A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kevin McKeehan on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. Those members present were Bob Blackburn, Richard Keebler, Kate Rousmaniere, Mike Smith, Steve Snyder and Edna Southard.

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; Ms. Gail Brahier, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. John Jones, Police Lieutenant; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor McKeehan requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Blackburn moved to adjourn to Executive Session immediately in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) (3) for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion was approved by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Keebler, Ms. Rousmaniere, Mr. Smith, Mr. Snyder, Ms. Southard, Mr. Blackburn, Mayor McKeehan (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Keebler moved to return from Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Snyder seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Rousmaniere moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION
'NATIONAL PRESERVATION MONTH'

Mayor McKeehan read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Laura Henderson, Chair, Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission.

Ms. Laura Henderson, thanked Council for issuing the Proclamation which she accepted on behalf of the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission noting they appreciated the support of City Council and City staff.

Ms. Henderson advised the combined efforts helped to increase awareness of the cultural heritage, history and architecture of Oxford. Ms. Henderson thanked Vice Chair, Kim Peterka, for conducting the HAPC meetings during her absence this winter and welcomed new member, Bobbe Burke. Ms. Henderson noted the commission was especially strong right now and most members were present this evening to show their support. Ms. Henderson referred to the National Preservation Month theme this year, 'Embark, Inspire, Engage' and advised the HAPC embarked in several programs that were making a difference and the HAPC collaborated with other organizations such as the Oxford Community Arts Center, the Smith Library of Regional History, the Oxford Visitors Bureau, the William Holmes McGuffey Museum, departments at Miami University and many people in the community. Ms. Henderson advised through the Historic Marker Program the HAPC inspired people to recognize the importance of historic properties and sites by applying for a bronze plaque to designate the year built, and the original owner or architect or an event or site in history that was significant. Ms. Henderson noted the HAPC sponsored Historic District Guided Walking Tours every Saturday in May to engage an increasing number of people of all ages and interests to join them for a glimpse into the past of Oxford, Miami University and the Western College for Women. Ms. Henderson advised another way the HAPC engaged people in Historic Preservation was to gather a group of people to be photographed in front of a significant structure and send it to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for its 'This Place Matters' program. Ms. Henderson discussed the HAPC's goals for 2014 and beyond and again thanked City Council for proclaiming May as National Preservation Month.

Mr. Snyder asked members of the HAPC in the audience to stand and be recognized for their efforts.

Mayor McKeehan thanked the HAPC members and previous members for their hard efforts noting that was why Oxford had such an attractive and vibrant Uptown.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Rebecca Baudry Young, Director, Office of Student Wellness, Miami University, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak to them and invited them as well as members of the public to attend a community forum to address high risk alcohol behaviors. Ms. Baudry Young advised the event would take place on May 1, 2014 at the Lane Library with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments being served at at 5:30 p.m. and the forum beginning at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Baudry Young noted she would like to invite people who lived, worked and played in the community to engage in dialog to address the expectations and realities of alcohol behavior Uptown and on campus. Ms. Baudry Young advised she wanted to reinvigorate some of the conservations and actions that took place in the past and Miami University partnered with the Coalition for a Healthy Community and the Student Community Relations Commission to continue this work. Ms. Baudry Young noted she wanted to reach out to the community to help the group succeed in those efforts.

Ms. Amy Macechko, Health and Wellness Coordinator, Talawanda School District, and Project Coordinator, Coalition for a Healthy Community, thanked the Student Community Relations Commission for their support noting when this idea was presented to them at their last meeting everyone was on board 100%.

Ms. Macechko thanked the City and the SCRC for their willingness to partner in this very important dialog about the health and safety of the overall community. Ms. Macechko highlighted the events taking place over the next two weeks including an Opiate Town Hall Meeting on April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Talawanda High School, the Fresh Air Fair and Prescription Take Back Day on April 26th at the Talawanda High School from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., an Alcohol Education for College Data presentation on April 29th at the Shriver Center from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and a Building Prevention With Faith Training program from 7-9 p.m., the Community Forum to Address High Risk Alcohol Behaviors on May 1st at the Lane Library beginning at 5:30 p.m., and the Talawanda Prom and After Prom event on May 3rd at Miami University from 8:00 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. Ms. Macechko noted she shared the schedule of events to encourage community members to come together to take action on these issues.

