

A virtual meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. The members participating were Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, William Snavelly and Edna Southard.

Staff members participating were: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager, Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director, Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Chris Conard, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Snavelly moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION **“ARBOR DAY”**

Mayor Smith read the Proclamation proclaiming that on April 24, 2020, the last Friday of the month, the City of Oxford will recognize the national and international celebration of “Arbor Day”.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the April 9, 2020 City Council Virtual Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Report regarding the March 10, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Report regarding the March 11, 2020 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 8, 2020 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Virtual Meeting. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

A Resolution No. 7179 authorizing the sale of salvaged, junk and/or abandoned motor vehicles.
(John Jones, Police Chief)

Mr. Ellerbe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snively, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION **BOND REDUCTION**

A Resolution No. 7180 authorizing the release of a public improvement bond in the form of a letter of credit in the amount of \$1,049,981.27 for the Gaslight at Stewart Square Planned Development and accepting a new public improvement bond in the form of a letter of credit in the amount of \$161,421.39. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised when Council first approved the Gaslight development a bond of approximately \$1,050,000 was required to ensure the public improvements in the development would be completed. Mr. Dreisbach noted Phase I of the development was complete and much of Phase II was complete and advised the developer asked the City to reduce the bond. Mr. Dreisbach noted the City Engineer calculated the remaining improvements owed to the City to complete the development at a value of \$161,421 which will ensure everything on the plans will be constructed. Mr. Dreisbach recommended approval of the proposed Resolution and offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Smith advised no public comments were received regarding the proposed Resolution.

Mr. Prytherch advised he was glad to see the project moving forward. Mr. Prytherch noted at the time of the approval of the Planned Development the City declined to require the developer to contribute to improvements on Rose Avenue. Mr. Prytherch advised paving was being finished inside the development and inquired if there were any plans for Rose Avenue. Mr. Dreisbach advised right now there were no plans for improvement noting it was a unique situation with the limited right-of-way. Mr. Dreisbach advised some of the front porches of the existing houses on W. Rose were almost against the right-of-way already.

Mr. Snively moved to adopt Resolution No. 7180. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
NEW CHAPTER 1148

An Ordinance Adopting Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1148 Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Elliott read the e-comment received prior to the meeting regarding this and the next 7 proposed Ordinances as follows:

Comments submitted on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 - 11:42am:

- **Name:** Steve Dana
- **Address:** 131 W. Collins St.
- **Email Address:** sfdanaiiii@gmail.com
- **Meeting Date:** Tue, 04/21/2020
- **Agenda Item:** Tree ordinances
- **Comments:**

I strongly support all proposed ordinances. Examples:

* PC 2020-03 p.43. This zoning code text amendment calls for linking the disconnected sections of landscape tree requirements. This is very smart, because it acknowledges that connectivity in landscapes supports robustness in natural life.

* This statement in particular demonstrates the thoughtfulness of the drafting: "...the proposal balances the unpredictability of site development with a minimum baseline expectation for canopy preservation."

The ordinance(s) demonstrate meticulous standards in landscaping planning---see pp.44, 45, 47

* The tree planting and tree preservation requirements are sound

* The requirements with respect to parking and trees are significant

* The emphasis on planned development is highly desirable. See p. 71 where planning and mature tree canopy is noted.

Congratulations to the staff of the city's development department and to the Environmental and Planning Commissions for their hard work.

---Steve Dana

- **Position:** Support

Mr. Elliott thanked the Planning Commission, the Environmental Commission, Sam Perry and Zach Moore for their hard work on this proposal noting he felt the City had a very good outcome with respect to Landscaping and Tree Preservation regulations.

