

A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:32 p.m. Those members present were Bob Blackburn, Steve Dana, Glenn Ellerbe, Kevin McKeehan, 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. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; 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. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RECOGNITION

PETER M. REISING, POLICE SERGEANT

Chief Jones advised one of the finest Police Officers he had the opportunity to work with over the years would be recognized this evening. Chief Jones asked Sergeant Pete Reising to come forward. Chief Jones advised Sergeant Reising retired on March 30th after nearly 30 years of service to the Oxford community. Chief Jones noted Sergeant Reising began his career with the Oxford Police Division on August 11, 1986 and during his tenure served as a Patrol Officer, Canine Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Detective Sergeant and he was a Special Response Team member. Chief Jones advised Pete was promoted to Sergeant on April 1, 2008 and provided excellent leadership during his tenure. Chief Jones noted it was an honor to have worked with Sergeant Reising. Chief Jones introduced Brian Robinson, President, FOP Hamilton Lodge 38.

Mr. Brian Robinson, President, FOP Hamilton Lodge 38, advised he had known Sergeant Reising and others in Oxford for a long time noting he started his career at the Miami University Police Department. Mr. Robinson advised Sergeant Reising was very active as the OVI Task Force Coordinator and many Police Officers in Hamilton and in Butler County thought a lot of him. Mr. Robinson noted Sergeant Reising was a great representative on the Task Force from Oxford and he was a great liaison for Butler County. Mr. Robinson advised it was his honor on behalf of FOP Lodge 38 and all 350 members to wish Pete a happy retirement. Mr. Robinson read and presented Sergeant Reising with a certificate from the National Fraternal Order of Police.

A round of applause followed.

Chief Jones noted earlier this evening Pete's retirement was celebrated at LaRosas and a lot of memories were shared. Chief Jones advised it was evident Pete made a difference in so many lives while working at OPD. Chief Jones noted Pete was well known for his community policing efforts and he cultivated relationships throughout the entire community. Chief Jones advised the passion and concern citizens had for Pete after his accident in June reflected the way he treated people no matter what circumstance he found them in. Chief Jones presented Pete with his badges, a plaque on behalf of the Oxford citizens and a rocking chair from the City of Oxford.

Sergeant Reising noted he was originally from Price Hill in western Cincinnati and never planned to live in Oxford in the beginning. Sergeant Reising advised he camped at Hueston Woods with family members and ended up back in Oxford to attend Miami University. Sergeant Reising noted he later attended the University of Cincinnati and he and 20 others from UC came to Oxford to get experience taking a Police Officer test. Sergeant Reising advised 125 people took the 4 hour test at the former Talawanda High School and the City of Oxford was hiring one. Sergeant Reising noted it had been his pleasure to serve the citizens of Oxford. Sergeant Reising introduced his wife Petra, son Michael and daughter Gabby. Sergeant Reising referred to his accident last June and noted with God's help he would get through this just fine whether he walked again or not.

A round of applause followed.

Chief Jones noted Pete would still administer the OVI Task Force grant for participating agencies in Butler County. Chief Jones advised Pete would work from home, attend monthly meetings and oversee OVI check points. Chief Jones noted Pete would still have a hand in law enforcement and would still be a member of the FOP.

SWEARING-IN

BENJAMIN T. HOOL, POLICE SERGEANT

Chief Jones advised this evening was another opportunity to promote an officer to the rank of Police Sergeant. Chief Jones noted the rank of Police Sergeant was a very vital position within the agency and staff looked for persons with strong leadership skills, job knowledge and the ability to work with the community. Chief Jones advised Officer Ben Hool would be promoted this evening and noted Officer Hool had served OPD since September 3, 1997 as a Patrol Officer, Traffic Officer, Level II Crash Investigator, Field Training Officer, Detective and Evidence Technician. Chief Jones noted Officer Hool worked with the Bicycle Patrol Team and was a member of the Butler County Regional Swat Team. Chief Jones advised Officer Hool graduated from the University of Dayton in 1996 and had been an asset to the Police Division. Chief Jones noted Officer Hool's wife Chrissy, son Aaron and daughter Lilly were in attendance this evening and his son Sam was unable to attend.

