

A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, May 1, 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. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

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

PRESENTATION

TALAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ms. Amy Macechko, 37 Jeffrey Drive, advised she was the Health and Wellness Coordinator for the Talawanda School District and the Project Coordinator for the Coalition for a Healthy Community in the Oxford area. Ms. Macechko thanked Council for the opportunity to present some of the ways the community sectors were joining together through the work of the Coalition for a Healthy Community to engage in multiple strategies to help create a healthy community for everyone to live in. Ms. Macechko noted she addressed Council last fall regarding the 'Plant the Promise' program and advised many Talawanda and Miami students planted over 3,000 red tulip bulbs in the City in honor of 'Red Ribbon Week' to promote the value of living a drug free lifestyle. Ms. Macechko noted this spring the tulips were in full bloom to remind everyone of the promise the community made to support young people and their decisions to make healthy choices. Ms. Macechko thanked all of the individuals who planted the tulip bulbs and those who allowed the students to plant the promise on their property, at their facility or at their business. Ms. Macechko gave special thanks to many landlords who were part of the program for the first time and noted she believed it truly enhanced the program and she looked forward to expanding the program next year with them. Ms. Macechko advised the Talawanda High School Youth Initiative Team was instrumental in the 'Plant the Promise' program and they worked on multiple projects throughout the year to promote the value of living a drug free life. Ms. Macechko noted she invited Elizabeth Ector, Talawanda High School senior member of the Youth Initiative Team and senior co-chair to share information about projects they were engaged in this spring.

Ms. Elizabeth Ector, advised she was a senior at Talawanda High School and co-chair of the Youth Initiative Team. Ms. Ector noted the team promoted healthy lifestyles and alternatives to drug and alcohol use by planning for school events such as sports tournaments, dances and game nights.

Ms. Ector advised the team volunteered in the community and educated their peers about the dangers of drug and alcohol use. Ms. Ector discussed the team's initiatives including the 'Step-Out Campaign' and the prom season initiative where 4th and 5th graders wrote letters to juniors and seniors about staying safe on prom night. Ms. Ector noted the team provided decals to businesses around town and asked the businesses to partner with them for a healthy and safe community. Ms. Ector noted the team hosted a 'Cookies with Cops' event which Chief Holzworth attended and the team apprised him of what they were doing. Ms. Ector advised the team also partnered with 'Parents Who Host Lose the Most' and sent letters to the parents of juniors and seniors who were attending the prom encouraging them not to host parties and to keep the students safe on prom night. Ms. Ector noted the letter also told the parents how much the students appreciated them and respected them and how much they cared about their peers.

Ms. Amy Macechko, noted the Youth Initiative Team was an active force amongst the student body and they were excellent role models for the rest of the students. Ms. Macechko advised the Talawanda School District was once again awarded a mini-grant from the Drug Free Action Alliance to promote the 'Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don't be a party to teenage drinking campaign and their message was very simple 'It's unhealthy, unsafe and unacceptable for anyone under the age of 21 to consume alcohol'. Ms. Macechko noted through this program Talawanda was able to collaborate with the Oxford Police Department, the Oxford Township Police Department and the Butler County Sheriff and they would provide additional party patrols on the nights of Prom and graduation. Ms. Macechko advised the local law enforcement agencies were strongly committed to ensure the health and safety of the community and its young people and the Talawanda School District and the Coalition for a Healthy Community were very thankful for that. Ms. Macechko thanked the City for its support on behalf of the Talawanda School District and the Coalition for a Health Community and noted together everyone would continue to make Oxford a healthier community for all.

Mayor Keebler thanked Ms. Macechko and Ms. Ector for their leadership in this area noting it was a very important part of the community. Mayor Keebler advised Council was glad to receive their report this evening.

PROCLAMATION
'PARENTS WHO HOST
LOSE THE MOST'

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Amy Macechko and Ms. Elizabeth Ector.

PROCLAMATION
'NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH'

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Mike Smith, Chair, of Oxford's Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission and Ms. Valerie Elliott of the Smith Library of Regional History.

Mr. Mike Smith, thanked Mayor Keebler and Council for the Proclamation and noted the HAPC appreciated their continued support for historic preservation. Mr. Smith noted he was pleased to announce the commission had received 4 applications so far this year for the Historic Marker program. Mr. Smith advised Ms. Elliott would address the full slate of guided walking tours scheduled for the month of May.

Ms. Valerie Elliott, noted she was pleased to announce that every Saturday in May starting at 10:30 a.m. there would be guided walking tours of various areas of Oxford's historic districts. Ms. Elliott noted this was the 4th year in a row the event had taken place and this year 3 of the 4 tours would focus on the university historic district rather than the uptown historic district as was done in the past. Ms. Elliott advised the tours were sponsored by the HAPC with assistance from the Oxford Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Smith Library of Regional History and the McGuffey Museum. Ms. Elliott noted this year for the first time each of the tours would have an interior opportunity for people to view some of the houses they would be walking past. Ms. Elliott thanked Council for their support and invited them to participate in the tours.

