

A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Kate Currie, Bob Blackburn, John Harman and Kevin McKeehan. Greig Rutherford was excused.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Steve Schwein, Police Chief; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Ms. Kathy Dale, City Planner; Ms. Donna Heck, Human Resources Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Community Development Director; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Blackburn moved to adjourn to Executive Session immediately in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(4) for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining strategies. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Mr. Harman, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Keebler (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McKeehan moved to return from Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keebler called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bogard moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Currie seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION

'MATT CICCONE DAY'

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Matt Ciccone.

Mr. Matt Ciccone, Secretary, Off Campus Affairs, advised he would not have this award if it weren't for the people he worked with every day and noted he told interviewers whether new students or potential employers that he changed for the better because of the things he did at Miami University.

Mr. Ciccone advised the most significant thing he did was become the Secretary for Off Campus Affairs where he was able to work with Council and the previous Council. Mr. Ciccone noted he couldn't have done his job without the help of two people, the first one being Bobbe Burke, whose dedication to the City of Oxford and Miami University was unparalleled and when she decided to hang up her hat everyone would be scrambling to find someone to fill her shoes. Mr. Ciccone advised Ms. Burke made it so the Secretary for Off Campus Affairs would never fail. Mr. Ciccone thanked Sergeant Jim Squance noting whenever he needed Sergeant Squance to be a voice for the community or for the Police Department he was always there unselfishly. Mr. Ciccone noted Sergeant Squance's presence on the Student Community Relations Commission made his time in Oxford so memorable. Mr. Ciccone advised the day that was named for him wasn't really 'Matt Ciccone Day' as much as it was Bobbe Burke, Jim Squance and ASG Executive Cabinet Day. Mr. Ciccone thanked all of the people in the audience who were present to support him noting they had all impacted his life in an incredible way. Mr. Ciccone advised he would introduce his successor this evening who would hopefully continue the initiatives that had been built this year.

PROCLAMATION
'NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH'

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Mike Smith, Chair, Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission.

Ms. Laura Henderson, Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission, thanked Council for the Proclamation noting the commission appreciated Council's support. Ms. Henderson advised the HACP would conduct historic tours every Saturday in May and noted the tour on May 7th would include the Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church and the Seminary Building, the tour on the 14th would cover East High Street, the tour on the 21st would cover the University Historic District including an interior tour of Lewis Place and the tour on the 28th would cover West High Street. Ms. Henderson noted the commission submitted a photo of Lewis Place with President and Mrs. Hodge in front to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 'This Place Counts' campaign. Ms. Henderson advised the picture would appear in the Oxford Press this week along with a press release. Ms. Henderson encouraged everyone to call the Oxford Visitors and Convention Bureau to make reservations for the tour of Lewis Place since space was limited.

Mr. Mike Smith, Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission, advised Council received a flyer regarding the HAPC's Open House and Awards Ceremony which would take place on May 16, 2011 noting the commission would recognize two historic properties this year. Mr. Smith noted Heritage Ohio would give a short but nice presentation using a model of a building they developed to illustrate the phases a historic property could go through in terms of change. Mr. Smith invited everyone to attend the Open House and Historic Tours and thanked Council for their support.

Ms. Henderson thanked Kathy Dale for her assistance with the initiative.

Mr. Kyger thanked Mr. Smith, Ms. Henderson and Ms. Dale for their efforts on HAPC and for being proactive by going to the Uptown business owners and showing them pre-approved paint colors for the Historic District. Mr. Kyger noted the business owners appreciated that effort and some re-painting and renovation may not have occurred otherwise.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Matt Ciccone, Secretary, Off Campus Affairs, introduced Kevin Livingston who had been an Off-Campus Senator for two years and had participated in all of the Walk-About programs and attended various Student Community Relations Commission meetings. Mr. Ciccone advised Mr. Livingston won the position of Secretary, Off Campus Affairs for the next school year and noted his feeling Kevin would do a great job.

Mr. Kevin Livingston, advised Mr. Ciccone had done a great job helping him transition into the position of Secretary for Off Campus Affairs and for making it a very seamless process. Mr. Livingston noted his hope the Office of Off Campus Affairs would hit the ground running next school year and continue the excellent work Mr. Ciccone had done.

