

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Jason Bracken, David Prytherch, and William Snavelly. Chantel Raghu, Edna Southard and Glenn Ellerbe were excused.

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. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Ben Mazer, Assistant Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Smith requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Snavelly moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PRESENTATION **ENJOY OXFORD**

Ms. Kim Daggy, Director, Enjoy Oxford, thanked Council for their continued support of the Summer Music Festival. Ms. Daggy provided a PowerPoint recap of Enjoy Oxford's activities, projects and accomplishments in 2019. Ms. Daggy also discussed Enjoy Oxford's plans and projects for 2020 noting she was looking forward to another great year.

PRESENTATION **SHAREFEST 2019**

Ms. Carol Michael, advised she was pleased to again present a very positive ShareFest report. Ms. Michael provided a PowerPoint and discussed the mission of ShareFest noting it was a service and environmental non-profit corporation dedicated to the collection and re-distribution of items donated by Miami University students and the Oxford community at the end of the academic year. Ms. Michael advised collected items benefit individuals in need through social service agencies throughout the whole region. Ms. Michael recognized members of the Sharefest Board of Directors, Planning Committee and recognized the many volunteers. Ms. Michael advised 2019 was a record year for donations noting 109 tons of materials were collected which was a 12% increase over last year. Ms. Michael thanked Council for their continued support of ShareFest.

Members of Council thanked Ms. Michael for her report and Mayor Smith noted the ShareFest numbers were staggering.

PRESENTATION

#TAKE3OXFORD

Ms. Carla Blackmar, provided a PowerPoint and noted #Take3Oxford was a grass roots group that takes an incremental and persistent approach to waste reduction. Ms. Blackmar advised people who pick up at least 3 pieces of trash per day automatically become a member. Ms. Blackmar noted this effort was very easy and helps keep the streets clean. Ms. Blackmar advised members of #Take3Oxford were in attendance to congratulate the City of Oxford for its leadership noting 2 weeks ago the City received one of #Take3Oxford's Oscars for outstanding achievement in community cleanup and waste reduction. Ms. Blackmar discussed the City's pilot program for food scrap composting spearheaded by Councilor Raghu and implemented by David Treleaven, the City's Environmental Specialist. Ms. Blackmar advised Community Outreach Specialist, John Buchholz leveraged the momentum of the new food scrap program to make the 2019 Uptown Community Picnic a zero waste event. Ms. Blackmar noted the City invested in a portable water refill station to eliminate the need for plastic water bottles and purchased compostable serving ware for the community picnic and modeled how large-scale events can both be fun and ecologically sound. Ms. Blackmar advised the City of Oxford has shared these models widely with the community bringing compost bins to events at Talawanda Schools and to the annual Oxford Empty Bowls luncheon. Ms. Blackmar discussed other City of Oxford accomplishments including the Non-Solicited Written Materials Ordinance and insuring all Mile Square residents are eligible to receive the large green recycle bins. Ms. Blackmar advised she felt the interest in water softening Citywide presents another big opportunity for waste reduction.

Mr. Prytherch advised it was amazing to see the three presentations back to back noting the City has an award winning, strong and vibrant Enjoy Oxford. Mr. Prytherch advised ShareFest would not exist if not for leadership and service among people. Mr. Prytherch noted things like #Take3Oxford makes the job of government much easier. Mr. Bracken concurred.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 4, 2020 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORT

Report regarding the February 5, 2020 Environmental Commission Meeting. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

RESOLUTION
WAIVE FEES

A Resolution No. 7159 authorizing the City Manager to waive the fees adopted in the Fee Ordinance for the street closures for Enjoy Oxford for the 2020 annual Summer Music Festival. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Snavelly moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
ALCOHOL ON CITY PREMISES

A Resolution No. 7160 authorizing the City Manager to permit the Oxford Farmers Market Association to allow a Farmers Market vendor to sell tasting samples of wine for consumption on premises, and wine in sealed containers for consumption off the premises of the Oxford Farmers Market with conditions. (Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director)

Mr. Kyger advised the Oxford Farmers Market needed a temporary F-10 permit from the State of Ohio for the tasting of wine samples at a registered Farmers Market noting it was primarily for the Hanover Winery which offered the same tastings and sales in 2019. Mr. Kyger noted because the Farmers Market is held on City property Council's approval was necessary for the tastings and sales to occur.

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

Mr. Prytherch noted this was another example of good things happening in Oxford. Mr. Snavelly advised it has worked well so far.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7160. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

RESOLUTION
AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT CONTINUANCE

A Resolution No. 7161 by Oxford City Council authorizing the continued placement of 67.376 acres of land owned by EVR Investments, L.L.C. in an agricultural tax district, said property address being 4160 Oxford Reily Road Oxford, Ohio 45056 (Parcel No. H4100-132-000-001) in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 929 and with the Farmland Preservation Act. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised an agricultural district provides protection against nuisance suits over farm operations, deferment of tax assessments on land to build sewer and water lines, and allows for additional review if land is taken by eminent domain for a public purpose.

Mr. Elliott noted this was the third application received by the City from this property owner the first two being in 2010 and in 2015. Mr. Elliott advised there was concern expressed about the stipulation of taking land by eminent domain and noted the section only applies if more than 10 acres or 10% of the property is appropriated. Mr. Elliott noted plans for the OATs trail are not finalized although it is likely some land will need to be obtained from this property owner. Mr. Elliott advised the City would only need approximately one acre. Mr. Elliott recommended Council's approval of the proposed Resolution.

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

Mr. Prytherch noted this was a continuation of what has been approved in the past.

