A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Bob Blackburn, John Harman, Kevin McKeehan, Kate Rousmaniere and Steve Snyder.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. Bob Holzworth, Police Chief; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Kim Newton, Assistant to the City Manager.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keebler requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**PROCLAMATION
FREEDOM FUND
BANQUET DAY**

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation proclaiming April 22, 2012 as 'Freedom Fund Banquet Day' in the City of Oxford.

**PROCLAMATION
EARTH DAY**

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Charles Ford, Chair, of Oxford's Environmental Commission. Mr. Ford thanked Council for the proclamation on behalf of the Environmental Commission.

**PROCLAMATION
ARBOR DAY**

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Charles Ford.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 3, 2012 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the April 4, 2012 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Report regarding the April 4, 2012 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

RESOLUTION
IT SERVICES

A Resolution No. 4676 accepting the proposal of NextStep Networking and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a three (3) year contract with two (2), one (1) year options with NextStep Networking for Information Technology (IT) support services at an annual cost of $47,400 subject to certain terms and conditions after the first year. (Kim Newton, Assistant to the City Manager)

Mr. Blackburn moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Snyder seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCE
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
NEW CHAPTER 135

An Ordinance No. 3172 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 135, Environmental Commission, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 135, Environmental Commission. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised the proposed Ordinance would change the quorum requirements for the Environmental Commission from 5 members to 4 members and would change the ex-officio status of the Planning Commission representative to be a voting member. Mr. Dreisbach noted there were no changes to the proposed Ordinance since the first reading.

Ms. Rousmaniere moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3172. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Snyder, Ms. Rousmaniere, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Harman, Mr. Bogard, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Keebler (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised the City received a letter from Glenwood Energy in March stating that they received a new tax assessment from the Butler County Treasurer and they were notifying the City of their intent to bill an additional tax rider of approximately $.22 per CCF effective with the bills rendered for the April 2012 ratepayers' usage. Mr. Elliott noted it appeared that the new assessment was allowable and the effect on a Glenwood Energy consumer using 100 CCF of natural gas per month would be an additional $2.19 or $18.57 based on an average household annual use of 850 CCF.

Mr. Elliott advised OKI had their open house in Hamilton yesterday for their 2040 transportation plan and he and Mr. Chen attended the event.

Mr. Elliott advised the City budgeted some funding in the capital improvement plan this year for the parking garage assessment and repairs. Mr. Elliott noted the engineering firm completed their study and submitted a 5 year repair and maintenance plan of approximately $625,000 over the 5 year period. Mr. Elliott advised staff was reviewing the plan and would bring the details of the first year of the plan to Council later this year. Mr. Elliott advised the parking garage was 10 years old and the City wanted to protect its investment by addressing some maintenance issues.

Mr. Snyder inquired if Glenwood Energy's new assessment was the result of a property reassessment. Mr. Elliott advised he was waiting for additional information from the Ohio Department of Taxation and would update Council when he received it.

Mr. Chen advised Sharefest would take place at the end of the school year and encouraged people to donate quality, usable furniture and appliances as well as non-perishable foods that would go to local non-profit organizations. Mr. Chen noted volunteers were also needed for the event and those interested could log on to www.sharefestoxford.com for additional information.

Mr. Kyger advised an auction would take place Tuesday, April 24th at 11:00 a.m. for the sale of restaurant equipment from a failed City Revolving Loan Fund loan. Mr. Kyger noted the auction would take place at the Route 27 storage units in McGonigle. Mr. Kyger advised those interested to log on to www.auctionross.com to view the items for auction.

Mr. McHugh advised the Ohio Senate introduced a bill that would significantly impact whether or not the City should regulate the operation of Internet Sweepstakes Cafes. Mr. McHugh noted a provision of the bill would not allow the operation of these establishments unless there were regulations in place.