Mr. McHugh performed the swearing-in of Officer Hool to the rank of Sergeant and Chief Jones pinned the Sergeant badge on his uniform.

A round of applause followed.

PRESENTATION

OXFORD PARKS & RECREATION – CASEY WOODDELL

Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director, advised in the last nine months the Parks and Recreation Department had five major position changes. Mr. Wooddell noted he wanted to present to Council and to the public who they were now, a little about their background, initiatives coming up and some of the larger goals for the future. Mr. Wooddell provided a PowerPoint presentation and advised the Program Supervisor of over 30 years retired last year and the Director of over 17 years retired this year. Mr. Wooddell noted he was the new Director, there was a new Sports Supervisor, a new Sports Coordinator, a new Program Supervisor and a new Program Coordinator. Mr. Wooddell discussed the Mission Statement noting it was created 3 years ago under Ms. Brahier's leadership and it was a department wide undertaking as follows: 'Our mission is to enhance the Quality of Life for the citizens of Oxford and surrounding areas by planning, developing, and maintaining quality recreation programs, facilities and parks.' Mr. Wooddell noted he felt the mission statement exemplified who they were and what they did but he also felt it was very long and wordy. Mr. Wooddell advised in the near future he wanted to develop a new one that would be short, memorable, and something people would know and attach to Parks and Recreation in a condensed version. Mr. Wooddell discussed the structure of the department noting he was the Director and from there it branched off into 3 divisions including the sports section, the program section and the office and maintenance section. Mr. Wooddell advised Parks and Recreation had 6 full-time staff, 8 year-round part-time staff and 40-50 seasonal staff. Mr. Wooddell provided slides picturing staff members and listing their credentials and background including himself, Deanna Barbour, Office Manager, Darlene Hacker, Receptionist, Jake Richardson, Sports Supervisor, Dustin VanWinkle, Sports Coordinator, Ryan Himes, Program Supervisor, Emily Sibcy, Program Coordinator, Betsy Jones, Lead Preschool Teacher, Madison Mesler, Assistant Preschool Teacher, Patrick Nipper, Custodian and Sue Cady, Fitness Instructor. Mr. Wooddell discussed the new Spring/Summer Brochure and new events for this spring and summer including a Pickleball Tournament, Dude Skills, Dayton Dragons Game, Adult 80's Pool Night and Kids' Birthday Parties. Mr. Wooddell discussed long term goals including the addition of outdoor fitness equipment, a Family Aquatic Center and a City of Oxford Owned Gymnasium. Mr. Wooddell also discussed a team building exercise his staff participated in called 'Cincinnati Escape Room'.

Mr. Ellerbe referred to the addition of outdoor fitness equipment and inquired if Mr. Wooddell had considered a type of fitness trail and Mr. Wooddell advised yes.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted Mr. Wooddell had only been in the position of Director for a few months and it was evident from his presentation that he had inspired and energized the department.

PROCLAMATION

"ARBOR DAY"

Mayor Rousmaniere read the Proclamation and presented it to Kevin Armitage, Environmental Commission member.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted she and Mr. Wooddell would plant a tree in the Community Park on Arbor Day.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Carol Michael, 409 E. Chestnut Street, President, ShareFest Board, advised Councilor Southard invited her to give Council an update on ShareFest planning. Ms. Michael advised ShareFest would be held May 11 through May 18 at Chestnut Fields, the former Talawanda High School site. Ms. Michael noted 8 groups were participating this year, a new banner for High Street was in the process of being printed and property managers had been notified. Ms. Michael advised the ShareFest committee continued to work on marketing via the ShareFest website and were coordinating recipient groups and volunteer shifts. Ms. Michael noted the website was up for donations from townspeople and students and it was also up for accepting volunteers. Ms. Michael invited everyone to visit www.sharefestoxford.com to sign up. Ms. Michael advised last year 59 tons of usable merchandise was collected from Miami University students and townspeople. Ms. Michael thanked Council for their continued support of this event.

