The Work Session of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Prue Dana on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. Those Council members present were: Ken Bogard, Doug Ross, Alysia Fischer, Richard Keebler and Greig Rutherford. Kate Currie arrived at 6:04 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; Kathy Dale, Planner and Mary Ann Eaton, Deputy Clerk of Council.

Also present were: Mike Smith, Laura Henderson and Susan Kay from the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Fischer moved approval of the Agenda. Mr. Ross seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Work Session was for Council to receive information from the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission regarding their proposed Historic Marker Program and to receive information from the City Manager and Fire Chief regarding the status of the Fire/EMS Division.

HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Ms. Henderson discussed a handout that was provided to Council and staff regarding the proposed Historic Marker Program. Ms. Henderson noted the program was organized in two tiers as follows:

Tier One Markers would be awarded annually as a Preservation Award for restoration projects completed within the previous calendar year and retroactive awards could be awarded for exceptional preservation efforts in the past.

Tier Two Markers would be awarded annually as a Historic Plaque for a significant historic structure or historic site.

Ms. Henderson noted the idea was to encourage preservation and provide public acknowledgement for those efforts.

After discussion Council was in favor of the program and offered suggestions with regard to the plaques.

FIRE/EMS DIVISION

Mr. Elliott advised he provided information in Council's Friday Packet which included a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Fire Department, a survey of area fire departments, staffing options, summary of training levels and capability for EMS certification, and a fire incident summary report for 2008.

Chief Detherage discussed the PowerPoint in detail with regard to run statistics, run growth, increased EMS Runs/Lack of People, Structure Fire Responses, Other Work Load, Service Level Options, Current Volunteer Staff, Training, Student Volunteers, Citizen Expectations, Current Levels of Service and 2009 Goals.

Chief Detherage discussed the lack of volunteers responding to runs, why the response time was inadequate, and some proposed options for dealing with the situation.

Discussion included hiring additional part-time personnel and not filling the current Assistant Fire Chief position. The possibility of a Fire Levy was also discussed.

Mr. Keebler suggested appointing a committee to work on short term and long term solutions for the division made up of members of Council, the Fire Chief, City Manager, a Miami University representative and a Township representative.

AJOURNMENT

Mr. Ross moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Currie seconded. The motion carried 7-0-0.

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Prue Dana on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 7:36 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Kate Currie, Doug Ross, Richard Keebler, Alysia Fischer and Greig Rutherford.

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; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Deputy Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Dana requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bogard moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Fischer seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mayor Dana welcomed Mr. Jim Hockaday a graduate student who was serving an internship under the City Manager's office.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION
'FREEDON FUND BANQUET WEEK'

Mayor Dana advised she read and presented the Proclamation last night at the Freedom Fund Banquet. Mayor Dana noted Mr. Ross and Mr. Bogard also attended the event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Shekar Jayaraman, advised he was the regional liaison and official representative for Secretary of State, Jennifer Brunner. Mr. Jayarman noted he wanted to introduce himself and extend the services of the Secretary of State's office to the citizens of Oxford. Mr. Jayarman noted the Secretary of State's office provided election administration and worked with the Board of Elections. Mr. Jayarman advised their office also provided community outreach with regard to Business Services, Safe and Secure Social Security and a Health Index for the State of Ohio. Mr. Jayarman noted his office was more than willing to reach out to the constituents in Oxford.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 3, 2009 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Deputy Clerk of Council)

Accepting the Minutes of the January 23, 2009 Student Community Relations Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

REPORTS

Report regarding the January 13, 2009 Planning Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the February 4, 2009 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the February 11, 2009 Civil Service Commission Meeting. (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION
NEW COLOR COPIER

A Resolution No. 4410 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with ComDoc for a 60-month lease for a Sharp MX-4501N color copier through State Contract pricing. (Steve Schwein, Police Chief)

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
RELEASE MONEY
ON DEPOSIT

A Resolution No. 4411 authorizing release of all monies on deposit for water service repairs pursuant to the agreement with Ray Day DBA Miami Mobile Home Park and D&B Family Limited Partnership DBA Oxford Mobile Home Park dated August 20, 1997. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin noted the proposed Resolution would provide authority to himself and the City Manager to release funds plus interest to the Day family which had been on deposit since 1997. Mr. Newlin advised the proposed Resolution was parallel to the appropriation adjustment Council would consider later this evening.

Mr. Bogard moved to adopt Resolution No. 4411. Ms. Fischer seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Fischer, Mr. Keebler, Mr. Ross, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Ms. Dana (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
FINAL LEGISLATION
WITH ODOT

A Resolution No. 4412 authorizing the City Manager to sign final legislation and other contracts with the Ohio Department of Transportation in connection with the rehabilitation of a portion of US-27 from High Street to Chestnut Street. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach noted this was a project similar to the one done last year on State Route 73. Mr. Dreisbach advised the cost would be split with the state 80/20 and US-27 would be rehabilitated from High Street to Chestnut Street. Mr. Dreisbach noted Council had already approved the preliminary legislation and asked for their approval of the final legislation so ODOT could be contacted to schedule the project.