Mr. Matt Ciccone, Secretary, Off Campus Affairs, introduced Mr. Walt Wollet who participated in the Greek Spring Clean event last weekend.

Mr. Walt Wollet, Vice President of Community Service and Philanthropy, Interfraternity Council, advised last Saturday over 250 volunteers helped the community by serving over 18 organizations during the Greek Spring Clean event. Mr. Wollet noted despite the weather the turnout was very good. Mr. Wollet noted a pilot program for a Spring Clean event off campus would be looked at for next year. Mr. Wollet advised Sorority Life held their Dying to Give Back event which brought in over 1,000 pounds of canned food and raised \$1,000 for the Oxford Community Choice Pantry. Mr. Wollet thanked Council for their time and noted the Greek Community wanted to continue their work for the betterment of Miami University and the City of Oxford.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 5, 2011 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the April 6, 2011 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

RESOLUTION **CITY AUCTION**

A Resolution No. 4602 declaring certain surplus City property no longer needed for any municipal purpose and authorizing its advertisement and sale to the highest bidder at public auction. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Ms. Currie moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Bogard seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

None.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

FRANCHISE
GLENWOOD ENERGY

An Ordinance No. 3146 Granting Glenwood Energy Of Oxford, Inc., An Ohio Corporation, Its Successors And Assigns, A Franchise For A Period Of Twenty-Five Years To Enter Upon The Streets, Avenues, Alleys, Bridges And Public Places Of The City Of Oxford, Ohio As The Same May Now Exist Or May Hereafter Be Expanded, And Therein To Lay, Relay, Extend, Maintain And Operate A System Of Pipes, Valves And Other Equipment And Appurtenances For The Distribution Of Gas; And to Distribute And Sell Gas To The City And To The Public For Heat, Fuel Or Any Other Purpose; And To Generate And Maintain A Gas Plant, Storage Facilities And Vaporizing Or Control Stations For Gas; And Making Rules And Regulations Governing The Maintenance And Operation Of The System And Providing Penalties For Their Violation. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Elliott advised the proposed Ordinance was a franchise agreement with Glenwood Energy as the current Franchise Agreement would expire during the term of the proposed agreement in the next Ordinance on the agenda.

Ms. Currie moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3146. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Mr. Harman, Mr. Keebler (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
GAS RATES/GLENWOOD ENERGY

An Ordinance No. 3147 to Regulate The Rates And Charges To Be Charged And Collected And The Services To Be Rendered By Glenwood Energy Of Oxford, Inc., Its Successors And Assigns, For Gas And Gas Service Furnished To All Of Its Customers Within The Corporate

Limits Of The City Of Oxford During The Period Ending May 31, 2014, And Repealing And Superseding Ordinance No. 2896, Which Previously Regulated The Rates, Charges, And Terms And Conditions Of Service Of The Oxford Natural Gas Company And, Thereafter, Its Successor Glenwood Energy Of Oxford, Inc., As Modified By The September 19, 2007 Order Of The Public Utilities Commission Of Ohio In Its Case No. 06-350-GA-CMR. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Elliott advised this issue was discussed at length at an earlier meeting and the proposed rates would be effective June 1, 2011. Mr. Elliott offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Keebler advised the gas rate Ordinance was discussed at length at a Work Session which was broadcasted. Mayor Keebler noted Council felt this was a fair rate structure as recommended by the City's consultants and the Law Director.

Mr. McKeehan moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3147. Mr. Bogard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Mr. Harman, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Keebler (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
PAY BAND ADJUSTMENT

An Ordinance No. 3148 Amending Salary Ordinance No. 3133, Attachment A. City Of Oxford Pay Bands (2011). (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

Ms. Currie moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Harman seconded.

Ms. Heck advised Council had two versions of the proposed Ordinance in front of them, one that increased the minimum and maximum pay band rates and one that only increased the maximum pay band rates. Ms. Heck noted if Council wanted to discuss the Salary Ordinance in detail tonight they could try to cover some of it, or a Work Session could be scheduled to cover the entire Salary Ordinance and how the pay bands were initially established.

