A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor, Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 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. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Ms. Amy Blankenship, City Attorney and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rousmaniere requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PRESENTATION
INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
AND SUSTAINABILITY

Miami University students Celeste Bronson, Sara Rudokas and Ryan Bourgart introduced themselves to Council and to the public.

Ms. Suzi Zazycki, Associate Director, Institute for the Environment and Sustainability, Miami University, advised Ms. Bronson, Ms. Rudokos and Mr. Bourgart were second year graduate students who worked on the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Feasibility Study last year noting they would present their findings to Council this evening. Ms. Zazycki noted following the student presentation she would provide some slides and discuss this year's project.

Ms. Bronson advised last year she along with Sara, Ryan and two other Master of Environmental Science students worked on a feasibility study for the City of Oxford to examine the feasibility of the City of Oxford signing on to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Ms. Bronson advised their objectives were to outline the requirements for signing the covenant and to evaluate how feasible is was for the City of Oxford to commit to the covenant. Ms. Bronson noted those items were evaluated by looking at different resources such as personnel, time and cost. Ms. Bronson advised the group also examined different alternatives to the covenant, and different initiatives that would help the City reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Bronson noted the Global Covenant of Mayors was an international initiative for cities to join so they can monitor, record and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions with the goal to reduce those emissions to realize a more sustainable and resilient community. Ms. Bronson advised as of May 2018 7,700 cities globally had signed on to the Global Covenant of Mayors noting that has been updated to 9,000 plus cities globally 157 of which are in the United States.

Ms. Bronson advised when cities commit to the Global Covenant of Mayors they are committing to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to predicted climate hazards such as increased flooding, droughts and other severe weather scenarios. Ms. Bronson noted the Global Covenant of Mayors has 4 required phases in a 3 year timeframe as follows:

Phase 1. Commit to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt for different climate hazards.
Phase 2. Submit a greenhouse gas inventory each year to show the tracking and monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions.
Phase 3. Set an emission reduction target by year two.
Phase 4. Create a plan to help reach the targets and to help address different climate hazards.

Mr. Bourgart referred to Phase 2 and advised a greenhouse gas inventory measures greenhouse gas emissions that come directly from the entity or City and also indirectly from the results of the City's operations and things such as commuters coming into the City. Mr. Bourgart provided some graphics and noted the gases are converted into one unit which is called a carbon dioxide equivalent since carbon dioxide is the most prevalent in emissions. Mr. Bourgart advised the carbon footprint reflects how much carbon is emitted from the entity noting the units of the carbon dioxide equivalents is in a unit called metric tons. Mr. Bourgart noted a greenhouse gas inventory in the Global Covenant of Mayors must follow a certain protocol called the Global Protocol for Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GPC). Mr. Bourgart advised the GPC was a very comprehensive document which was very useful and provides a lot of guidance for the process. Mr. Bourgart noted the GPC states that a community wide emissions inventory must be conducted.

Ms. Rudokas advised Phases 3 and 4 of the Global Covenant of Mayors sets emission reduction targets noting the group reviewed 71 targets of 44 signatory cities. Ms. Rudokas advised the reduction levels varied anywhere from 10% to 100% reduction and noted some cities set more than 1 target such as 16% emission reduction by 2020, 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. Ms. Rudokas advised Phase 4 was the Climate Action Plan (CAP) to achieve the emission reduction targets. Ms. Rudokas noted the CAP was a comprehensive plan outlining specific actions which must be implemented and monitored for the years coming. Ms. Rudokas noted Phases 1-4 must be completed within 3 years of signing onto the Global Covenant and advised it is updated within 5 years.

Ms. Rudokas noted the group knew it was important to look at how much time, personnel and cost it would take to sign onto the Global Covenant of Mayors. Ms. Rudokas advised the group contacted the City of Cincinnati's Sustainability Coordinator who relayed that a Greenhouse Gas Inventory could take anywhere from 2 months to a year to complete depending on the number of people working on it. Ms. Rudokas noted a lot of the cities that signed on had at least one specific employee dedicated to carrying out the Global Covenant. Ms. Rudokas advised the cost can be anywhere from zero dollars if no tools were utilized to $10,000 for a city that used a consulting firm. Ms. Rudokas noted a lot of cities used a consulting firm to develop the Climate Action Plan at a rate anywhere from $83 per hour to $50,000 for the entire plan. Ms. Rudokas advised the amount of time to create the Climate Action Plan also varied.

