

A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Bob Blackburn John Harman and Kevin McKeehan. Kate Rousmaniere and Steve Snyder were excused.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keebler requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McKeehan moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Cal Conrad, Board Member, Three Valley Conservation Trust, noted board members Roger Millar and Adolph Greenberg were also in attendance. Mr. Conrad advised Three Valley Conservation Trust recently became an accredited land trust, one of two in the State of Ohio, which they were very proud of. Mr. Conrad noted Three Valley Conservation Trust was founded 17 years ago and its initial purpose was to preserve the Four Mile Valley. Mr. Conrad advised the land trust was expanded to incorporate Indian Creek, Seven Mile Creek and Twin Creek and they were a land trust for the western half of Montgomery County, Preble County and Butler County. Mr. Conrad noted in 17 years the land trust created 110 easements that preserved land from development which covered 14,000 acres (21 square miles) and included 55 miles of stream corridor. Mr. Conrad advised he was excited to announce that Three Valley Conservation Trust entered into an agreement with the Fryman family to purchase 170 acres of land west of Somerville Road and extending across SR 732. Mr. Conrad noted the north end of the covered bridge was located on the property. Mr. Conrad noted 125 acres of the land was agricultural and the balance was a riparian area and the land trust had an easement that would preserve the property for all time. Mr. Conrad advised a farmer would purchase the agricultural portion and Butler Metro Parks was enthusiastic about creating a metro park on the 45 acres that contained green areas, trees, floodplain and stream. Mr. Conrad noted his hope Council would adopt a Resolution in support of the initiative and advised if the City could help financially it would be very much appreciated. Mr. Conrad noted Three Valley Conservation Trust had a large bill to pay to acquire the land and they were planning major fund raising events.

Mayor Keebler noted it would be nice to see the covered bridge used in a venture such as this and advised if there was a way to get connected to Buckley Road along Four Mile Creek and across the bridge it would do a lot to enhance bicycling and other activities in the City. Mayor Keebler noted he felt this was a much more do-able project than trying to get a bike loop around the City and he hoped it was something Council could get behind.

Mr. Conrad noted it was Metro Park's vision that the north end of the covered bridge would be opened up and a ramp would be built to the ground level to accommodate foot and bike traffic for a path going up mill race to the Beck property and then out to SR 732 to Buckley Road. Mr. Conrad advised a project like this had been talked about for a very long time and Three Valley Conservation Trust was pleased that through the purchase of this land and their relationship with Metro Parks and the Beck family that they might actually be able to have Metro Parks create the trail. Mr. Conrad reiterated that Metro Parks was very enthusiastic about the project and were talking about seeking funds to finalize the deal.

Mayor Keebler advised he felt Council should support the initiative but noted like any government entity the City had financial difficulties. Mayor Keebler advised he felt a Resolution of support was in order and that this was a good project for the community at large.

Mr. Bogard advised he felt Council should not lose the vision of a bike trail around the City of Oxford which would connect with the project just presented. Mr. Bogard noted going south a bike trail would connect with the Great Miami River bike trail between Middletown and Hamilton and south of there. Mr. Bogard advised it might take 10, 20 or 30 years and reiterated that Council should not lose the vision of having recreational trails in northwest Butler County.

Ms. Bobbe Burke, 722 David Drive, advised an annual meeting was held at Miami last week which brought together student organizations that commonly hosted events that rolled into late night hours or were held at off-campus venues. Ms. Burke noted Miami had been doing this for a long time to help students understand some difficulties that occurred in the past and to present strategies to avoid difficulties in the future such as noise complaints or other neighborhood problems. Ms. Burke advised that Diana Durr of the Oxford Visitors and Convention Bureau played a very significant role by serving as the point person for every activity that moved to an off-campus arena and helped students figure out the logistics for their event to avoid problems and make their event successful. Ms. Burke noted she wanted to bring this to Council's attention so they could thank Ms. Durr for providing this service to the students.

Ms. Burke advised she sent messages to landlords and property managers encouraging them to meet with all tenants regarding a tornado safety plan. Ms. Burke noted everyone had heartfelt sympathy for the communities very close to us that suffered heavy destruction and loss of life last week. Ms. Burke noted it would behoove everyone to know what their plan of action should be in case a tornado was headed directly towards Oxford. Ms. Burke advised she would work with Mr. Elliott and others in the City to help landlords who were not sure how to advise their tenants.

