A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 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. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rousmaniere requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

REQUEST FOR USE OF PARK
COALITION FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Ms. Sharon Klein, Director of Community Wellness, McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital/TriHealth, advised she was in attendance on behalf of the Coalition for a Healthy Community Oxford Area to request for the 4th year to hold "Yoga in the Park" in the Uptown Memorial Park. Ms. Klein noted the group received multiple requests to extend the event and offer it from June 23rd until September 29th on Saturday mornings. Ms. Klein advised the group worked with Jessica Greene to hold some of the sessions at Lewis Place when there are conflicts in the Memorial Park.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if the event would occur in some of the townships. Ms. Klein advised one of the group's goals through the Thriving Community grant was to make sure all of the townships in the Talawanda School District were included and this year they would offer yoga classes in Darrtown and in Reily as well as at the Uptown Park. Ms. Klein noted if the program is well received in Darrtown and in Reily it would be extended to other townships. Ms. Klein advised every year participation has increased and last year between 50 and 65 people participated each Saturday.

Ms. Southard noted the Yoga participants would have an opportunity to visit the Oxford Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings.

Ms. Klein discussed the upcoming Walking Challenge and the upcoming Fresh Air Fair.

Ms. Southard moved to approve the Yoga in the Park event for 2018. Ms. Raghu seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Meagan Holloway-Ragland, Emerson Hall, Miami University, advised she was in attendance with her Journalism 201 Class with Professor Newberry. Ms. Holloway-Ragland noted the students were currently learning how to write stories about public meetings and they were observing tonight's Council meeting to report on the happenings of the session.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the March 20, 2018 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the March 13, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the March 15, 2018 Recreation Board Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Report regarding the March 21, 2018 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

RESOLUTION
SALVAGE VEHICLES

A Resolution No. 6070 authorizing the sale of salvaged, junk and/or abandoned motor vehicles. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Mr. Ellerbe moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
ACCEPT GIFT

A Resolution No. 6071 to accept the gift of a new playground structure from McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital/TriHealth to be installed at the Leonard Hall Park on Bonham Road in the City of Oxford. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Mr. Wooddell noted Sharon Klein from McCullough-Hyde was instrumental in the proposed Resolution. Mr. Wooddell advised the Parks and Recreation Department focused on Park Revitalization projects, Merry Day Park last year and the Leonard Howell Park this year. Mr. Wooddell noted the project for this Saturday at Leonard Howell has been postponed due to weather to April 28, 2018. Mr. Wooddell advised the Miami Athletes were on board with the new date.

Mr. Wooddell noted as this project was being planned Ms. Klein learned that the Leonard Howell Park had a playground structure until it was dismantled and disposed of due to its poor condition. Mr. Wooddell advised Ms. Klein requested funding assistance from the hospital for a new playground structure and the request was approved. Mr. Wooddell advised staff was very grateful for the assistance and looked forward to designing and installing the new structure.

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

Ms. Southard advised Leonard Howell Park was important because it was next to the first leg of the OATS trail. Ms. Southard noted she felt the revitalization of the park was going to be very much in tandem with the trail.

Mr. Prytherch inquired what features the playground structure would have. Mr. Wooddell advised staff was still working with the playground vendor to determine what can be purchased with the allotted funds. Mr. Wooddell noted staff was confident something very suitable could be purchased although it would not be as large or extravagant as the structure at the Community Park. Mr. Wooddell advised he felt the Leonard Howell Park would be a great stopping point along the trail or a great trail-head location. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt it was wonderful to have a centralized park that has all the amenities and it was also nice to have amenities distributed throughout the community. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the partnerships with McCullough-Hyde and the Coalition for a Healthy Community were incredible.

Ms. Southard acknowledged the City for the recent restoration of the Black Bridge to make it safe for pedestrians and bicyclists on Bonham Road noting it revitalized the whole area.