Mr. Dana inquired what the hours of the event were and Ms. Michael advised from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Blackburn inquired if ShareFest accepted donations of mattresses, box springs and upholstered furniture. Ms. Michael advised yes, although there was little demand for mattresses.

Mr. Ellerbe inquired if ShareFest provided charitable donation receipts and Ms. Michael advised yes, and they could be obtained on line as well.

Ms. Southard advised ShareFest was a great opportunity and a role model for other institutions. Ms. Southard noted Ms. Michael and others presented ShareFest at last year's Town/Gown Conference and other towns were impressed and modeling ShareFest in their communities. Ms. Southard advised this was a good example of cooperation between the community and the university as items were picked up from residence halls. Ms. Michael noted last year ShareFest collected 1.5 tons of food for the Oxford Community Choice Pantry. Ms. Southard advised the pantry was very grateful for that support.

Mayor Rousmaniere thanked Ms. Michael for all her great work with ShareFest.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 5, 2016 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the April 6, 2016 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 6, 2016 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

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

RESOLUTION
LETTER TO STATE OFFICIALS

A Resolution No. 4978 supporting a request by the Oxford, Ohio, Environmental Commission to submit a letter to the Ohio Governor, Senate and House of Representatives to reconsider their opposition to the “Clean Power Plan” and to actively pursue the development of renewable energy. (Kate Rousmaniere, Mayor)

Mayor Rousmaniere advised Kevin Armitage of the Oxford Environmental Commission would speak to the Resolution.

Mr. Kevin Armitage, noted it was becoming increasingly clear to anyone who looked into the matter that the future of environmental quality and economic growth depended on renewable energies. Mr. Armitage advised in 2014 the State legislature voted to freeze renewable energy standards and Ohio has not moved forward on the matter. Mr. Armitage referred to page 25 of Council’s packet and noted the letter expressed the City’s interest in saying ‘no’ we need to keep making these kinds of investments and the return on the investments would be unbelievably great. Mr. Armitage advised yesterday, Governor Kasich indicated Ohio needed to get past the freeze on renewable energy standards and noted he felt there was some desire by the Governor to move forward. Mr. Armitage advised the City of Oxford had great success with renewable energy and we needed to encourage the rest of the state to follow our lead.

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

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired why the Environmental Commission decided to write the letter. Mr. Armitage advised it was based on our success in having green energy for the citizens of Oxford which was adopted because it saves money and it was good for the planet. Mr. Armitage noted it seemed an appropriate matter for the Environmental Commission to address.

Mr. Dana suggested sending the letter (if approved by Council) to local representatives Tim Derickson and Bill Coley in addition to Governor Kasich, President Faber and Speaker Rosenberger so they knew constituents in their territory wanted this to happen. Mr. Armitage agreed it was appropriate to do so.

Ms. Southard inquired if Mr. Armitage was encouraging citizens and homeowners to do things like install solar panels on their homes. Mr. Armitage advised if the freeze on renewable energy standards was lifted there would be certain tax incentives to help homeowners do that.

Mr. Dana moved to copy Mr. Derickson and Mr. Coley on the letter to State Officials. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mr. Smith moved to adopt Resolution No. 4978. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
STREET NAME CHANGE

An Ordinance No. 3350 Changing The Name Of “Corporate Woods Lane” In The Fields Of Southpointe Planned Development To “Ironwood Drive” And Directing The Clerk Of Council To Forward A Certified Copy Of This Ordinance To The County Engineer For The Appropriate Change On The Planned Development Plat. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Elliott advised the proposed Ordinance was self explanatory for changing the name of Corporate Woods Lane to Ironwood Drive. Mr. Elliott noted no street addresses had been assigned to Corporate Woods Lane so there would be little or no impact resulting from the street name change.