Ms. Rudokas noted the group wanted to give the Oxford Environmental Commission some other options or other ways of reducing emissions without signing on to the Global Covenant. Ms. Rudokas advised the organization entitled ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability has a Five-Milestone Framework which was very similar to the step by step process that the Global Covenant of Mayors followed. Ms. Rudokas noted the Milestones were 1. Inventory Emissions 2. Establish Target 3. Develop Climate Action Plan 4. Implement Climate Action Plan and 5. Monitor and Evaluate Progress. Ms. Rudokas noted this framework does not require a specific signatory or publication of a signatory. Ms. Rudokas advised the group found that 15,000 cities have participated in this Milestone Framework and noted an ICLEI membership provides access to the ClearPath Tool for the greenhouse gas inventory. Ms. Rudokas noted the group found that ICLEI was most supportive in terms of technical assistance and advised the membership for Oxford would be $600 to join. Ms. Rudokas advised the group also found free guidance documents which were very helpful such as C40 Cities Good Practice Guides, the Minnesota Greenstep Cities, 29 best practices for GHG reduction and the US EPA 14 programs to assist cities with sustainable practices.

Ms. Rudokas noted due to the cost and time restraints the group recommended that the City wait to sign the Global Covenant, take the actions listed below and reevaluate joining the Global Covenant in 1-2 years:

1. Conduct a community-scale GHG Inventory.
2. Begin climate change mitigation and adaptation planning.
3. Join ICLEI for the Five Milestones Framework, ClearPath, and technical help.
4. Form a community task force to help with climate mitigation and adaption planning.

Ms. Zazycki advised this years' team of 5 graduate students were helping conduct the Greenhouse Gas Inventory for local government operations. Ms. Zazycki noted the project began in January and advised the final report will be delivered by May 17, 2019. Ms. Zazycki advised their objectives were to calculate the carbon footprint for local government operations, determine potential areas for reduction using modeling and to create a GHG Inventory Handbook for the City of Oxford. Ms. Zazycki reiterated that the ClearPath tool was recommended for developing the GHG Inventory and advised the City was now a member of the ICLEI and Miami University has access to the tool. Ms. Zazycki discussed the various modules available with the ClearPath tool and the data categories that will be used in performing the GHG Inventory. Ms. Zazycki outlined the Semester Plan and reiterated that the final report will be delivered May 17, 2019.

Mayor Rousmaniere thanked Ms. Zazycki and the students, Celeste, Ryan and Sara for making their presentation to Council this evening.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted the Greenhouse Gas Inventory that is being conducted right now is only of City operations. Ms. Zazycki advised yes, due to time constraints and the data is easily obtainable. Ms. Zazycki noted a community wide inventory would include government operations although the data may not be real obvious. Mayor Rousmaniere inquired what a community wide inventory would include and Ms. Zazycki advised the residential community commercial operations, and businesses. Ms. Zazycki noted the handbook being created for the City would provide guidance on how to do a community wide greenhouse gas inventory.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if the ICLEI tool has been shown to be useful for smaller cities. Ms. Zazycki advised she did not know at this point and noted the team could examine how many other cities have used it. Ms. Zazycki advised she felt the tool was usable for a city of any size.

Mr. Dana inquired if getting data from surrounding townships was an issue. Ms. Zazycki advised the boundary right now was local government operations for the City of Oxford. Ms. Zazycki noted when the community wide inventory was conducted a boundary would need to be determined.

Ms. Southard noted it was great to hear about the collaboration between the university and the City. Ms. Southard reiterated that the inventory was specifically for local government operations and inquired about the university, its role and its input and practical results. Ms. Southard inquired if there would be two separate studies or if there was a way to unify them. Mayor Rousmaniere referred to item 7.A.1. on the agenda and noted a discussion would take place with regard to collaborative climate action towards the end of the meeting. Ms. Zazycki advised the last 3 greenhouse gas inventories for Miami University were conducted just for Miami itself. Ms. Zazycli noted she felt the desire to collaborate was fantastic and advised the team last year did look for examples of university towns working with the municipality on their greenhouse gas inventory and it was hard to find. Ms. Zazycki noted the City of Cincinnati did a very comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory and advised the universities in Cincinnati did their own.