Mr. Wooddell thanked McCullough-Hyde and noted there were other partners including Gilman's, Shademakers and other local vendors who were providing or donating materials for the park revitalization projects.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired what the revitalization would consist of. Mr. Wooddell advised landscaping, digging out and adding gravel, painting, planting a tree for Arbor Day, adding benches and picnic tables and sprucing up the areas.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 6071. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
SALE OF ALCOHOL ON
CITY PROPERTY

A Resolution authorizing the sale of alcoholic beverages in the Oxford Memorial Park for the Butler County United Way 2018-2019 Community Campaign kick-off event. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mayor Rousmaniere advised the United Way representatives were unable to be in attendance this evening and asked for a motion to table the proposed Resolution until the April 17, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Dana moved to table the proposed Resolution until the April 17, 2018 Council meeting. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
AGREEMENT WITH
SPECTRUM ENTERPRISE

A Resolution No. 6072 accepting the proposal and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Spectrum Enterprise to provide internet access to the City's remote sites at an estimated cost of $2,294.98 per month. (Kim Newton, Assistant to the City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised the City requested proposals to provide internet access and local and long distance telephone service to the City and Police Administration buildings and the City's remote sites. Mr. Elliott noted staff advertised for proposals in February and received three proposals. Mr. Elliott advised staff reviewed the proposals and felt the blend of Cincinnati Bell and Spectrum Enterprise provided the best and lowest proposal. Mr. Elliott noted the total estimated monthly cost for Spectrum's internet service to the remote sites is $2,294.98. Mr. Elliott advised there was a separate Resolution on the agenda for the Cincinnati Bell internet fiber connection to the City/Police and Administration Buildings and phone service to all of the locations. Mr. Elliott noted the Spectrum proposal was a three year contract with a two year renewal option. Mr. Elliott advised the total annual cost savings with the two proposals over the present contract is approximately $9,249 per year. Mr. Elliot noted this Resolution was to provide internet access to the City's remote sites such as the Tri Building, Water Treatment Plant, Street Department, etc.

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

Mr. Prytherch referred to the table on page 46 of Council's packet and asked for clarification regarding the column headings which Mr. Elliott addressed.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 6072. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
AGREEMENT WITH
CINCINNATI BELL

A Resolution No. 6073 accepting the proposal and authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Cincinnati Bell to provide internet access to the City/Police Administrative Building and local and long distance telephone service to the City/Police Administrative Building and remote sites at an estimated cost of $2,128.53 per month. (Kim Newton, Assistant to the City Manager)

Mr. Elliott reiterated that the proposed Resolution was for internet access for two buildings and telephone service for all sites.

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

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 6073. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH
EMPIRE BUILDING

A Resolution No. 6074 accepting the bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Empire Building Company for the renovation of the City owned structure at 101 E. High Street including the base bid and alternates Number M1 through M4 at a cost of $3,743,500.00 plus contingency amount of ten percent (10%) of the contract price or $374,350.00 for a total cost not to exceed $4,117,850.00. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised in June of 2017 the City received bids for the renovation of the Lane Library building and the Municipal Building. Mr. Dreisbach noted at that time the bids came in very high for the existing Municipal Building and staff decided to issue a contract to renovate the Lane building and to rebid the Municipal Building. Mr. Dreisbach advised that has been done and the City received 4 bids with Empire Building Company being the lowest bidder. Mr. Dreisbach advised with the rebid under revised specifications (roof and windows) there was a savings of $491,000. Mr. Dreisbach noted the Lane building was 95% complete and the furnishings should be delivered soon. Mr. Dreisbach advised the City Manager's suite, Economic Development, Community Development and Public Services will be moving to the Lane Building and the existing Municipal building will be solely used by the Police Division.

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

Mr. Dana asked Mr. Dreisbach to speak to the issue of references for Empire Building Company. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff spoke to officials at Miami University where Empire has done work and they have acceptable references there as well as past architects that have worked at Miami. Mr. Dreisbach noted Empire has done numerous public projects for universities and government buildings and staff had no reason to believe they would not do a good job for the City of Oxford.

Mr. Dreisbach displayed diagrams of the proposed renovation of the existing Municipal Building for the Police Division. Mr. Dreisbach noted one of the greatest improvements for the building will be the addition of a three landing elevator. Mr. Dreisbach advised the proposed contract is for the building only and there will be other costs for furnishings, access control, video surveillance and things of that nature. Mr. Dreisbach noted the current budget appropriation does not fully fund the proposed contract and Council's approval of the proposed contract will require approval of the supplemental appropriation Ordinance on tonight's agenda for second reading.

