noted a snow task force might be able to come up with a list of suggestions/ideas.

Ms. Southard advised she would like to hear from staff.

Mr. Elliott advised the options were for the City to perform the snow removal on sidewalks or for the City to pay someone to do it. Mr. Elliott noted if the City performed the snows removal a significant budget would be needed. Mr. Elliott advised if Council wanted the City to perform the snow removal resources would have to be committed and the Ordinance would need to be updated as right now failure to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks is a minor misdemeanor.

Mr. Chris Skoglind, 211 Ryan Drive, noted where he lived previously this was an issue and as he listened to Council's discussion this evening he felt Council was over engineering it. Mr. Skoglind advised he was a Councilor in his former community and they sent a note out in November reminding property owners it was their responsibility to clear their sidewalks.

Mr. Skoglind noted he lived in New York City and the City did not shovel property owner's sidewalks, it was their obligation. Mr. Skoglind advised in his former community people found it was cheaper to pay a fine than to have the sidewalk shoveled and he did not think Council wanted to create that circumstance. Mr. Skoglind suggested sending a reminder to property owners reminding them winter was coming and sidewalks were their responsibility. Mr. Skoglind noted the reminder should also tell people they needed to remove snow from around fire hydrants and mailboxes. Mr. Skoglind advised his former community dealt with rental properties too and they emphasized that it was the property owners responsibility to clear the sidewalks. Mr. Skoglind noted Boy Scouts and other organizations in his former community cleared the sidewalks for the elderly or others who could not do it themselves. Mr. Skoglind suggested Council consider his suggestions and nothing more.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised a snow task force could lay out all of the questions. Mr. Prytherch noted the task force could write the letter to be sent to property owners next November and see how it works in year one, talk to the business owners in the Uptown area and reach out to the fraternal organizations. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt it needed to be a phased approach, try voluntary compliance first as see how it works. Mr. Prytherch volunteered to work with others to help get people to brainstorm. Mayor Rousmaniere advised a snow task force might involve meeting for coffee for an hour to discuss ideas to present to the City Manager such as a timeline for the reminder to property owners, a face book post and finding contacts for the volunteer organizations. Mayor Rousmaniere and Mr. Prytherch thanked staff for providing research on the issue of sidewalks and snow removal.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.