Ms. Raghu thanked the students for devoting their time to such an important topic and thanked Mr. Prytherch for inviting the students to make their presentation. Ms. Raghu advised she felt there was a lot of misunderstanding about what RECs (Renewable Energy Certificates) are and noted some people thought all of the electricity in town is renewable energy to begin with. Ms. Raghu inquired how RECs can play a role as the City tries to establish its carbon footprint. Ms. Zazycki advised there were many categories and many divisions of a greenhouse gas inventory and noted it might ask how much electricity is produced in house, if it is purchased from someone else or if it is renewable energy. Ms. Zazycki advised the university just got access to the ClearPath tool and she has not yet seen all of the elements or how to plug Oxford's data into the inventory. Ms. Raghu noted she felt it was important to understand where the energy is truly coming from. Ms. Raghu advised renewable energy was being subsidized elsewhere and inquired how it could be brought to Oxford as she was curious how that would play into Miami's projects going forward. Ms. Raghu noted the Mayors Covenant was very much intertwined with the Paris Agreement noting one aim of the Paris Agreement is making finance flows consistent with low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development. Ms. Raghu advised the City of Oxford and many cities have commercial paper that is being invested in certain industries noting some of the money funded for commercial paper actually goes to banks that fund fossil fuels. Ms. Raghu noted she was a very frugal person and advised she was impatient when it comes to sustainability and noted she felt this was something Council could really evaluate that does not affect the City's finances and should not affect the City's inflow of money. Ms. Raghu noted it does not cost money to tell the City's accountants not to invest in fossil fuels anymore. Ms. Zazycki advised those issues would fall under the Climate Action Planning process.

Mr. Prytherch thanked the students for making their presentation and noted all of the GHG inventories that have been done for Miami University or for the City of Oxford have been done by the IES Department at Miami University. Mr. Prytherch noted to the degree that we know what out impact is on the climate it is because the students have done that labor. Mr. Prytherch advised he wanted to think about how Council can use this information to help the learning curve. Mr. Prytherch noted the first step is becoming educated and advised the students wrote a great report. Mr. Prytherch thanked the students for taking their time this evening to help explain and answer questions from Council. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt the burden now shifts to Council as to what will be done with this knowledge. Mr. Prytherch advised if something can not be measured it can not be managed.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted Council looked forward to receiving the Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jessica Greene, Enjoy Oxford, thanked Council for their continued support of the Uptown concerts noting the line up was nearly complete. Ms. Greene advised there would be a concert every week and it should be a great summer.

Mr. Charles Kennick, 311 ½ W. Church Street, advised on February 22, 2019 the Student Community Relations Commission unanimously passed a motion to continue the initiative to have publically available Wi-Fi internet access in the Uptown Parks noting today the Student Senate of the Associated Student Government unanimously approved a Resolution for the same. Mr. Kennick advised the initiative was very important to the students and to the community noting his hope it could be done in collaboration with Enjoy Oxford by the end of the calendar year.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the February 19, 2019 City Council Meeting (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORT

Report regarding the February 21, 2019 Recreation Board Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

RESOLUTION
FEE WAIVER

A Resolution No. 7047 authorizing the City Manager to waive the fees adopted in the fee Ordinance for the street closures for the Visitors Bureau (Enjoy Oxford) for the 2019 annual Summer Music Festival. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Dana moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted an item on the Consent Agenda dealt with waiving fees for the annual summer music festival.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HB62

A Resolution No. 7048 of Oxford City Council supporting Ohio House Bill 62 and the proposed increase in the Ohio Motor Fuel Tax of $0.18 per gallon. Oxford City Council further urges Senator Coley and Representative Keller to support Ohio House Bill 62. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised there was a bill in the Ohio House of Representatives which proposes to increase the motor vehicle fuel tax by $0.18 noting there were other items in the bill although Council and staff were focused on the increase in the fuel tax. Mr. Elliott noted if passed the increase would be effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Elliott advised the Resolution was requested by Councilor Dana noting if the Resolution is adopted a letter would be sent to Senator Coley and to Representative Keller asking for their support.

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

Mr. Dana inquired if Mr. Prytherch had any comments based on an observation he made regarding HB62. Mr. Prytherch noted the proposed bill increases the fuel tax and provides rebates to school districts of which transit agencies are not party to. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the bill brings money back to communities that they have lost. Mr. Prytherch noted although they were highway funds they could be used for a variety of street purposes.

Mr. Elliott advised the additional revenue would more than offset the additional fuel tax increase for the City. Mayor Rousmaniere noted $191,856 could be new revenue for the City.

Mr. Dana advised a legislative aid for the Ohio Municipal League informed him that individuals in the Statehouse were working on amendments to the bill with respect to transit.