Mr. Prytherch referred to page 55 of Council's packet and asked Mr. Dreisbach to explain Alternate #M3. Mr. Dreisbach advised there was a standard basis of design and in order to encourage competition staff did not want to specify a certain window. Mr. Dreisbach noted the City would get the best high quality historically accurate window available and should the City have to use the window specified that would be the upcharge using that alternate. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff would work with the contractor to find an acceptable substitute and not have to spend that money.

Mr. Prytherch inquired who was responsible for over-seeing the project.

Mr. Dreisbach advised the bid was based on drawings and specifications and if there was an unforeseen circumstance the City is responsible for those charges. Mr. Dreisbach noted the Service Department will manage the contract and things beyond staff's expertise would be hired out for special inspections.

Ms. Southard asked staff to explain for the public where the money was coming from to pay for the renovations. Mr. Dreisbach advised the money was coming from the General Fund balance noting through Mr. Newlin's and Mr. Elliott's guidance and expertise they have been saving for a number of years for this project. Mr. Dreisbach advised the City had been planning for this project for the last 20 years and it was finally coming to fruition.

Mr. Dana inquired to what extent the General Fund was at any kind of risk. Mr. Elliott advised there were two ways to fund a project, borrow the money and pay it back over time or pay it all at once and the City was paying for this project all at once. Mr. Elliott advised the General Fund balance was reduced dramatically and the projects had been planned for a number of years. Mr. Elliott noted the City intended to issue debt to pay for the aquatic center and the hope was that the debt service will be approximately the same as the debt service coming off in 2019 for the existing Community Park.

Mr. Prytherch advised this was a historic moment for the City of Oxford and it reflects choices made by Council to commit to an Uptown location for both municipal services and police operations. Mr. Prytherch noted the City was renovating and restoring a historic structure and purchased the former Lane Library which could have become a four story apartment building but instead the City will maintain all services Uptown. Mr. Prytherch advised anyone who has visited the Police Station knows they have been operating in really tough conditions for a really long time and he felt it was wonderful that they would have a state of the art facility.

Mr. Dana advised the financial planning for the projects had been very solid.

Ms. Southard congratulated everyone for doing a good job of planning for the new facilities.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 6074. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
PROPERTY & CASUALTY
INSURANCE

A Resolution No. 6075 accepting the bid of Insurance Specialist Group, Inc., DBA Love Insurance Partners for the City's property and casualty insurance coverage for 2018. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised the City obtained a 3 year rate guarantee which increased less than 1% over last year's rate for property, casualty and liability insurance that goes along with having a police force, fire department and City staff. Mr. Newlin noted he felt this was a good rate and recommended Council's approval.

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

Mr. Dana noted he felt the City was well protected by the facts Mr. Newlin presented.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 6075. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCE
SECOND READING
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3467 Amending Ordinance No. 3449. Supplemental Budget Ordinance No. 2 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2018. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin discussed his staff report as presented on pages 62-63 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

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. 3467. Mr. Smith 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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott referred to the Work Session this evening regarding a proposed Public Arts Commission of Oxford and advised he would work with Ms. Southard and others to bring forth the enabling legislation.

Mr. Elliott reminded everyone the OATS levy was on the May 8, 2018 ballot as Issue 2.

Mr. Wooddell advised a project will take place this weekend at the dog park noting a group of architect students from Miami had worked very hard on the initiative. Mr. Wooddell advised the students were going to build an obstacle course for dogs with the assistance of a local construction mentor. Mr. Wooddell noted the work would be done Sunday April 8th and Sunday April 15th from 11-6 and there would be no cost to the City.

Mr. Kyger reported on the merchant/restaurant meeting held last week hosted by the City, Enjoy Oxford and the Chamber of Commerce noting it was well attended.

Ms. Eaton asked Councilors to let her know if they file their financial disclosures on line so the City can reimburse them for the fee. Ms. Eaton noted the due date was May 15, 2018.