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

Mr. McKeehan moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3350. Mr. Dana seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe
Mayor Rousmaniere (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
SALARY INCREASE

An Ordinance No. 3351 Increasing The Salary Of The Mayor And Council Members. (Edna Southard, Councilor)

Ms. Southard advised the salary for the Mayor and Council had not been increased since 2,000 and the proposed Ordinance would bring Oxford City Council in line with other comparable cities in the region. Mr. Elliott noted the proposed Ordinance was amended as directed by Council at the last meeting establishing the Mayor’s salary at \$5,400 and Council members at \$4,800. Ms. Southard advised this would not affect current Council members, it only affected those elected at the next election in 2017.

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

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3351. Mr. Smith seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: Mr. McKeehan (1)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
NEW SPECIFICATION MANUAL

An Ordinance No. 3352 Adopting A Revised And Amended Water And Sanitary Sewer Improvements Specifications And Backflow Cross Connection Control Manual. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised he had nothing new to report since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted there was a good discussion at the last meeting with regard to the new manual.

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

Mr. Ellerbe moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3352. Mr. Dana seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Southard, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith
Mayor Rousmaniere (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3353 Amending Ordinance No. 3335. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 3 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2016. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised he had nothing further to report since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance.

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

Mayor Rousmaniere referred to page 36 of Council's packet and advised issue 3 was to make an adjustment to account for the preliminary subdivision plat for the City owned Western Knolls property from Bayer Becker for a price not to exceed \$32,320. Mayor Rousmaniere advised the Environmental Commission recommended it was appropriate when the platting occurred that the conservation development for this plan be applied to Western Knolls. Mayor Rousmaniere noted this was the open space residential development regulations in the Subdivision Section 1101.5. Mayor Rousmaniere advised this provision was designed by the Environmental Commission 5 years ago and was an option for the City of Oxford to conserve and protect the natural environment and rural landscapes in its planning. Mayor Rousmaniere noted the Environmental Commission felt strongly that Bayer Becker should be directed to follow the interests of the City with regard to this development. Mayor Rousmaniere advised this was not the proper time to make such a request however she wanted to put it in the record.

Mr. Elliott advised this was just an appropriation for the preliminary subdivision plat and a lot of discussion would take place with the Planning Commission and Council as the project moved forward.

Mr. McKeehan moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3353. Mr. Dana seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith, Mr. Blackburn, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana
Mayor Rousmaniere (07)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised the Police Community Relations & Review Commission held their 2nd meeting last Tuesday and Chief Jones presented the training program required of all Oxford Police Officers. Mr. Elliott noted the presentation was very thorough and very informative. Mr. Elliott advised Assistant to the Chief, John Buchholz, Sergeant Varley and Sergeant Jenkins were also in attendance. Mr. Elliott noted the next meeting would take place Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Oxford Fire Station.

Mr. Elliott advised the Charter Review Commission would meet Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Mr. Kyger referred to a social media post by Nicole Blachowicz, a Miami University graduate, entitled 'Beyond Blach and White'. Mr. Kyger advised Ms. Blachowicz wrote about her time spent in Oxford. Mr. Kyger read some highlights from her post as follows: 'Walking home after picking up my cap and gown last week, I passed a group of families with the notorious "Make it Miami" bags and I silently whispered, "lets trade bags". In high school I refused to look at in-state university because it was in the "middle of no where" yet Oxford, Ohio is what my high school self would call "in the middle of no where". I've been lucky enough to call this place home these past four years. Its taught me about who I want to be as a daughter, friend, student, and human, and has given me my fair share of laughs, memories, lessons and experiences.