Mayor Keebler advised Mr. Harry Davis retired from the Oxford Fire Department after 48 years of service. Mayor Keebler noted to his knowledge Mr. Davis was the longest serving member of the fire department ever. Mayor Keebler advised Mr. Davis didn't want a ceremony for his retirement but a group of former and current fire department members had lunch with him on Monday where Mayor Keebler presented him with a Proclamation naming his day, and thanking him for his service to the community. Mayor Keebler noted Mr. Davis came to Oxford in the early 1960s and was recruited for the fire department in 1964, spent a long career at Miami University, and still worked at the Lane Library on a daily basis. Mayor Keebler advised Mr. Davis was one of the most dependable volunteer firefighters and over the 48 years he responded to thousands of calls day and night, large and small. Mayor Keebler encouraged everyone to say hi to Mr. Davis when they saw him, and to thank him for his service to the community.

Mr. Harman congratulated the City Manager and Police Chief for obtaining 2 military Humvees to replace the City's old Special Response Team's vehicle that was not up to par. Mr. Harman noted the City was authorized to receive 4 Humvees and he did some research by calling upon his years of as a Motor Officer in the Army. Mr. Harman advised this particular Humvee was never designed for the additional weight of the armor that was now installed on it making it weigh 9,000 pounds. Mr. Harman noted the weight of the vehicle reduced the life of the Humvee to a half life. Mr. Harman advised the City would not have access to the Army's supply chain of extra parts when one of the vehicles had a problem since the parts were Army specific. Mr. Harman suggested the City Manager and Police Chief re-assess the matter and pick up the two additional Humvees and identify them not for road worthiness but for spare parts. Mr. Harman asked for Council's input noting the City wouldn't be able to get parts through the normal channels.

Mayor Keebler advised he felt certain there was a secondary market for the more common engine parts.

Mr. Harman inquired what the downside was for obtaining 2 more vehicles for parts if there was no cost except for shipping the vehicles.

Mr. Elliott advised he would review the matter and noted the City was offered 4 Humvees. Mr. Elliott advised the City currently had an armored truck used for the Special Response Team (SRT) and the City was fortunate that it didn't need to deploy such a vehicle very often. Mr. Elliott advised the SRT vehicle was deployed twice in 2009, twice in 2010, and not at all in 2011. Mr. Elliott noted he reluctantly decided to take 2 of the Army surplus vehicles and the only expense so far was to pick them up and they would need to be painted. Mr. Elliott advised if the vehicles became expensive to maintain he would have to reevaluate the matter. Mr. Elliott noted he felt the way the City needed to go with regard to specialized equipment was to utilize a multi-jurisdictional approach and he didn't feel it made sense for each community to have a SRT. Mr. Elliott advised he felt it made more sense to train together and share the costs. Mr. Elliott noted he appreciated Councilor Harman's experience with Humvees. Mr. Elliott advised the City would acquire 2 Humvees unless Council directed him otherwise. Mr. Elliott noted he felt the City should convey a positive, friendly image and the Police Chief agreed with him.

Ms. Rousmaniere reminded everyone that the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet would take place on Sunday and noted she was selling tickets for $40.00. Ms. Rousmaniere thanked Mayor Keebler for the Proclamation proclaiming Sunday, April 22, 2012 as 'Freedom Fund Banquet Day'.

Mr. Bogard advised he received a legislative update from OKI and noted congress extended the transportation bill for another three months. Mr. Bogard advised it appeared it would be after the election before congress would consider a 6 year bill. Mr. Bogard advised there was also a presentation made at the OKI meeting by Candice McGraw who was the CEO of the Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky International Airport. Mr. Bogard noted her staff was doing all they could to bring in low cost carriers. Mr. Bogard advised DHL was expanding at the airport to create 800 jobs. Mr. Bogard noted the Cincinnati portion of DHL was one of three worldwide.

Mr. Bogard advised the Butler County Transportation Improvement District on which he served, appointed a new Director upon the retirement of Ron Porter. Mr. Bogard noted David Spinney was appointed as the Director and was also the Director of the TID in Clermont County. Mr. Bogard advised Mr. Spinney was previously the Clermont County Administrator and came highly recommended for the position.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bogard moved to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.