Mr. Snively moved to adopt Resolution No. 7161. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

ORDINANCES

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3538. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 2 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2020. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed his staff report as presented on pages 37 and 38 of Council's packet noting the first item would rectify an oversight related to Supplemental Budget number 1 adopted earlier this year. Mr. Newlin advised the second item would make an adjustment to correct an internal posting error and the third item dealt an issue related to the Ohio Department of Taxation.

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

Mayor Smith advised this was the first reading of Supplemental Budget No. 2 noting it would receive a second reading in March.

ORDINANCE

NEW SECTION 507.03

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 507.03 Entitled Fire Civil Citations And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 507.03 Entitled Fire Civil Citations. (John Detherage, Fire Chief)

Chief Detherage advised Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 507.03 was adopted in 2009 so the Fire Department could better deal with certain first time offenses of the fire code. Chief Detherage addressed the changes and additions to this section of the code as presented on page 42 of Council's packet.

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

Mayor Smith advised the second reading of the proposed Ordinance would take place in March.

ORDINANCE
SECOND READING
ZONING MAP
AMENDMENT

An Ordinance No. 3552 Accepting The Planning Commission's Recommendation And Granting A Zoning Map Amendment To Establish A Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District In A R-1A (Single Family Low Density Residential) District For 90 Parcels Located on Miami Trail, Northridge Drive, Red Cedar Circle, Dufour Lane, Honor Lane And Jacob Drive In The City Of Oxford. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised there were no changes since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Perry noted this additional zoning regulation would limit the unrelated number of tenants in one residence from 4 to 2. Mr. Perry advised this was the end of a several month process for the neighborhood. Mr. Perry noted there are two permitted rental properties in this neighborhood, which will be allowed to continue.

Ms. Elise Clerkin, thanked Council for listening to the petition and thanked Mr. Perry for his assistance noting it had been a huge process over the course of the past year.

Mr. Prytherch advised the decision criteria for overlay districts was process based noting as long as the boundaries are drawn in a logical way, the parcels are contiguous and the number of petitioner signatures are sufficient the request should be approved.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3552. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Snavelly, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Prytherch, Mayor Smith (4)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised the City's website was updated regarding the electric aggregation program. Mr. Elliott noted in the coming months the City would receive proposals for an energy provider since the current agreement expires in December of 2020.

Mr. Elliott addressed the issue of Miami University reducing its workforce noting it would have a negative impact on the City's income tax revenue which is the City's major source of revenue for the General Fund and the Fire EMS Fund.

Mr. Elliott reminded everyone of the up-coming Census noting the Census affects the distribution of federal funds for programs such as medical assistance, student loans, nutrition assistance and transit. Mr. Elliott advised it was important for residents to complete the Census form on line, by phone, through the mail or in person. Mr. Elliott reminded everyone the Census information was kept strictly confidential.

Mr. Dreisbach clarified that the City was proceeding with the water softening study for the Water Treatment Plant to reduce the hardness of the water not because of receiving complaints about the water.

Mr. Perry updated everyone on the City's rental inspection program and encouraged those interested in seeing how the approved rentals list has been changed to visit cityofoxford.org/rentals.

Ms. Greene advised she traveled with President Crawford and Randi Thomas to Washington D.C. last week to gain support for the Elm Street renovation project. Ms. Greene noted President Crawford gave congressional testimony to the sub-committee on business and innovation. Ms. Greene advised they also made seven legislative visits around D.C.

Ms. Greene noted a Census FAQ page would be available on the City's homepage before the end of the month.

Mr. Snavelly noted the Planning Commission has been busy and has recommended that City Council adopt the "Tree" Ordinance. Mr. Snavelly commended the Environmental Commission for spending time reviewing the language. Mr. Snavelly commended Mr. Perry, Mr. Moore and members of the Planning Department who took the feedback from the Environmental Commission and crafted legislation that everyone liked. Mr. Snavelly noted Council should see the legislation on an upcoming agenda. Mr. Snavelly advised the Planning Commission's next topic of special interest was Short Term Rentals.

Mr. Prytherch advised President Crawford and Miami University have followed the City's lead in terms of making a commitment to a pathway to neutrality. Mr. Prytherch noted President Crawford was going to sign the President's Climate Leadership Commitment. Mr. Prytherch advised the City created a Climate Action Steering Committee and was soliciting applications noting he hoped a broad cross section of people would apply. Mr. Prytherch noted his hope the City would continue to collaborate with Miami University on climate action.

Mr. Prytherch referred to the draft Zero Waste Resolution that Council discussed and sent to the Environmental Commission noting the Environmental Commission forwarded it to the Climate Action Committee. Mr. Prytherch inquired procedurally how to get this topic on the Environmental Commission's agenda. Mayor Smith advised he would discuss the issue with staff.

Mr. Prytherch referred to the upcoming political season noting the City's sign code was relatively permissive with regard to political signs. Mr. Prytherch noted concern with large signs appearing all around town. Mr. Prytherch inquired if Councilors were interested in looking at modifications to the sign code.

Mr. Elliott advised political signs were fraught with court cases noting he has experienced two during his tenure in Ohio. Mr. Elliott recommended Council give any modifications to the sign code careful consideration. Mr. Elliott advised he would consult with Mr. Mazer and Mr. Conard to see how recent court cases have turned out. Mr. Snively noted he was in favor of the Legal Department looking at the issue. Mr. Snively advised he did not think it was important enough to get into a legal battle that the City is likely to lose.

Mr. Prytherch noted concerns with rental property signage noting some of it seemed to be nearly permanent.

Mayor Smith welcomed members of the press and thanked them for attending the meeting and for the work they do.

Mayor Smith referred to the recent fire at 101 W. Church and advised that property was not inspected on the inside. Mayor Smith noted staff could not determine if an inspection could have made a difference. Mayor Smith encouraged anyone who smelled smoke or saw smoke to call the Fire Department immediately.

ADJOURN

Mr. Snively moved to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.