

A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Greig Rutherford, Bob Blackburn, John Harman and Kevin McKeehan. Kate Currie was excused.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Steve Schwein, Police Chief; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keebler called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Blackburn moved to amend the agenda by removing the Executive Session. Mr. Rutherford seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Mr. Bogard moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION **'NALC FOOD DRIVE DAY'**

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Mike Johnson.

Mr. Mike Johnson, addressed Council on behalf of the Governing Board, staff and volunteers of the Oxford Community Choice Pantry. Mr. Johnson conveyed their appreciation of the City of Oxford's and the Talawanda School District's generous support over the years of the Oxford Community Choice Pantry. Mr. Johnson noted the pantry provided services for 200 families in the school district who were in need of food assistance. Mr. Johnson advised the student and community resident volunteers at the pantry were making a tremendous impact on families who were beginning to eat healthier because of their experience coming to the pantry and interacting with the volunteers who provided nutrition information.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Alan Kyger, 6164 Contreras Road, Chamber of Commerce Wine Festival Co-Chair, advised the annual Wine Festival fund raiser for the Chamber of Commerce would take place May 21, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. in the Uptown parks. Mr. Kyger thanked the sponsors of the event including Frontier Communications, Luna Blu and Wild Berry. Mr. Kyger noted 5 musicians would perform throughout the event and 8 Ohio wineries would participate including Hanover, a local winery. Mr. Kyger advised 22 artisans and 5 Oxford restaurants would also participate in the event. Mr. Kyger advised volunteers were needed for the event especially for the set-up and tear-down and encouraged everyone to volunteer or attend this fun event.

Mayor Keebler highly recommended that everyone attend the event noting it was a great showcase for the City. Mayor Keebler advised this would be the fourth annual Wine Festival and noted his hope the tradition would continue.

Ms. Bobbe Burke, 722 David Drive, reminded everyone this was graduation weekend at Miami University. Ms. Burke noted it was also Sharefest weekend which was a large collaborative community event allowing the opportunity for Miami students to donate items that were in good usable condition that could be used by others in the community. Ms. Burke advised there was information available on the City's website with regard to volunteering and how to make the donations. Ms. Burke noted the Family Resource Center would run its thrift store out of the former Big Lots building on Sunday through Tuesday to allow for the sale of the donated items. Ms. Burke advised this was a wonderful way of preventing these items from going to a landfill and hopefully the items would be used in a positive manner by other people in the community. Ms. Burke congratulated the large committee who worked very hard to make this event happen every year including the staff of the Community Development Department at the City of Oxford.

Mayor Keebler noted this was another very good community event and he was glad to see the City staff, students and residents taking part in it.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 19, 2011 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the April 20, 2011 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 25, 2011 CIC Loan Review Committee Meeting. (Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director)

Report Regarding the April 27, 2011 Civil Service Commission Meeting. (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

Mr. McKeehan moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1101, Subdivision Regulations, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1101, Subdivision Regulations. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised staff and the Planning Commission identified many elements of the current subdivision regulations that were inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, produced undesirable subdivision outcomes, lacked cross referencing, required only minimal open space development and produced a lengthy subdivision process. Mr. Chen advised in preparing the initial draft, the Planning Commission and staff utilized the Ohio Model Code and various city and county codes as a basis for the proposed version as many elements of those codes had been field-tested and proven to be workable. Mr. Chen noted codes outside of Ohio were also used to find the best practices. Mr. Chen advised the Planning Commission spent a year and a half working on the proposed subdivision regulations and after many work sessions, which included City Council, the Environmental Commission, Oxford Township, the Home Builders Association and the Chamber of Commerce, a more user friendly up-to-date document was achieved. Mr. Chen noted the subdivision review process was streamlined and many cross references were added to the document. Mr. Chen advised the Planning Commission met on April 12, 2011 and voted to recommend approval of the proposed regulations by City Council.

Mayor Keebler reiterated that the proposed regulations were the result of the year and a half collaborative effort between the Planning Commission and various other groups. Mayor Keebler noted staff did an excellent job of re-writing the document which excluded conflicts and repetitive information. Mayor Keebler advised the Planning Commission paid attention to the Comprehensive Plan during the process and introduced open concept subdivision planning as an alternative type of subdivision. Mayor Keebler noted the Planning Commission was looking forward to working on zoning issues which may create new zoning or require newly annexed land to be built as an Open Space Residential Development. Mayor Keebler advised he appreciated everyone's input regarding this effort including the City Engineer who spent a lot of time reviewing the proposed regulations and making recommendations to further clarify the document.