Mr. Perry advised he would make one presentation covering all 8 Ordinances. Mr. Perry noted he would provide a summary and several slides created by Mr. Moore who did the bulk of the work in recent months. Mr. Perry advised this had been a several year process that originated as a result of some development concerns from neighbors of a development that is underway now. Mr. Perry noted staff learned a lot about what the City's values are through this process as different boards and commissions looked at this and advised several dis-connected parts of the code were brought together. Mr. Perry provided slides and discussed the "Background" of the project noting it had been in front of the Planning Commission and the Environmental Commission a few times. Mr. Perry advised the recent two visits to the Planning Commission were very effective in producing some of the final "tweaks". Mr. Perry noted what was missing in what is reflected here is all of the work that happened between the Chair of the Environmental Commission and the City Planner, Zach Moore. Mr. Perry advised a lot of this is new territory for the City of Oxford such as having a numerical requirement for trees to be re-planted if they are removed in parts of a new development while still balancing the aspect of economic development and the need for some parts of the City to be developed as the zoning map and land use rights are inherent to the property owners. Mr. Perry noted some deficiencies were found during this process which revealed there were not universal standards throughout the different zoning districts which have been addressed in the proposed set of Ordinances. Mr. Perry noted the City lacked some mechanism within the discretionary reviews for Planned Developments and Subdivisions, so while it was desired in spirit and it was mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan the City lacked some of those details. Mr. Perry advised it took a lot of back and forth between City staff and boards and commissions to find a good balance. Mr. Perry noted staff and board and commission members felt they were at that point now. Mr. Perry provided a list of the affected Chapters in the Zoning Code noting Chapter 1148 was a new Chapter so rather than taking those sections in the various Chapters that had been amended over the years staff pulled those out and brought them into a new Chapter so everything could refer to it which takes into account street trees that are being planted which have a net impact on the community as far as the canopy. Mr. Perry advised it also has provisions for exempting the counting of trees on parts of developments that are not going to be touched where some of the original proposals would spend a lot of resource by the developer to survey, count and measure trees when some parts of a development were not being touched. Mr. Perry noted this was not a clear cut prohibition Ordinance and it is not creating a new Tree Authority it is trying to use existing staff and use the development review process to trigger the review. Mr. Perry advised it will cause during that process of a development request to raise the question of should this part of the development be cleared or not. Mr. Perry noted it would not be a situation where staff is monitoring every tree being removed in the community, which was not the intent of this set of proposed Ordinances. Mr. Perry advised applicability is fairly broad, focusing on larger developments that would typically come through the Planning Commission and City Council for what is called a discretionary review. Mr. Perry noted the discretionary review goes farther than what was originally drafted to take into account multi-family and commercial developments since they have an impact on the tree canopy if they are wooded sites. Mr. Perry referred to the tree requirement.

Mr. Perry discussed the Tree Preservation Requirements including Tree Replanting, Documentation, Survey, and the In-Lieu Option as detailed on pages 60-62 of Council's packet. Mr. Perry advised while this was a new set of rules with a lot of new language he, staff and the commissioners felt it provided clarity which respects the need to preserve the overall tree canopy and still allow development in a way that is sensitive to the inherent right for property owners to develop the land they own. Mr. Perry offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Snavelly commented on behalf of the Planning Commission congratulating Zach Moore for taking a lot of very complex information and objections raised by the Environmental Commission and putting it all together in a form the Environmental Commission was happy with as was the Planning Commission. Mr. Snavelly shared with his colleagues that he felt these were a very good set of Ordinances that will serve the City well.

Ms. Southard noted this has been a long time coming and she felt it was wonderful that so many people have worked so hard to make it happen. Ms. Southard advised Oxford was a "Tree City" and Arbor Day was coming up noting she could not imagine a more perfect time to consider these Ordinances. Ms. Southard advised this issue was raised 3 years ago, it has gone through the commissions, City staff has done an incredible job with input from many citizens all of whom worked hard. Ms. Southard noted the issue came up 3 years ago when Council was concerned about some wetlands and advised she has read the Ordinances and felt they were very carefully considered.