Mayor McKeehan thanked Ms. Baudry Young and Ms. Macechko for all of their efforts.

Mr. David Brown, Butler County Auditor's Office, provided an update regarding items that affected the City of Oxford tax payers including mobile home and real estate tax settlements, the state mandated reappraisals for 2014 and Homestead Exemptions. Mr. Brown thanked Council for their time and noted it was always a pleasure to visit Oxford.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 1, 2014 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the April 2, 2014 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 2, 2014 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
ANNUAL AUDIT

A Resolution No. 4820 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Auditor of State's Office to complete the audit of the annual financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

RESOLUTION
ODOT LEGISLATION

A Resolution No. 4821 authorizing the City Manager to sign preliminary consent legislation and other contracts with the Ohio Department of Transportation in connection with the Bridge Inspection Program inside the Oxford Corporate limits (PID No. 97103) at no cost to the City of Oxford. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH
BUTLER COUNTY

A Resolution No. 4822 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Butler County Board of Commissioners for the maintenance of Oxford's portion of the 800 megahertz radio system at a cost not to exceed $21,005.00 for 2014. (Bob Holzworth, Police Chief)

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
SUPPORT ISSUE 1

A Resolution No. 4823 urging Oxford Area voters to support State Issue 1, renewal of the State Capital Improvements Program on the May 6, 2014 ballot. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised the proposed constitutional amendment would reauthorize the State of Ohio to issue general obligation bonds to assist local governments in paying for capital improvements. Mr. Elliott noted the City had utilized this program several times for projects including the High Street brick restoration and the South College Avenue brick restoration. Mr. Elliott advised the Ohio Public Works Commission listed on a county basis the projects that had been funded through the State Capital Improvements Program and the Local Transportation Improvement Program and the City of Oxford had received a little over 4 million dollars. Mr. Elliott noted this reauthorization would be the third time state and local governments had partnered on this initiative to leverage 1.9 billion dollars in bonds over 10 years for local infrastructure projects. Mr. Elliott advised the reauthorization would not raise taxes and it would benefit villages and cities across the state. Mr. Elliott urged Council to adopt the proposed Resolution and noted this reauthorization would be on the May 6th ballot as State Issue 1.

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

Ms. Rousmaniere inquired if Issue 1 could be described as a renewal. Mr. Elliott advised it was a reauthorization and it was already built into the state's budget.

Ms. Rousmaniere moved to adopt Resolution No. 4823. Mr. Snyder seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
NEW CAD/RMS

A Resolution No. 4824 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with E-9 Corporation for the purchase of a new Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RMS) to be purchased through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) contract #GS-35F-03775 at a cost of $164,340.00 plus a contingency amount of 9.5% of the contract price or $15,660.00 for a total cost not to exceed $180,000.00. (Bob Holzworth, Police Chief)

Chief Holzworth advised the City acquired the Condor program in 1984 which was the City's first foray into electronic record keeping. Chief Holzworth noted the CISCO program was acquired and put into service in 2001 and he was strongly suggesting it was time for the City's next evolution in data based management and records management. Chief Holzworth advised a team of City staff including Lt. Jones, Sgt. Robinson, Dispatcher Frey, Office Manager Gabbard, Part-Time Dispatcher Jackson, Part-Time Records Clerk Fields, Dispatcher Osborne and Dispatcher Warren spent over two years studying the options available to replace the current system and felt the Interact product (purchased through E-9 Corporation) was the best provider at the best price and it contained all the features the City would need to support the Police Department well into the future. Chief Holzworth noted the next Resolution dealt with a contract for data conversion so that specific CISCO records could be exported to another public safety software system.

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

Mr. Snyder advised he voted for the Condor system in 1984 and he would be pleased to vote for this Resolution tonight.

Mr. Keebler advised things were changing in the dispatch world with the City of Hamilton's Dispatch Center combining with Butler County and Middletown most likely would as well. Mr. Keebler noted by 2016 the 911 dispatch centers would be reduced to three in Butler County. Mr. Keebler stated he believed Oxford was taking less than 5% of the 911 calls in Butler County which suggested if there was any support for 911 in Oxford it was going to disappear. Mr. Keebler inquired what would happen to the money spent on a new system if something radically changed within Oxford's dispatch center.