Mr. Bogard requested clarification on several items within the proposed regulations which Mr. Chen addressed. Mr. Bogard complemented the Planning Commission for reaching out to community developers and modernizing the document to make it easier for housing development to occur within the City.

Mr. Rutherford referred to page 13 of Attachment "A" and noted concern with the illustration as he was not convinced a cul-se-sac should have 2 nodes. Mr. Rutherford advised he felt the illustration encouraged cul-de-sac streets which was not the intent of the Planning Commission. Mr. Chen advised he would review the calculation. Mr. Rutherford inquired who could prepare concept designs, preliminary plats and final plats. Mr. Chen advised the Planning Commission and staff tried to encourage developers to have a professional engineer prepare those documents. Mr. Rutherford referred to page 35 of Attachment "A" and noted concern that the words 'registered surveyor and engineer' were struck-through on item #10.

Mr. Rutherford suggested inserting 'Registered Design Professional' which would include engineers, architects and planners. Mayor Keebler advised 'Registered Design Professional' could be inserted and the definition should be placed under 'Definitions'. Mr. Rutherford asked Mr. Chen to make this correction through-out the regulations noting there were some places in the document that should include 'Registered Surveyor'. Mr. Chen advised staff would make the requested changes.

Mr. Harman thanked staff for their efforts noting he was impressed with the collaboration of all the various groups.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott updated Council and the public on annexations of Miami University property that will be coming to Council in the near future.

Mr. Elliott advised the annual Council Retreat was set for Monday, June 13, 2011 and Council would receive additional information regarding the retreat.

Chief Schwein praised the Oxford Choice Food Pantry operation noting his wife was a volunteer and noted it was good for the community and it enriched the lives of the volunteers as well.

Mr. Kyger advised City staff and community members met with Frontier Communications today to discuss possibilities for wireless access points in the community. Mr. Kyger noted it was refreshing to have a somewhat local phone carrier who wanted to be involved in the communities it served.

Mr. McHugh advised Ms. Eaton was approached by the Director of the County Board of Elections who asked for guidance with regard to the filing date for City Council nominating petitions. Mr. McHugh advised the City Charter stated 75 days prior to the election but the State statute had been changed to 90 days prior to the election. Mr. McHugh advised Council that election laws were general laws and took precedence over charter provisions. Mr. McHugh advised candidates for Oxford City Council should follow the state statute regarding this matter.

Mr. Harman noted every quarter Council received an Economic Impact Report from Diana Durr of the Oxford Visitors and Convention Bureau and he was pleased to announce that the economic impact for the first quarter of 2011 was 2.8 million dollars. Mr. Harmon noted when events took place in Oxford a formula was used based on head count to calculate the economic impact related to a certain event.

Mr. Harman reminded everyone that the Historic Tours would take place every Saturday in May and the Historic Award Ceremony would take place on May 16, 2011.

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Mr. Blackburn advised the Memorial Tree Planting Ceremony was rescheduled for tomorrow at noon at the Oxford Community Park.

Mr. Bogard thanked Mr. Elliott and Mr. Dreisbach for following up on his request for information on the high visibility yellow banding for traffic lights noting some of them would be installed in Oxford in the future.

Mr. Bogard noted he was pleased that CSX had made the improvements to railroad crossings within the City.

Mr. Bogard wished all the college graduates success and encouraged them to return to Oxford to visit.

Mr. Rutherford advised the issue of signs kept coming up in conversations and he would like to know about banners verses signs with phone numbers advertising rental opportunities attached to buildings and what the city's regulations were. Mr. Rutherford asked Mr. Chen to bring information regarding the matter to the next Council meeting for discussion.

Mr. Rutherford noted a bench mark had been achieved recently with regard to some of the United States efforts overseas and commended President Obama.

Mr. McKeehan congratulated the nearly 4,000 Miami University graduates and encouraged them to return to Oxford to visit.

Mr. McKeehan encouraged everyone to participate in Share Fest and the Wine Festival.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bogard moved to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.