Mr. Prytherch noted while Council has their eyes on the immediate crisis which is COVID-19 they also have their eyes on long term goals and advised he felt they could do both. Mr. Prytherch advised the Comprehensive Plan emphasizes the value of this kind of stewardship and Council's priorities for 2020 emphasize sustainability and economic development related to housing. Mr. Prytherch thanked everyone noting many years, many meetings and many hours of staff time went into striking a careful balance between the desire to have new housing development in Oxford while protecting trees. Mr. Prytherch advised in the past subdivision applications could come to the Planning Commission without any real analysis of what was on the site. Mr. Prytherch noted a site could be a mature woodland and the zoning code had zero protection for it which did not reflect Council's values or the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Prytherch thanked Sam Perry, Zach Moore, Wright Gwyn and all of the Environmental Commission members who persisted with this project and the Planning Commission who reviewed it multiple times. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the set of Ordinances struck an incredible balance of all of the values.

Mr. Bracken added that the areas outside of the buffer still get preserved they just do not need to be surveyed because the trees are not expected to be taken down.

Ms. Southard referred to page 57 of Council's packet and suggested the tree survey list be made more legible for the second reading of the proposed Ordinances.

Mayor Smith advised since new Chapter 1148 affects 6 existing Chapters, Council eventually must vote on each of them separately. Mayor Smith requested that Ms. Eaton read each Ordinance for the record.

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTIONS
IN CHAPTER 1101 - SUBDIVISIONS

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1101.4(400) Entitled General Statement, 1101.4(403) Entitled Typical Sections, And 1101.4(410) Entitled Landscape Plan In Chapter 1101 Entitled Subdivision Regulations And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1101.4(400) Entitled General Statement, 1101.4(403) Entitled Typical Sections And 1101.4(410) Entitled Landscape Plan In Chapter 1101 Entitled Subdivision Regulations To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1143 – DISTRICTS

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1143.03 c(13) Entitled Landscaping, 1143.05c(13) Entitled Landscaping, And 1143.07(d)(13) Entitled Landscaping In Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1143.03c(13) Entitled Landscaping, 1143.05c(13) Entitled Landscaping, And 1143.07(d)(13) Entitled Landscaping In Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1143 – DISTRICTS

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1143.12(d)(2) Entitled Landscaping And 1143.16(d) Entitled Supplementary Regulations In Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1143.12(d)(2) Entitled Landscaping And 1143.16(d) Entitled Supplementary Regulations In Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1145
PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1145.01(a) Entitled Purpose, 1145.05(a) Entitled Preliminary Plan, And 1145.06(b) Entitled General Decision Standards In Chapter 1145 Entitled Planned Developments And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1145.01(a) Entitled Purpose, 1145.05(a) Entitled Preliminary Plan, And 1145.06(b) Entitled General Decision Standards In Chapter 1145 Entitled Planned Developments To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1147
CONDITIONAL USES

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1147.02(a)(1) Entitled Contents Of Application For Conditional Use Permit and 1147.02c(2) Entitled General Decision Standards In Chapter 1147 Entitled Conditional Uses And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1147.02(a)(1) Entitled Contents Of Application For Conditional Use Permit And 1147.02c(2) Entitled General Decision Standards To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1149
PARKING AND SITE ACCESS

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1149.05(e)(6) Entitled Landscaping In Chapter 1149 Entitled Parking And Site Access And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1149.05(e)(6) Entitled Landscaping In Chapter 1149 Entitled Parking And Site Access To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS
INTO ATTACHMENT “H”
TYPICAL SECTION DRAWINGS IN PART ELEVEN
TITLE ONE OF THE OXFORD CODIFIED ORDINANCES

An Ordinance Adopting Additional Exhibits Into Attachment H Entitled Typical Section Drawings In Part Eleven, Title One Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Prytherch advised the reason all of the code sections need to be changed is the Ordinance only applies to new development which was why the Subdivision code was being amended as well as the Planned Development code, Conditional Use code and Parking Lot standards. Mr. Prytherch noted the proposal does not apply to someone taking down a tree in their yard or managing their property. Mr. Prytherch advised previous versions of the proposed regulations applied to all properties which was where the compromise came in as the final language focuses only on new development.