Lt. Jones advised it was actually 2018 when the 911 centers in Butler County would be reduced to three. Lt. Jones noted he didn't know what would happen by 2018 as to whether or not Oxford would remain a 911 center but wireless 911 funding would only be available for three PSAPs in the county. Lt. Jones advised if Oxford could no longer operate a PSAP it could be a secondary PSAP similar to Miami University and there would be options even if Oxford lost the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) portion of a new system. Lt. Jones noted the City would still need the Records Management System to maintain records, drive statistics and deploy officers. Lt. Jones stated he felt geographically Oxford stood in a good position to remain a PSAP.

Mr. Keebler noted there was not a representative from the Fire Department on the study committee and inquired how the Fire Department would interface with a new system. Lt. Jones advised Chief Detherage attended some of the demos and the software being recommended would interface with the Fire Department's current software.

Mayor McKeehan noted the new system seemed like a wise move but it was a little troublesome that it might not be needed after 2018.

Mr. Keebler noted there would be some risk either way.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4824. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
DATA CONVERSION

A Resolution No. 4825 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Global Software Corporation for data conversion related to the purchase of a new Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RMS) at a cost not to exceed $20,000.00. (Bob Holzworth, Police Chief)

Chief Holzworth advised this was the companion piece of legislation he mentioned that would convert the data the Police Department currently held into a format that could be used moving forward.

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

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4825. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
AGREEMENT WITH
DUKE ENERGY

A Resolution No. 4826 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Duke Energy Retail Sales, LLC for the procurement of electricity generation and transmission for the City's consumption for a period of thirty six months beginning May 2014. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised the City was reaching the end of a three year contract with Duke Energy Retail Sales, LLC (DERS) who provided electric generation to the City for all municipal accounts. Mr. Dreisbach noted the majority of the accounts were for operating utilities for street light purposes. Mr. Dreisbach advised in anticipation of the end of the contract with DERS the City shopped for additional pricing to decide if the contract with DERS should be extended or not. Mr. Dreisbach noted the price of electric like other commodities changed on a daily basis and the prices fluctuated slightly since his staff report was written late last week.

Mr. Dreisbach advised when he concluded this report he would ask Council to adjust section 3 of the proposed Resolution to reflect the new price of 5.33 cents per kilowatt hour verses 5.26 cents per kilowatt hour which would be a fixed rate for three years. Mr. Dreisbach noted the new rate was 3% lower than what the City was currently paying and he was not aware of any company who could offer a better price at a fixed rate. Mr. Dreisbach recommended the proposed Resolution be amended to reflect the new price.

Mr. Snyder moved to amend Section 3 of the proposed Resolution to read 'at a weighted kilowatt/hour rate not to exceed 5.33 cents per kilowatt hour'. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0 .

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

Mr. Keebler inquired why the City did not solicit proposals from other companies.

Mr. Elliott advised the City did obtain bids approximately 6 years ago and hired a consultant to assist with obtaining price quotes and at that time the City received a rate which was a percentage below the standard rate. Mr. Elliott noted over a 10 year period generation rates had come down but with the economy improving the rates were going back up and he did not think they would ever get any lower than what the City was offered by DERS. Mr. Elliott advised if staff spent 2 months obtaining price quotes the rates could increase by one cent which would be significant for the City. Mr. Elliott noted Council would discuss a municipal aggregation program this evening which would not include the City's usage or Miami University's usage and if approved by Council and by the voters in November he would look at adding other communities to the program to have a greater load and better pricing. Mr. Elliott advised staff was recommending DERS for the City's usage as they felt it was the best pricing the City could obtain.

Ms. Rousmaniere moved to adopt Resolution No. 4826 as amended. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
PAVING CONTRACT

A Resolution No. 4827 accepting the bid and authorizing the City manager to enter into a contract with Barrett Paving Materials, Inc. for resurfacing and maintenance work at a cost of $272,751.45 plus a contingency amount of ten percent (10%) of the contract price or $27,248.00 for a total cost not to exceed $299,999.45. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach noted the rehabilitation of Spring Street had been deferred for several years until the Armstong Student Center and several other Miami University renovations were completed along Spring Street. Mr. Dreisbach advised the project was not just the resurfacing of Spring Street as it would include the repair of several significant roadway base failures making it a quality street for years to come. Mr. Dreisbach noted Spring Street would be reconstructed from Patterson Avenue to Main Street and the work would be performed between July 18th and August 8th to coincide with improvements being constructed by Miami University along Spring Street and the intersection of Spring Street/Patterson Avenue/SR73. Mr. Dreisbach advised this year's paving program also included the surface course of asphalt on Gardenia Drive.