Ms. Raghu advised a group of people met Uptown recently to discuss sexual assault noting most everyone knows someone who has been a victim of it or has been a victim themselves. Ms. Raghu advised she was shocked to hear about the way it was handled through the Oxford Police Division. Ms. Raghu noted people said they were met with judgement or the questions they were asked discredited what they were trying to report. Ms. Raghu advised even in the most benign sense if there was no mal-intent from the officer towards the victim the way that was communicated was inappropriate. Ms. Raghu noted she had complete faith in Chief Jones to try to hash it out and make sure that victims don't feel like that. Mayor Rousmaniere inquired what meeting Ms. Ragu was referring to. Ms. Raghu advised it was a protest and women were brave enough to talk about their experiences and some felt they were being brushed under the rug. Ms. Raghu noted if women were brave enough to approach police services to pursue a criminal investigation they should be allowed that justice.

Chief Jones advised OPD took sexual assault very seriously and noted a detective was at a trial today for a sexual assault that occurred and OPD prosecuted. Chief Jones noted it was a challenging topic sometimes and OPD has to ask hard questions because defense attorneys are going to ask the hard questions. Chief Jones advised OPD was very victim driven and they let the victim guide where it goes in the criminal justice process. Chief Jones noted OPD worked with Women Helping Women and members of the Women Helping Women group have attended Police Community Relation and Review Commission meetings and OPD has established relationships with sexual assault advocates. Chief Jones advised if anyone has an issue or feels they were mistreated they could contact the Police Community Relations and Review Commission or they could talk to him directly. Chief Jones noted sometimes the criminal justice system can't make someone whole and OPD makes referrals outside of the criminal justice system. Chief Jones advised he felt OPD did their best to work well with sexual assault victims and OPD diligently sent officers to training for sexual assault investigation. Chief Jones noted OPD would continue to investigate those crimes the best they could and with empathy.

Mr. Ellerbe noted he wanted to answer some technical questions raised on social media regarding an Ordinance Council adopted pertaining to the levy on the May 8th ballot. Mr. Ellerbe advised the levy was only going to last 10 years and then it would end. Mr. Ellerbe noted there may be legislation that could extend it but as it is written it will end. Mr. Ellerbe reiterated it was a 10 year levy at 3.25 mils. Mr. McHugh advised any legislation to extend the levy will have to be voted on by the electors as a new levy.

Mr. Kyger advised there had been no discussion by Council to extend the proposed levy and Mayor Rousmaniere noted the ten year levy should raise all of the money needed for the trail.

Mr. Dana noted he was grateful that the Student Community Relations Commission was working on many of the same issues as Council was working on such as Town/Gown relations, health and wellness, communication, transportation, affordable housing and joint City and university planning.

Ms. Southard advised last Tuesday the Coalition for a Healthy Community celebrated its 20 year anniversary and noted it was a great event. Ms. Southard congratulated the organizers of the event noting the coalition tried to help make our community the healthiest it can be.

Ms. Southard thanked everyone for the PACO Work Session this evening and noted Council agreed they would like to see enabling legislation to establish the Public Arts Commission of Oxford to encourage more public art in the community.

Ms. Southard advised the Recreation Board on which she serves will meet on April 19th and she looked forward to hearing about the bids for a new aquatic center which was a project that would very much enhance the City.

Mr. Prytherch noted some meetings were more fun than others noting the City had to manage some things very carefully such as new facilities, financial management and good planning. Mr. Prytherch advised sometimes the City was enabling and was the catalyst for what citizens want to do such as create the PACO. Mr. Prytherch noted it was fun to see the good role the City can have in managing its own affairs and also in helping the community achieve its goals.

Mayor Rousmaniere reminded everyone of the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet on Sunday at 5:00 p.m. at the Shriver Center noting the keynote speaker was Dr. Tammy Kernodle, Professor of Musicology at Miami University. Mayor Rousmaniere noted a number of City staff and Councilors would be in attendance and tickets were still available. Mayor Rousmaniere advised it was a great community event and all of the money raised goes to college scholarships for Talawanda students.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised she wanted Councilors to save the date of June 14th for the visit to Oxford from the Buckeye Boys State noting it was the 2nd year for Buckeye Boys State to visit Miami Oxford. Mayor Rousmaniere advised 400 boys would participate in a Walk Audit that day and Ms. Greene of Enjoy Oxford was helping to plan the event.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised last week the Chamber of Commerce sponsored a meeting with a lot of the Chinese business owners to try to get them involved with the Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Rousmaniere noted there were 12-14 Chinese restaurants in town.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted at the next meeting she would like Council members to report on some of the strategic priorities that Council discussed at their Retreat in January.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.