ORDINANCE
FINAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

An Ordinance Accepting The Recommendation Of The Planning Commission And Approving The Final Planned Development Application For South Farm Section IV With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

ORDINANCE
RIGHT-OF-WAY
VACATION

An Ordinance Vacating Right-Of-Way Associated With Roberts Drive And Hoover Drive As Was Previously Dedicated By O.R. 7959 Pg. 1551, Replat For South Farm Section 2 & 2A.
(Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

ORDINANCE
FINAL SUBDIVISION

An Ordinance Approving The Final Subdivision Application For South Farm Section IV With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised this was a recommendation from the Planning Commission for a development which has already received the Preliminary Approval from the Planning Commission and City Council. Mr. Perry stated he would address all three proposed Ordinances with regard to South Farm IV in one presentation. Mr. Perry noted without the final approval the developer is not able to move forward with construction or selling the lots. Mr. Perry advised between the two steps allows any additional detail to come forward noting in this case there is more detail to get it to the point of showing it met all of the code requirements. Mr. Perry provided slides of South Farm Section IV noting it was an almost 7-acre area off Kehr Road and Roberts Drive near the existing Morgan Circle. Mr. Perry noted there is a platted street that was never built with 13 vacant lots. Mr. Perry showed an aerial view of the property in question. Mr. Perry showed a slide of the zoning which is R1B (Medium Density Single Family) noting it does not differ from the zoning of the area although it amends the regulations since it is a Planned Development and a Subdivision which allows smaller lots than what is permitted under R1B. Mr. Perry provided a slide showing the ownership around the area and noted the new development will have 25 lots instead of 13 so it re-plats the current un-built development. Mr. Perry provided slides of the proposed development noting there was alley access for the western part of the development for the rear loaded garages whereas the houses on the eastern side would have front loaded garages. Mr. Perry provided slides of example houses noting as long as the ones being built were similar to the slides they can be grouped administratively when it comes to the building permit. Mr. Perry noted the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Final Planned Development with 16 conditions as presented on pages 88-89 of Council's packet. Mr. Perry advised the Final Plan Approval by code would have 2 years of validity noting South Farm IV was extended during the review process to be 5 years since the development rate in Oxford is somewhat slower than what is typically seen in the region.

Mr. Perry advised because South Farm IV is a Planned Development and a Subdivision and a street was already there a right-of-way vacation was needed to adjust the geometry of the street which is why the Ordinances are ordered the way they are on the agenda, the Planned Development, the Right-of-Way vacation and then the approval of the actual plat so the lots can be recorded, split and sold at the appropriate time. Mr. Perry provided a slide of the geometric adjustment noting the vacation Ordinance on the agenda would completely give up the existing right-of-way and place it back within the new subdivision plat.

Mr. Perry advised the Final Plat and the Final Plan are essentially the same thing noting the Final Plan brings in all the contextual zoning code requirements whereas the Final Plat is just the surveyed lots and their boundaries.

Mr. John Bayer, Applicant, advised he, Ms. Reed and Mr. Shea had no additional information to share noting they were available to answer any questions.

Ms. Southard inquired if the new plan includes the Fire Chief's recommendation that the road be widened. Ms. Southard inquired if the tree preservation Ordinances would apply to the new development. Mr. Perry advised the Fire Chief was satisfied by the turning radius adjustment for the alley. Mr. Perry noted the tree Ordinances will not apply as the South Farm application was submitted prior to the tree preservation Ordinances being adopted.

Mr. Snively advised the Planning Commission was very much in favor of the proposal noting it was a new kind of development for Oxford which provides an option not readily available elsewhere in the community. Mr. Snively advised the Planning Commission felt it deserves the opportunity to see if there is sufficient market for it.

Mayor Smith concurred noting he recalled when the Preliminary Plan was debated and he felt the same.