I still find myself a little bit surprised at the beauty of the rolling hills and farms surrounding Miami University. I find myself mouthing “wow” quietly to myself as the beauty catches me off guard. It has everything you need in walking distance. Walking time to class: 13 minutes, Walking time to Starbucks: 6 minutes, Walking time to Side Bar/Brick Street: 4 minutes, Walking time to my best friend’s house down the alley: 2 minutes, Walking time to my best friend’s room: 10 seconds. Everything feels right at your fingertips. You need a Yoga studio? Check. Need to borrow one of your friend’s dresses because you need to be somewhere in 10 Minutes? Oh, it’s possible. Everything you need is in about a mile radius. Crazy? Maybe. Awesome? You bet. No matter where you go after graduation, Miami will always be there. Sure, there are new buildings and always some type of construction but it’s still the same even with change. All roads don’t lead to Oxford. To get here, you have to want to be here. You don’t just happen to come across it. You have to drive through a lot of nothing to get to this amazing something. It’s crazy to think that my four years here are almost up, but Miami, you have given me so much more than I could ever have asked for. So here’s to Love & Honor and my favorite college town.’ My Kyger advised he felt sometimes as the students come through, they do get a lot out of the town as well as the university. Mr. Kyger noted it showed what a good job Council does.

Mr. McKeehan noted he read the post that Mr. Kyger shared and suggested the link be sent to all Council members.

Mr. Ellerbe congratulated Sergeant Reising on his retirement and Sergeant Hool on his promotion.

Mr. Dana noted his wife cared about the City’s electric aggregation program and continuing to strive for green energy in Oxford. Mr. Dana noted her interest in continual promotion of this was because competitors of this green program were very vigorous.

Ms. Prue Dana, 6314 Fairfield Road, noted she was curious about how the City’s aggregation program was going. Ms. Dana advised residents were getting calls and suggestions to hear about other energy options and weren’t sure where the City was headed with the aggregation program. Ms. Dana noted a report from the City Manager would be helpful.

Mr. Elliott advised he would prepared an updated report. Mr. Elliott noted the program was doing very well and the City was one year into a three year contract with AEP. Mr. Elliott advised the participation dropped last spring when the students left town and those residences reverted to the Duke Standard Service. Mr. Elliott noted Council felt it was appropriate to allow intermediate letters to be sent to those residences and the program was back up to a high level of participation. Mr. Elliott advised he was aware residents were receiving letters from other suppliers offering green energy. Mr. Elliott cautioned residents to make sure they would receive a lower rate before leaving the Municipal Electric Aggregation Program and that no fees would be required. Mr. Elliott advised the City’s rate of 5.785 cents per kwh was very competitive for wind energy.

Mr. Smith noted the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission was planning a full slate of Historic Tours for Historic Preservation Month in May and information regarding that was forthcoming.

Ms. Southard advised April was a busy month noting the Asian Culture Festival Uptown last Friday was well attended. Ms. Southard advised the Farmers Market would take place Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Ms. Southard noted the Institute for Learning in Retirement course on local government held 3 successful classes so far with Mr. Elliott and Mr. Newlin presenting on City finances, Mr. Chen and Mr. Perry presenting on housing and zoning and Mr. Dreisbach and Mr. Treleaven presenting on City services and the urban forest. Ms. Southard advised the students who were senior citizens were very impressed by what goes on within the City. Ms. Southard noted Mr. Wooddell would present this Friday on Parks and Recreation activities and Mr. Kyger would present at the last class on the Economic Development situation in our town. Ms. Southard advised the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet last Sunday was a great success and the City was very well represented.

Mr. Blackburn noted it was great to see Oxford Police Officers being recognized and advised he had known Sergeant Reising for 30 years.

Mr. Blackburn noted it was exciting to have a Parks and Recreation staff that was so engaged.

Mr. Blackburn advised the Drum Line Competition went off without a snare.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised Council tabled a Resolution for the installation of bike lanes on McGuffey Avenue at their April 5th meeting. Mayor Rousmaniere noted Council held a Work Session this evening with a representative from the Planning Commission Sub-Committee on Transportation and discussed alternative plans for McGuffey Avenue. Mayor Rousmaniere advised by straw vote, Council decided to place the original proposal back on the May 3rd agenda. Mayor Rousmaniere thanked Mr. Dreisbach for his valiant work on this matter.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted the Kinetics Festival on Sunday was fantastic and commended former Councilor Kate Currie for her efforts in coordinating the event.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.