Mayor Keebler thanked Mr. Smith and Ms. Elliott for their reports.

PROCLAMATION **'NALC FOOD DRIVE DAY'**

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Steve Dana, Board President, Oxford Community Choice Pantry.

Mr. Steve Dana, acknowledged on behalf of the Oxford Community Choice Pantry the support of the Mayor and all members of Council. Mr. Dana advised the letter carriers food drive was an essential piece of the effort the pantry used every year and they needed it and looked forward to it in order to meet the needs of those in the community who were food insecure.

Mr Dana noted a fundraiser for the food pantry would take place on June 30th in the Oxford Memorial Park. Mr. Dana advised local chefs would prepare box lunches with food from the Farmers Market and sell them at a very reasonable price to create goodwill and help the pantry.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Kevin Livingston, Secretary, Off-Campus Affairs, gave special thanks to Council noting they had been a great help to him throughout the year as he served as the Secretary for Off Campus Affairs. Mr. Livingston introduced his predecessor, Ari Frum.

Mr. Ari Frum, thanked Council for allowing him the opportunity to speak this evening. Mr. Frum advised he would be the Associated Student Government Secretary for Off-Campus Affairs for the next school year. Mr. Frum advised Oxford had become his home away from home over the past two years. Mr. Frum noted as a community that offered so much, he felt it was the students' responsibility to ensure that the opportunities remained available. Mr. Frum advised he, along with 24 dedicated off-campus senators were excited for the opportunity and looked forward to working with Council. Mr. Frum encouraged Council members to contact him with any questions or concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 17, 2012 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the April 10, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 18, 2012 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 25, 2012 Civil Service Commission Meeting. (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

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

ORDINANCE
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
CONDITIONAL USE

An Ordinance Approving A Conditional Use Permit To Allow A Fraternity House In The Single & Two-Family Mile Square Residential (R2MS) District At 301 E. Sycamore Street, Oxford, Ohio With One Condition. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised the conditional use application was for property located at 301 E. Sycamore Street which was on the southeast corner of Sycamore Street and University Avenue. Mr. Chen noted there were already several fraternity houses along Sycamore Street. Mr. Chen advised the applicant indicated in his written statement that there were no improvements or renovations proposed for the structure at this time. Mr. Chen noted the Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 10, reviewed each decision standard, and unanimously recommended approval of the request.

Mr. Scott Webb, Agent, advised the property at 301 E. Sycamore Street was located in the R2MS District and fraternity houses were only allowed in the R2MS and R3MS Districts at this time. Mr. Webb noted the building was a fraternity house in the 1970's and then it was converted into apartments. Mr. Webb advised now another fraternity was interested in buying the property. Mr. Webb advised sophomores were required to live on campus unless they were members of a fraternity sanctioned by Miami University. Mr. Webb noted before the fraternity had enough members or financing to buy the property they would rent half of the building for the first year and eventually expand into the entire structure.

Mr. Webb advised the notion of what it was like to live in a fraternity house was not what it once was. Mr. Webb noted almost none of the existing fraternity houses had full-time cooks and most students were on a meal plan at the university. Mr. Webb advised the proposed fraternity house had no common areas. Mr. Webb noted he felt this area was where the City intended fraternity houses to be located. Mr. Webb advised the City's Comprehensive Plan did not address fraternity houses directly but did speak to the issue of town/gown relationships and fraternities were important to Miami University. Mr. Webb noted there would be no changes to the permitted occupancy in terms of numbers and the rental permit would remain the same. Mr. Webb advised the number of parking spaces met the zoning code. Mr. Webb advised Zeta Beta Tau provided the following information on their members:

- Fraternity GPA was 3.02
- 75% of members were in the business program
- The National philanthropy was "Getting on the Ball" benefiting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, raising thousands of dollars every year
- Members of this fraternity include the student body Secretary of Academics, President of Miami Students for Israel, and a Presidential scholarship recipient
- Members volunteer at the Hillel Foundation about 3 hours a week

Mr. Webb noted his hope Council would approve the conditional use permit application at the next meeting.

Ms. Bobbe Burke, Coordinator, Off Campus Affairs, advised in the last several years it had been a challenge for newly formed fraternities to find a place to live together and have a positive experience. Ms. Burke noted this was a good example of a positive possibility for a new fraternity house in the district where other fraternity houses were located. Ms. Burke advised this fraternity was on campus when she was in school at Miami and they were re-colonizing and coming back. Ms. Burke noted this would give the fraternity the opportunity to put their best foot forward as they moved ahead and she hoped the proposed location would work out for them.