Mayor Keebler noted he still had some problems understanding the pay bands, market analysis, market midpoint, and starting people 10% under the market midpoint. Mayor Keebler advised he felt it would be excellent to schedule a Work Session before the 2012 Budget Work Sessions took place to discuss how this process worked. Mayor Keebler noted concern with raising the minimum and maximum pay band rates by 9% and advised he understood the need to raise the maximum pay band rates because of an issue found during a recent audit. Mayor Keebler noted concern with raising the minimum pay band rate and potentially raising the salary of new employees and creating compression against what the markets were. Mayor Keebler suggested that Council substitute the original version of the Ordinance for the one that only increased the maximum pay band rates.

Ms. Currie withdrew her original motion. Mr. Harman withdrew his second.

Ms. Currie moved to substitute the original Ordinance with the version that only increased the maximum pay band rates. Mr. Harman seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Ms. Currie moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3148 as substituted. Mr. Harman seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Mr. Harman, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Keebler (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Keebler advised Council received an official communication from the Secretary of State of Ohio which by law must be read into the record as follows:

‘By authority of the Secretary of State of Ohio – Proclamation

As a result of the Federal Census of Two Thousand Ten for the State of Ohio and the various political subdivisions having been officially made known to me, I, Jon Husted, Secretary of State of the State of Ohio, complying with the provisions of the Section 703.06 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, do hereby make proclamation that the municipality of Oxford in Butler County, Ohio according to said Federal Census of Two Thousand Ten has a population of 21,371 and shall, from and after thirty days from date of this proclamation be known as a CITY by virtue of and in accordance with said Section 703.06 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio.’

DISCUSSION

Overnight Parking Restrictions.

Mayor Keebler advised he asked the Oxford Parking and Transportation Advisory Board (OPTAB) to look into the issue of extending the overnight parking prohibition to all meters within the City and the City Manager provided Council with a Staff Summary Report regarding the issue.

Mr. Elliott advised the issue of extending the overnight parking prohibition to include all parking meters in the Oxford parking meter system was discussed at the OPTAB meeting and although a quorum was not present the discussion was favorable. Mr. Elliott noted the OPTAB did receive feedback from the members who were not present. Mr. Elliott asked for Council’s feedback regarding the issue.

Mayor Keebler advised right now there was no overnight parking on High Street from Campus to College, on Park Place and in Lot 52 which enabled someone to leave a car elsewhere from 5:00 p.m. on Saturday until 9:00 a.m. Monday. Mayor Keebler noted church goers were having more and more trouble finding parking places on Sundays.

Mayor Keebler advised Council could expand the area to include College, Campus Church and Walnut Streets or just prohibit overnight parking at all meters which would allow more parking places for those who wished to visit Uptown. Mayor Keebler noted if Council was willing he would like to see a Resolution on the next agenda.

Mr. Blackburn noted this would allow for better plowing, street sweeping and leaf removal.

Mr. Bogard inquired if any studies were done to determine if the same vehicle owners were taking advantage of the parking spots. Mr. Bogard advised he would like to see data before Council adopted a Resolution that supported having all parking meters included in the overnight prohibition.

Mayor Keebler requested staff to conduct an analysis of the situation including Campus Avenue on a Sunday morning before the school year was over.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised for the public that on Wednesday the City received an informal petition against the rerouting of US-27 onto Chestnut Street and Main Street or Locust Streets. Mr. Elliott noted the petition was submitted by Carol Michael and it was against the project in general. Mr. Elliott advised the petition did not represent a formal referendum petition since it did not follow City Charter, State Statutory or Ohio Constitutional provisions. Mr. Elliott noted the 600 plus signatories had residences in Oxford, Oxford Township and surrounding areas. Mr. Elliott advised the petition was available for public inspection in the Clerk of Council's Office. Mr. Elliott advised once the City received the final report on the project from the consultants, Council could decide what the next action should be.

Mr. Elliott advised the Talawanda School Board held a Work Session on April 11, 2011 and discussed 7-8 alternatives for the reuse of the present Talawanda High School. Mr. Elliott noted due to the uncertainty of funding for a new Kramer Elementary School the number one option was for the School District to maintain ownership of the present High School and consider short-term leases to community organizations including the City for portions of the building. Mr. Elliott advised the City had no use for a short-term lease unless a recreational opportunity was a viable option.