Mr. Rutherford inquired what the duration of the project would be and Mr. Dreisbach advised approximately one week. Mr. Rutherford inquired if the work would be performed during the summer and Mr. Dreisbach advised yes. Mr. Dreisbach noted ODOT would coordinate the project with the City and Miami University and would not impede Bicentennial events on campus.

Mr. Keebler inquired if intersection improvements at High Street and Patterson would be done in conjunction with this project and Mr. Dreisbach advised no. Mr. Dreisbach noted the intersection improvements were being designed at Miami's expense in conjunction with the Farmer's School of Business project.

Mr. Bogard moved to adopt Resolution No. 4412. Ms. Fischer seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Currie, Ms. Fischer, Mr. Keebler, Mr. Ross, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Dana (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
CRC DIRECTOR

A Resolution No. 4413 appointing Douglas R. Elliott, Jr. Community Relations Director. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised last year Council amended Chapter 143 dealing with civil rights and the Community Relations Commission. Mr. Elliott noted members were recently appointed to the Commission and the Ordinance called for a Community Relations Director appointed by Council. Mr. Elliott advised he would be glad to serve in that capacity.

Ms. Currie noted she was pleased that the Commission was getting underway.

Ms. Fischer noted four members were appointed to the Commission and there was still one vacancy.

Ms. Fischer moved to adopt Resolution no. 4413. Ms. Currie seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: Mr. Ross (1)

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
AMENDING SECTION 503.02

An Ordinance Repealing Current Section 503.02, Classification Of Civil Offenses, And Adopting New Section 503.02, Classification Of Civil Offenses. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised the rearranged Chapter numbers of the Zoning Code did not correspond to the Classification of Civil Offenses which could cause a technicality if citations were challenged. Mr. Chen noted the proposed legislation would correct the inconsistency between the Administrative Ticketing Code and the Zoning Code. Mr. Chen advised Chapter 1149 Vehicle Management had been added to Section 503.02 for Council's consideration.

Mr. Rutherford inquired if Conditional Uses could be added to this section and Mr. Chen advised yes. Mr. Keebler noted support for adding Conditional Uses to the proposed legislation prior to the second reading.

Mr. McHugh advised revocation of Conditional Uses could not be placed in this section of the code and Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Keebler agreed that revocation was a different matter.

Ms. Fischer referred to page 51 of the agenda which listed section 521.11, snow and ice removal. Ms. Fischer noted 95% of inhabitants in Oxford did not shovel their sidewalks and tickets had never been issued for this violation. Ms. Fischer noted it seemed there was no interest in issuing tickets for this violation based on recommendations from the Law Director. Ms. Fischer noted Council had received letters from citizens who did not understand why something was on the books but not enforced. Ms. Fischer noted her feeling now might be the time to address the matter.

Ms. Currie noted her feeling before next winter a system needed to be in place to require people to shovel their sidewalks or the City would do it for them and levy them the cost for the service.

Mr. Ross noted the City Manager previously mentioned the City providing this service. Mr. Ross advised perhaps it should be done by the City with the cost shared by all taxpayers.

Mr. Bogard noted this would require separate legislation and a discussion could take place prior to next season to decide whether to remove the current legislation or leave it as is and un-enforced.

Mr. Elliott noted the way the current Ordinance was structured and because of the court cases Mr. McHugh had brought to Council's attention it may be an option to allow 24-48 hours for people to remove snow and ice from their sidewalks. Mr. Elliott advised if the snow and ice was not removed in the time period allotted then the City or a contractor would provide the service and the cost would be attached to the property taxes. Mr. Elliott advised it would be necessary to determine what areas of the City this would be applied to.

Mr. McHugh advised the current legislation was a problem and an enforceable system needed to be developed. Mr. McHugh noted a problem in Ohio dealt with what the Ohio Supreme Court was applying with respect to liability issues.

Mayor Dana noted the only change requested to the proposed Ordinance was in regard to Conditional Uses.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3044 Amending Ordinance No. 3033. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 1 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2009. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed the staff report on pages 55 and 56 of the agenda.

Ms. Fischer inquired if the City was expecting additional funds related to hurricane Ike and Mr. Elliott advised yes.

Mr. Keebler inquired how often it was necessary to make supplemental appropriations and if they could be done quarterly.

Mr. Newlin noted he could bring supplemental appropriations to Council on a quarterly basis although he preferred to bring them to Council as things came due.

Mr. Bogard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3044. Ms. Currie seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Ms. Fischer, Mr. Keebler, Mr. Ross, Ms. Dana (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3045 Amending Ordinance No. 3033. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 2 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2009. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin referred to the staff report on page 59 of the agenda noting this legislation would allow for the return of advances made in 2008 to the respective funds.