Ms. Burke advised former Mayor Jerome Conley asked her to remind Council that the Mystery Dinner Theater was coming up on Sunday, March 18, 2012 which was a new event sponsored by a student organization in the Department of Theater and another student organization advised by Mr. Conley who were committed to raising money for the Oxford United Way. Ms. Burke noted part of the cost for the Mystery Dinner Theater ticket would go to the Oxford United Way and tickets were on sale at the Shriver Center Box Office.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the March 21, 2012 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the February 2, 2012 Civil Service Commission Special Meeting. (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

Report regarding the February 14, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the February 16, 2012 Recreation Board Meeting. (Gail Brahier, Parks and Recreation Director)

Report regarding the February 22, 2012 Civil Service Commission Meeting. (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION **PROPERTY & CASUALTY INS.**

A Resolution No. 4666 accepting the insurance bid of Insurance Specialist Group, Inc., DBA Love Insurance Partners for the City's property and casualty insurance coverage for 2012. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

RESOLUTION **NOISE ABATEMENT**

A Resolution No. 4667 authorizing a temporary abatement of the Noise Ordinance No. 2550, Section 509.09, on Friday, April 13, 2012 starting at 6:00 p.m. to Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 3:00 a.m. at the Rider Track & Field Complex on Miami's campus for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Mr. Bogard moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

ORDINANCE
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
ANNEXATION

An Ordinance No. 3170 Accepting The Annexation Petition From Douglas R. Elliott, Jr. For 304.704 Acres Of Land In The Township Of Oxford, Ohio And Accepting Said Territory To Be Annexed. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised this was the second reading of the Ordinance accepting the annexation of 304.704 acres which included the Jobs Ready Site owned by the Joanne Pelley Means Trust and three parcels owned by Miami University. Mr. Elliott noted 30 days after the Ordinance was adopted the land would be annexed into the City. Mr. Elliott advised the City sought annexation so water and sewer services could be provided to the Miami Heritage Tech Park and the City would receive any future income tax revenue from the developer of the site. Mr. Elliott asked Council to adopt the Ordinance.

Mayor Keebler advised the proposed annexation had been thoroughly discussed by Council and this was the last step of the process.

Mr. Harman moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3170. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Mr. Harman, Mr. Keebler (5)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised staff met with ODOT District 8 officials for a second time regarding the US-27 South improvement project. Mr. Elliott noted Councilor Bogard also attended as he had been very instrumental in the projects from the Northwest Butler County Transportation Study. Mr. Elliott advised the City would receive toll revenue credits for the project so the City would not have to provide a local match for the ear marked funds. Mr. Elliott noted the project was reduced in scope and would begin at Chestnut Street and go to the southern boundary of the City. Mr. Elliott advised the City would have sufficient funds from the ear mark to complete the project which would be awarded January 1, 2013 with construction beginning in April of 2013 and ending in July of 2015. Mr. Elliott noted he would keep Council and the public abreast of this very important project.

Mr. Elliott advised he, Mr. Kyger, Mr. Dreisbach and Councilor Rousmaniere attended a League of Women Voters meeting on governmental energy aggregation. Mr. Elliott noted there was a panel of experts for the program including Mr. Dreisbach.

Mr. Elliott advised the City had been following aggregation for the community for some time and the City had taken care of its needs by accepting competitive bids for the City's electric needs. Mr. Elliott noted Council may want to hold a Work Session on the matter at some point in the future.

Mr. Elliott advised staff met again with members of the Three Valley Conservation Trust regarding the proposed Bonham Road bridge replacement annexation and noted his hope they would sign the annexation petition. Mr. Elliott advised the City was anxious to move the project forward so the County Engineer would have an idea as to what type of bridge to design. Mr. Elliott noted if the land was within the City the speed limit could be reduced which would save money for the bridge replacement. Mr. Elliott advised he, Mayor Keebler, Vice Mayor Bogard and the County Engineer would meet with the Oxford Township Trustees next week regarding the project.

Mr. Harman welcomed John Kinne, Oxford Township Trustee, who was in attendance.

Mr. Bogard encouraged everyone to contact their local congress representative to initiate legislation to eliminate 'Robo calls' at election times.

Mr. McKeehan advised a Porsche owner approached him and was upset that the Porsches to Oxford event would not be held in Oxford this year. Mr. McKeehan encouraged the City and the Visitors and Convention Bureau to do what they could to try to return the event to Oxford.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bogard moved to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.