Mr. Ellerbe inquired if the additional revenue would be placed in the General Fund and Mr. Elliott advised it would be placed specifically in the Street Fund and in the State Highway Fund.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 7048. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CREDIT CARD POLICY

A Resolution No. 7409 approving an amended Credit Card Policy as recommended by the Finance Director. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed two amendments to the Credit Card Policy as outlined on pages 28 and 31 of Council's packet.

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

Mr. Ellerbe moved to adopt Resolution No. 7409. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 3513

An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance Number 3513 Adopted February 19, 2019. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised the proposed Ordinance repeals an Ordinance Council recently adopted noting some Sections of the Chapter were omitted in error. Mr. Perry advised by omitting the Sections that had no changes staff inadvertently completely deleted the language from the code. Mr. Perry noted the next Ordinance adopted Chapter 1145 in its entirely.

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

Mr. Dana noted the changes adopted on February 19 made housing options more diverse and more affordable.

ORDINANCE
NEW CHAPTER 1145

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1145 Entitled Planned Developments, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1145 Entitled Planned Developments To Update The Application Requirements And To Clarify The Comprehensive Plan Goals For Housing Type Diversity And Affordability. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised the proposed Ordinance adds the sections of Chapter 1145 (Planned Developments) that were inadvertently omitted.

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

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
FINAL PLAT APPROVAL

An Ordinance No. 3515 Approving The Final Subdivision Application And Plat For Rolling Meadows Subdivision, Section One. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised there were no changes since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance noting he did add a new map on page 63 of Council's packet. Mr. Perry noted the end user of the property in question must comply with the OI zoning regulations if and when the property is developed.

Ms. Etta Reed, Bayer Becker, advised she was in attendance on behalf of the property owner (Calista Enterprises, LLC) and offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Dana inquired where the lift station would be located. Ms. Reed advised the 15 acres in question could be sewered by an extension from Southpointe Parkway to the east. Ms. Reed noted a lift station was not necessary to serve the 15 acres. Ms. Reed noted a lift station would be needed for the property to the west of the property in question.

Mr. Prytherch noted his support for the proposed Ordinance and advised part of the Comprehensive Plan goals were economic development and economic diversification. Mr. Prytherch noted his hope the property is developed in a way that is good for the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Prytherch noted his hope the developer would work closely with staff to develop in a way that contributes to Council's overall vision.

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

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3515. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
SOUTHPOINTE ROADWAY
PROJECT BONDS

An Ordinance No. 3516 Authorizing The Issuance Of Not To Exceed $2,600,000.00 Southpointe Roadway Project Bonds For The Purpose Of Paying Part Of The Cost Of Constructing The Southpointe Roadway Project, Including Roadway, Pavement, Drainage, Erosion Control, Water, Sewer, Lighting, Traffic Control And Other Miscellaneous Improvements, Together With All Necessary Appurtenances Thereto, And Declaring An Emergency. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised the 2.6 million dollars will cover the advance the City made for engineering that goes along with this project. Mr. Newlin noted the revenues on the TIF and the RIDs have come in and are up to date noting his hope the revenue stream would continue for the next 10 years.

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

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired when the project would begin. Mr. Elliott advised possibly in the late spring noting the City still needed to work out a construction agreement with the developers. Mr. Elliott advised that would determine when construction begins.

Mr. Dana referred to paragraph 2 on page 74 of Council's packet "The funds derived from said tax levies hereby required shall be placed in a separate and distinct fund, which, together with all interest collected on the same, shall be irrevocably pledged for the payment of the interest on and the principal of the Various Purpose Bonds when as the same shall fall due; provided, that in each year to the extent that *revenues from other sources*, including general fund revenues, or payments in lieu of taxes (as applicable) are available for the payment of the Various Purpose Bonds and are appropriated for such purpose, the amount of such tax shall be reduced by the amount of such revenues so available and appropriated" and inquired what revenues from other sources were. Mr. Newlin advised the only time other sources would be needed in addition to the TIF revenue is if the property value decreases.

Ms. Southard thanked Mr. Newlin for answering her question raised after the First Reading of the proposed Ordinance related to mandatory sinking fund redemption noting he responded very quickly.

Mr. Dana inquired when the bond ratings would appear and Mr. Newlin advised he would meet with the City's Bond Counsel next Tuesday.