Ms. Brahier advised the Parks and Recreation Department would hold two Easter Egg Hunts, one on Thursday at dark on the Tri grounds and one on Saturday at 12:00 p.m. at the Oxford Community Park. Ms. Brahier thanked the Kiwanis and LaRosa's for their donations for the event.

Ms. Brahier updated everyone on the recent Adidas Blue Chip Soccer Showcases which were held in part at the Oxford Community Park.

Ms. Brahier advised a Memorial Tree Ceremony would take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at the Oxford Community Park at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Kyger noted the Community Development Director had knee surgery last week and was doing well. Mr. Kyger advised Mr. Chen planned to be back to work soon.

Mr. McHugh advised the Clerk of the Board of Butler County Commissioners received the annexation petition for the right-of-way the City needed to install a traffic light at University Park Boulevard. Mr. McHugh noted his hope the Commissioners would approve the annexation with the next week to ten days.

Ms. Currie thanked the Parks and Recreation Department staff for preparing 7,000 Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Ms. Currie reminded Council that the Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) would like to hold a Joint Work Session to discuss their recommendation to require a waste wheeler tote for all residential customers in the Mile Square. Ms. Currie noted the HAC would like to have this program in place before the next school year.

Ms. Currie noted the Kinetics Festival held on April 9, 2011 was a smashing success and she was delighted that so many people found the rain location at the Community Arts Center. Ms. Currie advised the race portion of the event was rescheduled for August 28, 2011 due to rain.

Mr. Harman encouraged those who have not participated in the HAC sponsored Historic Tours to do so noting they were a lot of fun. Mr. Harman encouraged citizens to mark their calendars for every Saturday in May beginning May 7th and noted the tours began at 10:30 a.m. at the Oxford Visitors and Convention Bureau and lasted an hour to an hour and a half.

Mr. Blackburn advised the Oxford Cemetery Association needed volunteers to place flags on the graves of people who served in the Armed Services for Memorial Day. Mr. Blackburn noted the scheduled date was May 25th and a rain date was set for May 26th. Mr. Blackburn advised he would let everyone know the exact time.

Mr. Bogard advised a group from OKI went to talk to respective Senators and Representatives to update them on what was happening in this metropolitan area with regard to transportation and to make them aware of the need for funding for the Brent Spence Bridge which needed to be replaced.

Mr. Bogard advised in his travels to Cincinnati and even on US-27 he had noticed yellow brackets around traffic lights. Mayor Keebler advised they were the result of a new federal mandate. Mr. Bogard inquired if the City of Oxford would acquire any of the brackets. Mr. Elliott advised staff would look into the issue.

Mr. Bogard advised Council passed an Ordinance to adjust parking meter rates in high density parking areas and requested a report regarding the effect of the Ordinance financially and otherwise.

Mr. Bogard advised in November representatives from the Farmers Market inquired if their vendors could obtain parking passes for the next market season and to date there had been no answer to that request. Mr. Bogard inquired if the OPTAB could look into the issue. Mr. Kyger noted he was not a member of that board but he did attend the meetings. Mr. Kyger advised at the last meeting David Prytherch brought some goals and objectives forward regarding the matter but a quorum was not present so the issue would be discussed again at the next meeting.

Mr. Kyger noted it was difficult for a quorum to meet and Council may want to look at the representation on the board to see if any adjustments should be made. Mr. Bogard noted the Farmers Market would begin the first of May.

Mr. Elliott asked for Council's input on the issue of waste wheelers being required in the Mile Square. Ms. Currie advised the HAC recommended that waste wheeler totes would be required as part of new utility service. Mayor Keebler advised he thought the Service Department and Community Development Department were working with the HAC to prepare implementation recommendations and a list of potential problems.

Mayor Keebler advised a Council/Manager Retreat needed to be scheduled in June and asked Council to let him know if June 9th, 13th or 16th would not work for them.

Ms. Currie noted the unexpected passing of Oxford business owner Bill Berry.

ADJOURN

Ms. Currie moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Mr. Bogard seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.