Mr. Dreisbach noted three bids were received for the project and Barrett Paving Materials, Inc. was the lowest and best bidder.

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

Mr. Keebler noted concern about a three way stop at Maple Street and advised he felt there needed to be a major discussion regarding the issue. Mr. Keebler noted the intersection should be signalized. Mr. Dreisbach advised that was independent of the paving project but he understood Mr. Keebler's concern.

Mr. Snyder noted the construction schedule sounded aggressive and inquired if it was do-able. Mr. Dreisbach advised yes, and staff would make sure it happened.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4827. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
ELECTRIC AGGREGRATION

An Ordinance To Facilitate Competitive Retail Electric Service To Promote Electrical Savings, Lower Cost Electricity Supplies And Other Benefits For Certain Electricity Consumers, Authorizing All Actions Necessary To Effect An Electric Aggregation Program Pursuant To Section 4928.20 Of The Ohio Revised Code And Article XVIII Section 4 Of The Ohio Constitution; Directing The Butler County Board Of Elections To Submit A Ballot Question To The Electors; And Authorizing An Agreement With An Agent For Such Purposes. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised an electric aggregation program would provide a third option for the residents of Oxford and noted presently residents had two choices, the standard Duke Energy rate or the Electric Choice Program where consumers could choose between 66 different companies. Mr. Elliott advised those companies were posted on the PUCO website and some offered fixed rates, some offered variable rates, the terms could be for 3 months or for several years, some had cancellation fees and some offered renewable energy components. Mr. Elliott noted if Council adopted the proposed Ordinance, the issue would be placed on the November ballot. Mr. Elliott advised if the voters passed the issue, the City would create its opt-out program and present it to the public during two public hearings. Mr. Elliott noted he would look to partner with other communities for a greater electric load to obtain better pricing. Mr. Elliott advised this market changed on a daily basis and he felt it would be good for the community to have a third option.

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

Ms. Rousmaniere advised this topic was raised by the Oxford League of Women Voters and education regarding the ballot initiative would be supported by the league and by the Environmental Commission. Ms. Rousmaniere noted this issue could be confusing and it needed to be explained to the public.

Mr. Elliott concurred and noted that educating the public would be important.

ORDINANCE
FINAL ANNEXATION

An Ordinance Accepting The Annexation Petition From Douglas R. Elliott, Jr. For 33.550 Acres Of Land In The Township Of Oxford, Butler County Ohio, And Accepting Said Territory To Be Annexed. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised this was the final step in this annexation process which was approved by the County Commissioners. Mr. Elliott noted Council needed to adopt the proposed Ordinance in order to effect the annexation. Mr. Elliott advised there would be two readings of the proposed Ordinance and after 30 days this property would be part of the City.

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

Mr. Snyder noted Council had already adopted several Resolutions regarding the proposed annexation.

ORDINANCE
SURPLUS PROPERTY

An Ordinance Declaring Parcel Number H4100110000010 Located Along Millville-Oxford Road In Oxford To Be Surplus Property And No Longer Needed For Municipal Purposes; And Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With Miami University For The Sale Of The Property. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Elliott advised this was part of the settlement on the appropriation procedures for this parcel and he recommended the sale of it to Miami University as it was surrounded by land owned by the university. Mr. Elliott noted the City would acquire the right-of-way needed for the US27 South improvement project and then declare the land surplus as the City had no need for it and sell it to Miami University for $60,000.

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

Ms. Rousmaniere inquired if Miami University wanted to purchase the parcel and Mr. Elliott advised yes, as it was surrounded by their lands. Mr. Keebler noted the parcel had been for sale for years and there was no other use for it.