Mr. Prytherch advised the Final Plan was in substantial conformance with the Preliminary Plan meaning it was pretty much a straightforward decision. Mr. Prytherch noted he appreciated that the street widths have come down some to accommodate public safety and provide additional tree lawn. Mr. Prytherch advised there was a reference to the Home Owners Association and access to the open space and the pond although it was outside of the sphere of the application. Mr. Prytherch asked Mr. Perry to speak to the conversations about the two developments, the HOA and access to the pond. Mr. Perry advised he believed those issues had been addressed noting there was some follow-up after the initial Final Plan presentation and it seemed to him the concern raised by a resident of Morgan Circle was accommodated by the applicant. Mr. Perry advised there were two different HOAs and it came down to who will be responsible for that area and whether it be shared or not. Mr. Perry noted the HOA is not something the City is responsible for.

Mr. Bayer advised he did not have any additional information to provide on that front.

Mayor Smith noted Council would consider the proposal again in two weeks and advised he appreciated the petitioners for participating in the virtual meeting. Mayor Smith noted he was happy to see the proposal moving forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Elliott noted Councilor Snively asked him to comment on an updated report from McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital on the number of Oxford Township and City cases of COVID-19 reported and deaths from the virus. Mr. Elliott advised he spoke to Mike Everett, President and Chief Operating Officer of McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital (MHMH) on Monday morning through the twice-weekly leadership meeting.

Mr. Elliott reported that MHMH has performed 162 COVID-19 tests since March 12, 2020 with 121 negative tests, 31 positive tests and 10 pending. Mr. Elliott noted on April 7 the hospital was getting a positivity percentage of 31% and as of today, it has trended down to 26%. Mr. Elliott advised there has been one death and currently there are no ICU patients. Mr. Elliott noted occupancy of the inpatient medical care unit is currently 28%. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Everett has said they have actively planned and worked their pandemic plans to care for patients and while they are trending down they are still prepared and have capacity/resources to care for the community. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Everett has said he appreciates the incredible support for the Oxford community and local leaders along with Police and Fire divisions. Mr. Elliott advised he felt Mr. Everett and his staff at MHMH are doing an incredible job for the community noting he was sure everyone would agree. Mr. Elliott advised the numbers he read were for MHMH, which has a service area extending well beyond Oxford and Oxford Township. Mr. Elliott noted the Butler County Health Department has provided confirmed cases by zip code and the 45056 zip code includes parts of Reily and Milford Townships. Mr. Elliott advised as of April 13 the Butler County Health Department reported 8 confirmed cases for the 45056 zip code. Mr. Elliott noted the Butler County Health Department released new county totals today for the entire county showing 185 confirmed cases and 3 probable cases for a total of 188 cases and 3 deaths in the entire county.

Mr. Elliott referred to Oxford's needy residents and advised the City was working with its charitable organizations with Sam Perry leading that effort. Mr. Elliott noted this includes the Family Resource Center, TOPSS, the Senior Center and the Talawanda School District who is still providing meals for the school-age children. Mr. Elliott advised the charitable organizations are a vital part of our social safety net if not throughout the whole country as they provide food, shelter and cash assistance. Mr. Elliott noted Mr. Perry has been in contact with the local organizations and as of now they are not in desperate need of anything and advised the community has shown their support with donations of both cash and food. Mr. Elliott referred to one of his comments from the last meeting with regard to the City receiving additional Community Development Block Grant funds noting once the City obtains a firm figure and date as to when the City will receive those funds staff will make recommendations to Council for donations to the non-profits.

Mr. Perry reiterated at this time the Family Resource Center, TOPSS and Oxford Seniors are all maintaining okay and noted they all have a small staff. Mr. Perry advised if something happened to their staffing they would need assistance to continue operations. Mr. Perry noted the Family Resource Center has seen a definite uptick in the past week of requests for rent and utility assistance. Mr. Perry advised the Family Resource Center has enough cash right now to assist where necessary noting they were doing on-going fundraising and adding staff as needed. Mr. Perry advised they were dynamically responding to what the needs are noting they were also looking at the long-term impacts and he was sure they would keep the City up to date if there was a need that the City should be aware of.