Mr. Prytherch inquired if the tax increment on what has already been developed is sufficient to build the roadway. Mr. Elliott advised the City was only going to build the amount of roadway as there was revenue for. Mr. Prytherch inquired if the project was out for bid and Mr. Elliott advised the design is complete and the plans should be ready to go out for bid. Mr. Elliott reiterated that the construction agreement between the City and the developer needed to be in place first.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3516. Mr. Smith seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
AQUATIC CENTER BONDS

An Ordinance No. 3517 Authorizing The Issuance Of Not To Exceed $4,800,000.00 Aquatic Center Bonds For The Purpose Of Constructing And Equipping An Aquatic Center, Together With All Necessary Appurtenances, And Declaring An Emergency. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised the bonds for the Aquatic Center would be paid over a 20 year time frame.

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

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3517. 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
CONSOLIDATING TWO BOND ISSUES

An Ordinance No. 3518 Consolidating Two Bond Issues Of The City Of Oxford, Ohio, And Declaring An Emergency. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised the proposed Ordinance combines the Southpointe and the Aquatic Center bonds to improve the marketability of the bonds and improve the interest rates,

Mr. Smith and Ms. Southard noted their hope a good interest rate could be obtained.

Mr. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3518. 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)

DISCUSSION
COLLABORATIVE CLIMATE ACTION LETTER

Mr. Prytherch advised the Comprehensive Plan refers to sustainability as a priority of the City of Oxford noting Council members have shared concern about the climate issue and what can be done at the local municipal level. Mr. Prytherch noted the Environmental Commission has worked with the Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) at Miami University on the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and advised IES is now doing a Greenhouse Gas Inventory. Mr. Prytherch noted the City could work on the issue alone and so could Miami University and advised Miami University was talking about the very things the City was talking about. Mr. Prytherch noted President Crawford has challenged his Sustainability Committee to evaluate the feasibility of him signing the equivalent of the Global Mayors Covenant on the campus side. Mr. Prytherch advised ideally he felt the City and the university should be talking to each other as what the City does influences what happens on campus a vice versa. Mr. Prytherch noted he drafted a letter expressing to President Crawford that the City shares the same concerns and was going through the same process as the university. Mr. Prytherch advised the letter invites collaboration and informs him that the City wishes to create a Climate Action Task Force. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt climate action was about taking a leap and tackling goals that are more ambitious that what the City has been doing. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt it would be better to work together with the university on climate action.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted Mr. Prytherch was recommending the formation of a community task force that would meet periodically with the university task force. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt there could be some cross over representation. Mr. Prytherch advised he wanted President Crawford to know that Council was serious and that Council knows he is serious about climate action and that the two entities are more likely to make better progress together.

Ms. Southard referred to the draft letter and inquired if Council was being asked to approve the draft letter or if Council was being asked to approve a letter. Mr. Prytherch advised if Council feels the draft letter captures the sentiment Council can asked the City Manager or the Mayor to fine tune the language and sign it on Council's behalf.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised Mr. Prytherch also outlined what an Oxford Community Climate Action Task Force would look like and inquired how Council felt about the outline.

Mr. Dana noted he felt it was sufficiently concrete and specific to let the reader know that this is something Council anticipates doing.

Ms. Southard noted support for the Task Force outline and advised the local Moon OEFFA Chapter should be represented as well. Ms. Southard advised she felt other stakeholders would come forward once the taskforce is implemented.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted she felt the taskforce was critical as it was a group of community members who would organize, research and produce a document on a climate action plan. Mayor Rousmaniere asked for suggestions on how to move forward with the taskforce.

Mr. Prytherch advised climate action was not something the taskforce would do in 6 months and be done with it.

Mr. Prytherch noted climate action was a change in the way cities make decisions. Mr. Prytherch advised for him it was starting to wrap his mind around climate action and what it means for Oxford, how have other cities done this and how to integrate it into the work of the Planning and Environmental Commissions and staff.

Ms. Southard noted she felt Council should encourage collaboration with organizations such as the Coalition for a Healthy Community.

Mr. Dana agreed with Ms. Southard. Mr. Dana noted he felt Mr. Prytherch asked the right questions.

Mr. Prytherch noted the City was looking at updating the Comprehensive Plan relatively soon and advised his hope the taskforce would make the goals and commitments explicit so when the City enters into the Comprehensive Plan process the climate action matters can be weaved into it.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired how Council members felt about the concept of the letter and the concept of the taskforce. Mr. Smith advised he felt the concept of the letter was good noting since the City was a smaller institution it might be able to move faster than Miami University although he felt it would be good to touch base with them and share information. Mr. Smith noted he felt the taskforce idea was good and advised they could develop a mission statement. Mr. Smith advised the taskforce would need a timeline if climate action would be integrated in the Comprehensive Plan in the next couple of years.