Mr. Bogard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3045. Mr. Rutherford seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Fischer, Mr. Keebler, Mr. Ross, Mr. Rutherford, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie Ms. Dana (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Ms. Currie moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3045. Ms. Fischer seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Ms. Fischer, Mr. Keebler, Mr. Ross, Mr. Rutherford, Ms. Dana (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Dana noted a Work Session was held this evening to hear from the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission and also to discuss concerns related to the Fire/Ems Division.

Mr. Keebler noted based on the discussion earlier this evening Council agreed that a committee should be appointed to study the Fire/Ems division and bring recommendations to Council on ways to improve our ability to respond to Fire and EMS emergencies.

Mr. Keebler moved that the Mayor appoint a committee consisting of the City Manager, Fire Chief, two Council members, a Miami University representative, a township representative and a current Volunteer Firefighter to provide short term and long term solutions to response issues. Mr. Rutherford seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mayor Dana advised she attended the Fairfield City Council meeting last week to receive a Proclamation for the City of Oxford winning the recycling contest. Mayor Dana inquired if Council was interested in participating in the contest again and the consensus was yes. Ms. Fischer noted the contest did not include recycling on campus. Mayor Dana noted a sculpture was also awarded to the City for winning the contest and would most likely be on display at the Community Arts Center for a year.

Mayor Dana discussed a meeting she attended in Hamilton last week regarding the Governor's initiative to address poverty across the state.

Mayor Dana advised she was a member of the Self Board and noted she included a flyer in Council's Friday Packet with regard to their fund raiser on March 27, 2009. Mayor Dana encouraged Council and members of the public to attend.

Mayor Dana noted the Parking Committee was working on a master plan and were looking for 100-200 parking spots in the Uptown area.

Mayor Dana advised the City of Oxford was awarded the distinction of 'Tree City USA'.

Mayor Dana advised she attended the Three Valley Conservation annual meeting and provided Council with information regarding the event.

Mayor Dana advised she wanted to put to rest the rumors that City Council was not in favor of the current site for the new High School. Mayor Dana noted Council supported the ballot issue and was very supportive of working aggressively with the School Board to accomplish the project.

Mayor Dana noted she and Vice Mayor Bogard attended the kick-off for Miami's Bicentennial today which was a grand event.

Mr. Elliott advised Council held a Work Session this evening and one of the topics was the Fire/EMS Department. Mr. Elliott advised he and Chief Detherage gave Council an update and discussed some important staffing issues as it had been difficult to recruit volunteers. Mr. Elliott noted he was pleased that Council decided to have a committee appointed to focus on solutions for the department. Mr. Elliott noted he was looking forward to meeting with the Township Trustees to look at updating an agreement from 1980.

Mr. Elliott commented on the stimulus package which the President signed today noting the City would do its best to submit important projects for consideration.

Mr. Elliott noted he and Mayor Dana, Vice Mayor Bogard and members of staff met with school officials today to discuss the new high school project. Mr. Elliott advised the City's goal was to work with school officials to move the project along as quickly as possible while recognizing the importance of the project for the entire community.

Mr. Newlin advised representatives from the Regional Income Tax Agency (R.I. T. A.) would be at the Oxford Courthouse on March 12th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on March 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to assist taxpayers with filing their income taxes. Mr. Newlin also advised a link was available on the City's website for E-Filing.

Mr. McHugh advised Dr. Sherman should sign the easement agreement Council recently approved sometime this week.

Mr. Ross suggested Council consider changing Sycamore Street to Art Miller Street.

Mr. Rutherford suggested Mr. Elliott include a railroad underpass with the list of projects being submitted to the State for stimulus funding.

Mr. Bogard advised he attended the 200th anniversary convocation which was very well put together with historic videos depicting the University as well as the City.

Mr. Bogard noted the partnership meeting today regarding the new high school was very well attended and was a cooperative partnership which allowed for setting a timeline for the new high school project.

Ms. Fischer seconded Mr. Ross's suggestion to commemorate Arthur Miller's life and work. Ms. Fischer noted Mr. Miller was an important figure within the community.

Ms. Fischer noted the importance of moving quickly with regard to the Fire/EMS situation. Ms. Fischer noted Council felt strongly about this issue and noted her hope the community would be supportive as well.

Ms. Fischer referred to an article in the Miami Student newspaper with regard to sidewalks within the City. Ms. Fischer noted she felt it was important for the public to know that no one from Associated Student Government spoke to members of City staff prior to drafting their Resolution and making statements about what needed to be done. Ms. Fischer noted her feeling there was a very good program in place that dealt with sidewalk and curb and gutter repairs which were made during the summer months.

Ms. Currie referred to an article in the Miami Student which indicated she said the City's Bicentennial event had a 'significant budget'. Ms. Currie clarified that she said a 'shoestring budget'.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Fischer moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Ms. Currie seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.