Mr. Dreisbach thanked the Service Department employees and advised they have been implementing the contingency plans. Mr. Dreisbach noted his hope the public is not seeing any changes in the services the City or its contractors provide.

Mr. Dreisbach advised all of the utility services were being provided and Rumpke was doing a great job with waste and recycling removal. Mr. Dreisbach again thanked his staff noting they were working very hard and very smart.

Mayor Smith commended everyone at the City for everything they are doing, setting an example and keeping things moving.

Ms. Greene advised as of a few minutes ago she has received 54 applications for the gift card program noting 14 of those were minority business owners. Ms. Greene advised an email was sent to all of the applicants letting them know the timeline and noted the CIC Board would meet on Friday to determine the award amounts. Ms. Greene advised she would work with Mr. Newlin's team to start processing those awards early next week. Ms. Greene noted she was also working with Enjoy Oxford to build out an e-commerce website and advised things would be moving quickly. Ms. Greene advised if the CIC does not disperse the entire award amount this Friday a second round would be done noting she would keep Council posted on the program.

Ms. Greene advised she was working on move-out coordination with Miami University, the Board of Health and the Police Department to communicate with the students who still reside off campus about a safe move-out practice. Ms. Greene noted the students were being asked to respect social distancing guidelines and to plan ahead so they are not all moving out at the same time from a big house. Mr. Greene advised without ShareFest the students have been provided other ways they can donate food and household items including Goodwill or the Neighborhood Share site that Councilor Raghu manages. Ms. Greene noted as a last resort extra trash pickups can be scheduled.

Mr. Conard advised he had the pleasure of working with a number of public sector clients noting Oxford's staff, Councilors and citizens exemplify the spirit working together. Mr. Conard noted every community he has worked with has the same spirit as Oxford. Mr. Conard advised he felt it was a tribute to all of us as Ohioans and our ability as a nation to try to come together during some real extraordinary times. Mr. Conard thanked Councilors, staff and the citizens of Oxford noting it has been a privilege.

Ms. Raghu noted as the state will start to open up after May 1 with the United States not being the first country to go through this she felt it was important to look at where it first was affected. Ms. Raghu advised she has a good friend who lives in Hong-Kong and has been speaking to Ms. Raghu about our future. Ms. Raghu noted Hong-Kong experienced a second wave of the virus a couple of weeks ago and had to crack back down on social distancing. Ms. Raghu advised although they are not as locked-down as we are they are looking that way. Ms. Raghu noted the only way they are able to refrain from social distancing or trying to open up again is if there has been no new active cases for 2 incubation periods or 2-4 weeks. Ms. Raghu advised she felt learning from other countries was important with regard to what we might be facing over the next month or so. Ms. Raghu noted she felt it was reasonable to expect cases to increase. Ms. Raghu encouraged everyone to wear a facemask, wash their hands and respect social distancing. Ms. Raghu noted on the veterinarian front, this past week an email was sent asking if veterinarians were ready to volunteer for the surge and what kind of skills they have.

Ms. Raghu advised she felt they were gearing up for a higher number of cases.

Ms. Raghu noted from a local standpoint she felt the pandemic has only magnified the pre-existing problems of minorities, the underprivileged, and the problems of people who have been under-served for decades. Ms. Raghu advised she looked forward to the next meeting, as there should be a resolution addressing a combination of hate speech and discrimination.

Ms. Raghu noted her hope as Council looks towards giving money to under-served populations they look at people who are being left out in terms of assistance from the federal and state governments such as undocumented workers. Ms. Raghu advised that population was not great in Oxford although she felt there was a population in Oxford that Council could help from a local level.