Mr. Dana advised the taskforce would need benchmarks and noted he agreed with Ms. Southard's and Mr. Smith's comments.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised she would depend on Councilors to help approve the letter and to start identifying people to serve on the Oxford Community Climate Action Task Force.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised he reviewed HB62 as it was introduced noting the bill does not change the existing cents per gallon refund for the transit system and presently the refund is $0.27 per gallon. Mr. Elliott advised HB62 does increase the amount the school district can get refunded. Mr. Elliott noted he has not followed the bill through the committee to see what amendments have been proposed.

Mr. Elliott updated Council and the public on the City's Electric Aggregation program.

Mr. Wooddell advised the Parks and Recreation Activity Guide for April through September has been posted electronically and noted paper copies would be available in a couple of weeks. Mr. Wooddell advised the guide contains information on the new aquatic center noting the new aquatic center would open in 81 days. Mr. Wooddell thanked Kim Newton and Andrew Wilson for posting the activity guide on the City's website.

Mr. Perry noted with the slightly warmer weather there has been an uptick in trash complaints and advised staff needed input from the community to identify the problem properties. Mr. Perry noted there was a link on the City's website to file a property maintenance code violation.

Ms. Eaton advised she would send Councilors a reminder to file their Financial Disclosure Statements by May 15 noting she has only heard from 2 of the 7 Council members.

Ms. Raghu advised Friday was International Women's Day and asked everyone for that one day to count the number of women in a room or in a meeting to see if it is 50% or not. Ms. Raghu noted raising that awareness to see if the room you are in is representative of the general population was important. Ms. Raghu advised she felt it was helpful when hiring new City staff to increase the City's diversity.

Mr. Dana congratulated Casey Wooddell on the grant award from the Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Mr. Dana thanked Councilor Prytherch for his work on the Climate Action letter and the draft for creating a Community Climate Action Task Force.

Ms. Southard advised the next meeting of the Recreation Board (March 21) would take place at the new Aquatic Center to tour the construction site. Ms. Southard noted visitors from Oxford's Sister City of Differdange would arrive in Oxford that day as well.

Ms. Southard advised Council approved the bond for the aquatic center which will fund the amenity for the City noting a lot of donations from private citizens have also been made to assist with the funding. Ms. Southard advised the Public Arts Commission was working on obtaining artist designed amenities for the new aquatic center.

Mr. Prytherch advised the Housing Advisory Commission has been busy and noted Commissioners had questions regarding their letter to Council about the 47 acre parcel and volunteering its input in terms of doing an RFP for development of the site. Mr. Prytherch advised the HAC was curious as to how they could help. Mr. Prytherch inquired what kind of group of people would be the right group of people to help write that RFP. Mr. Prytherch noted the HAC was volunteering to help and advised the project would also intersect with the Planning Commission, Community Development Department and the Engineering Department.

Mr. Prytherch thanked members of Council noting his other hat was a College Professor and noted he had an advanced planning class that does climate based projects. Mr. Prytherch advised one of their clients this year was the Community Development Department to ask if there are ways that jurisdictions like Oxford and its neighbors could more formally collaborate on areas of shared concern. Mr. Prytherch noted this was a student project to explore what that means and advised there was good participation, a volunteer from Council and people from Miami University. Mr. Prytherch noted his hope others would join with the goal of creating formalized ways of communicating with each other in one shared community. Mr. Dana inquired if the meetings were open to the public and Mr. Prytherch advised it was not closed to the public although they wanted to begin meeting with the key stakeholders.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised the "Tree Ordinance" would be on the next Council agenda on March 19.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted visitors from Differdange would be in Oxford March 21-24 and advised a dinner may be planned for everyone on Friday, March 22. Mayor Rousmaniere asked Councilors to check their availability to attend the dinner. Mayor Rousmaniere noted other events would be planned as well.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised Share-Fest was scheduled for May 15-21 and noted Council would hear more about that event soon.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised several Councilors were interested in attending the International Town Gown Association conference at Penn State May 19-22.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted the Ohio Town Gown Association conference would take place in Kent, Ohio July 18-19. Mayor Rousmaniere advised these were great conferences in other college towns where a lot of problem solving and common ideas were discussed.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted Buckeye Boys State was coming back to Oxford and advised 2,000 senior high school young men from all over Ohio would be incredibly busy in Oxford for one week (June 9-16). Mayor Rousmaniere advised "City Day" has been scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2019 in the afternoon.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted the Wi-Fi project discussed earlier this evening is being discussed with Enjoy Oxford.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn at 9:07 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.