Mayor Keebler advised the Planning Commission voted 7-0-0 to recommend approval of the conditional use permit application. Mayor Keebler noted Ms. Burke's comments were similar to the thoughts and discussion at the Planning Commission meeting. Mayor Keebler advised the fact that the building was set-up as apartments was irrelevant due to the changes in fraternity life as Mr. Webb indicated in his comments. Mayor Keebler noted the building was once used as a fraternity house. Mayor Keebler noted the Planning Commission felt all of the decision standards were met.

Mr. Snyder inquired if there were any communal areas in the building when it was a fraternity house. Mr. Webb advised he wasn't familiar with the history of the building and noted the way the interior was divided may have changed over time and none of the interior walls were weight bearing. Mr. Webb advised there may have been communal areas at some point. Mr. Webb noted in the future the fraternity might wish to make changes/additions to the building through the BZA or the Building Department but right now they were looking for the designation that would allow them to be there.

Mayor Keebler noted they could utilize one of the apartments for a common area.

Mr. Blackburn inquired if the basement could be used as a common area. Mr. Webb advised if the fraternity wanted assembly type space in the basement it would be handled through the Building Department to ensure proper exits, etc. were in place.

Mayor Keebler advised the second reading of the proposed Ordinance would take place at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised two large projects would begin next week with the brick restoration on High Street between Main Street and Poplar Street and a new water line being installed on Patterson Avenue between Chestnut Street and SR 73. Mr. Elliott noted the Patterson Avenue project was in conjunction with Miami University.

Mr. Elliott advised he received a letter from Ms. Erica Andrews-Cox letting him know what wonderful service the EMS department provided when her infant daughter needed assistance. Mr. Elliott noted the community was fortunate to have such well trained, dedicated and caring individuals serving in its Fire and EMS department. Mr. Elliott noted it was nice when people took the time to write such letters.

Mr. Kyger reminded everyone that the Wine Festival would take place on May 19, 2012 in the Uptown parks.

Mr. Kyger advised a new barber shop opened in town and the owner was Mr. Keith Fairfax. Mr. Kyger encouraged people to visit him on College Corner Pike.

Mr. Snyder referred to an incident last week when an armed suspect in the area caused two schools to be locked down. Mr. Snyder inquired if a follow up review of the incident and how it was handled would be undertaken.

Chief Holzworth advised an after action study was done by the Special Response Team internally and the Command Staff would do the same later this week. Chief Holzworth noted a written report could be prepared for Council and the City Manager.

Ms. Rousmaniere inquired if the Police Department had considered reinstating the position of School Resource Officer. Chief Holzworth advised he would like to and it was in their long range staffing plan. Chief Holzworth noted he couldn't consider staffing the position without discussing the matter with the City Manager. Mr. McKeehan noted he thought the position was funded by a federal grant and Chief Holzworth advised many times it was.

Mr. Snyder inquired if part of the review of the incident would include communications/coordination between the school district, the City and Miami University and Chief Holzworth advised yes.

Mr. Harman advised he was notified of the incident by email and people could also be notified by text message through the nixle notification service. Mr. Harman inquired how citizens could sign up for the service. Mayor Keebler advised citizens could log on to www.nixle.com to sign up for the service.

Mr. Harman encouraged everyone to sign up for the notification service. Chief Holzworth advised the Police Department intended to use nixle more moving forward and noted the service was free of charge. Chief Holzworth also encouraged members of the public to sign up for the service.

Mayor Keebler advised the school district had a plan for staff members to deliver students to their homes if they could not be picked up the day of the incident. Mayor Keebler noted it was his understanding that only 5 students couldn't be picked up at the middle school. Mayor Keebler advised it seemed to him that the event went pretty well and he was glad the police department was doing an after event analysis. Mayor Keebler noted he spoke to the Superintendent who felt the event was handled pretty well and she would be glad to listen to any suggestions for improvements during an emergency situation.

Mr. Harman advised Council received the quarterly Economic Impact Report from Ms. Durr of the Visitors and Convention Bureau. Mr. Harman noted the report identified the economic benefit from events that took place in Oxford. Mr. Harman advised a formula was used to estimate what people spent on food, lodging, gas, etc. and he was happy to announce that last quarter it was 2.6 million dollars.

Mr. Blackburn advised ShareFest Oxford was underway and it was an opportunity for students to recycle food, furniture and appliances. Mr. Blackburn advised the donated items would help those less fortunate. Mr. Blackburn noted Rumpke would collect trash daily this week in the mile square.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bogard moved to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Mr. Harman seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.