Mr. Ellerbe advised City staff was doing a fantastic job and encouraged everyone to keep up the good work. Mr. Ellerbe noted he shared some of Councilor Raghu's concerns. Mr. Ellerbe advised Oxford's citizens have been doing a great job in containing the issues we have here although it is real and Oxford has had some unfortunate events. Mr. Ellerbe noted with the approach of May and the inevitable opening of society people will need to be cognizant and they will need to protect themselves and be mindful because we could slip back into a very nasty situation. Mr. Ellerbe thanked everyone for their efforts to come together to fight this pandemic reminding everyone we are not over it yet even though their may be light at the end of the tunnel.

Ms. Southard endorsed Councilor Ellerbe and Councilor Raghu's comments noting people are grateful the City is keeping things rolling on a steady pace.

Ms. Southard advised the Kiwanis was holding a mini food drive for the food pantry on May 7 and were asking for specific items such as peanut butter and tuna fish.

Ms. Southard noted it was going to be a week of anniversaries at times everyone would have gotten together although now they will be virtual events. Ms. Southard advised in addition to Arbor Day on Friday it is Earth Day tomorrow noting it was the 50th anniversary for Earth Day which started in 1969 after an oil spill. Ms. Southard noted the theme for Earth Day this year was Climate Action, which is in line with what Council is working on.

Ms. Southard advised today was Yom HaShoah noting normally it is Holocaust Remembrance Day and in every other year the City would have a Proclamation that Miami University students would have instigated. Ms. Southard advised today participants would be standing together at Miami University reading the names of some of the millions of child victims. Ms. Southard noted community members and Miami University students have always gotten together to do this. Ms. Southard advised people cannot get together this year although we still remember and showed everyone the candle she lights every year on Yom HaShoah in memory of people who died. Ms. Southard noted this day of memory began by government decree in Israel in 1953 and advised some nations observe January 27 since it was the day the concentration camp at Auschwitz was liberated. Ms. Southard noted although millions died in the concentration camps most Jews were murdered in public squares or by their neighbors. Ms. Southard advised her grandparents were murdered noting her grandfather was among the Jewish men rounded up into a Synagogue in Lithuania and the Synagogue was torched.

Ms. Southard noted her grandmother was shot to death in a concentration camp in Poland. Ms. Southard advised her maternal grandfather died on the way from Belgium where he was in hiding to Poland. Ms. Southard noted her maternal grandmother remained in hiding in an attic in Brussels and survived physically although she was shattered and took her own life a few years later. Ms. Southard advised the word genocide (race murder) was invented by Raphael Lemkin a Polish Jewish lawyer who in desperation lobbied the United Nations to make genocide a crime against humanity.

Ms. Southard noted the genocide of the Armenians in 1915 was the model for Hitler's war against the Jews. Ms. Southard advised she was saying all of this to the Miami students who would normally be standing together noting she wanted to acknowledge them and their efforts to make our City a model in acknowledging this past. Ms. Southard read a quote from Pastor Martin Niemoller as follows "First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a communist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak out for me." Ms. Southard advised we must speak out against discrimination and hatred of anyone, any religious, ethnic or racial group, or anyone targeted for their beliefs, behavior or anything else. Ms. Southard noted especially now we have to stop dangerous nationalism and advised we have to remember especially today.

Mr. Snavelly apologized for some technical difficulties noting he has been listening to the meeting. Mr. Snavelly thanked City staff noting they continue to do a fabulous job all the way up and down the line. Mr. Snavelly advised he felt physical distancing does work noting the numbers from McCullough Hyde indicate that. Mr. Snavelly noted he was disturbed to see some individuals in town that seem to be ignoring those although most people were following the guidelines pretty directly. Mr. Snavelly encouraged people to stick it out and get through this as unscathed as possible. Mr. Snavelly advised there had been one death in Oxford and it happened to be one of his neighbors noting it does hit home in that respect. Mr. Snavelly indicated his support for Governor DeWine noting he felt he has done a good job. Mr. Snavelly acknowledged the comments made a few moments ago indicating his support for the Jewish community.

Mr. Bracken advised a lot of what he will say is repeating other's comments. Mr. Bracken thanked Ms. Southard for her words noting they were great and it was real important to remember that.

Mr. Bracken thanked staff for all of their efforts.

Mr. Bracken referred to social distancing and advised he knew people were getting tired and this could go on for a long time. Mr. Bracken noted the economy and our health are not competing against each other. Mr. Bracken advised the only way the economy is going to improve is if people do not have fear of death and illness noting we need to conquer the virus if we want to move forward. Mr. Bracken added if we do not we will have more deaths and more illness and that fear will keep people from coming out and going to work. Mr. Bracken noted the consequences of those who are ill or dying is horrible in itself and we should not have to argue the economic side noting the economic impact from them because they are lost forever is far worse than quarantine.

Mr. Bracken advised if people listen to the economists, and listen to the historians from the 1918 pandemic, even if we are concentrating on the economy we must care about our health, reduce the virus and keep it down. Mr. Bracken noted if we do not follow the protocols we have been following we are going to have spikes again and it will shut everything down again much worse than it did before. Mr. Bracken noted without mass immunity and without a vaccine, all we have right now is social distancing, masks, good hygiene, cleanliness and washing hands and we need to keep that up.

Mr. Bracken advised all of Oxford's charities are doing great work as they always do noting they were doing relatively well right now with regard to their normal level of resources. Mr. Bracken advised they are not always able to help all members of the community in every way that those members have needs. Mr. Bracken noted Oxford has a homeless population, people who are struggling everyday and advised while the charities are doing relatively well by their normal levels of resources that does not mean they do not need more. Mr. Bracken advised his hope the charities will receive many donations going forward.

Mr. Prytherch honored longtime Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) member Mike Davis who in addition to his service at the Talawanda School District was a citizen volunteer on an important commission and provided great expertise on the CIC. Mr. Prytherch noted this was a loss to the community, the school district and the City of Oxford.

Mr. Prytherch thanked members of the CIC and staff, especially Jessica Greene, for their efforts moving forward with the Gift Card Stimulus Program. Mr. Prytherch encouraged those who have not applied to participate in the program to do so noting the deadline to apply was Thursday and the CIC will meet on Friday. Mr. Prytherch advised there would be an initial dispersal and if there is a greater need the CIC has developed criteria for how to evaluate that.

Mr. Prytherch encouraged people to think about how to use their stimulus money to support the local economy. Mr. Prytherch suggested the purchase of gift cards as an individual. Mr. Prytherch encouraged people to purchase those now to be redeemed later when social distancing is lifted. Mr. Prytherch also suggested donating to the non-profits or to the Community Foundation to help those in need. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt this was going to be a long drawn out affair and the economic repercussions will be suffered for a long time.

Mr. Prytherch noted he was glad Council was moving forward with the "Tree" Ordinances because it is Earth Day and COVID-19 while an incredible challenge has shown how capable we are of radically re-orienting the way we live in short order in the face of a threat. Mr. Prytherch advised he believed Climate Change poses as great a threat or greater than COVID-19 does.

Mayor Smith thanked all of the bank employees who are deemed essential particularly the tellers who are operating the teller lines at all of the banks doing face to face interactions everyday with their mask and a lot of hand sanitizer. Mayor Smith thanked all of the staff at the grocery stores who are working to keep the shelves stocked so we do not have to worry about keeping food in our houses. Mayor Smith thanked City staff, especially Jessica Greene, for getting the meeting online this evening noting it worked nearly flawlessly.

Mayor Smith made a plea to landlords noting we are trying to cope with the off campus students moving out in a few weeks. Mayor Smith asked landlords to extend the move-out date as much as a week to avoid getting a lot of people together, enhance social distancing and cut down on crowds of people moving out of their off campus houses.

Mayor Smith reminded everyone to hang in there noting what we are doing is working.

ADJOURN

Mr. Prytherch moved to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mayor Smith (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)