ORDINANCE
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

An Ordinance No. 3270 Approving A Zoning Map Amendment For Approximately 39 Acres Of Land Fronting Southpointe Parkway In Oxford, Ohio, Rezoning The Property From OI (Office and Light Industrial) District To R2A (Single and Two Family Residential) District. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised he had nothing new to add since the first reading. Mr. Chen noted the recommendation from the Planning Commission was to deny the rezoning request as they felt it did not meet any of the decision standards. Mr. Chen advised the applicant, Mr. Webb, would make a presentation.

Mr. Scott Webb, Applicant, provided some slides of the property in question as he discussed the history of the property which had to do with a proposed connector road that would connect US27 with SR73. Mr. Webb reminded Council that the City of Oxford did not zone the property, it was zoned through an annexation agreement. Mr. Webb noted the original zoning was established in the county as part of the Thoroughfare Plan and as part of a lobbying effort on behalf of Miami University and others to try to get the connector road built. Mr. Webb advised the City of Oxford decided not to participate in the connector road project and it was never going to happen. Mr. Webb referred to page 68 of the agenda and noted Council's decision tonight was based on the decision standards and he felt some of those deserved to be highlighted. Mr. Webb discussed decision standard B. 'The proposed amendment will make the map conform more closely to the Comprehensive Plan'. Mr. Webb noted the Comprehensive Plan like the connector road was drawn around something that was never going to happen. Mr. Webb referred to decision standard C. 'There has been a substantial change in area conditions that necessitates the amendment'. Mr. Webb advised there had been a significant change in the area that warranted the rezoning based on the fact that the entire idea for the Tech Park project was based on the connector road and OI zoning was no longer necessary in this location. Mr. Webb referred to decision standard D. 'There is a legitimate need for additional land area in the zoning district that will be expanded'. Mr. Webb noted there was not a legitimate need for 158 acres of OI property. Mr. Webb advised the Miami Heritage Tech Park was awarded a grant and had the connector road gone through and there was a connection between the two parks it might have made sense. Mr. Webb noted there was absolutely no market for a Tech Park in this location and the businesses that would most likely locate there had already left the City of Oxford. Mr. Webb advised the R2 zoning being requested was for single and two family dwellings and not for student housing. Mr. Webb noted the OI district was very restrictive and after 8 years of marketing there was no interest in this property. Mr. Webb advised he felt there was still a need for some OI property in town and people should pool their resources to focus on the Tech Park that had a grant in hand.

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

Ms. Rousmaniere noted this matter was discussed at the Environmental Commission meeting and they inquired if the Planning Commission would implement open space residential development regulations if the land was rezoned. Mr. Webb advised if the zoning amendment was approved it would be followed by a subdivision application and the Environmental Commission and the Planning Commission had done a lot of work revising the subdivision regulations which included conservation development. Mr. Webb noted this would be a perfect opportunity to implement that.

Mr. Keebler noted he was on the fence about this issue at the last meeting but he intended to support the request. Mr. Keebler advised the connector road was not there, the market was not there and things had changed in the area. Mr. Keebler noted he felt it was a good attempt and everyone thought it was the right thing to do at the time. Mr. Keebler agreed with Mr. Webb and noted the Comprehensive Plan recognized the site and accepted it. Mr. Keebler advised Council would still have a lot of input on how the property would look and feel because of the subdivision Ordinance. Mr. Keebler noted there had been no public comments throughout this process suggesting it was the wrong thing to do. Mr. Keebler advised OI zoning allowed 70% lot coverage and that would not happen with R2 zoning. Mr. Keebler noted there was OI zoned land across the road from the property in question.

Mr. Snyder noted he was not present at the last meeting. Mr. Snyder advised he was involved in these deliberations early on as a Miami University representative. Mr. Snyder noted he was not convinced the developers initially wanted OI zoning and advised there were discussions about it being easier to annex if OI was involved for a Tech Park. Mr. Snyder advised the history of the connector road and the Tech Park had been very much intertwined. Mr. Snyder noted it was 16 years ago that the concept of a Tech Park in this community was originally discussed and the time had passed for that as technology had changed. Mr. Snyder advised it was the right thing to do at the time and now it was a failed initiative and Council needed to move on. Mr. Snyder noted there would still be 120 acres of OI land in the community and 74 acres of that was a Tech Park concept. Mr. Snyder advised Council needed to look at different ways to market OI zoning and what they could expect to bring into town. Mr. Snyder noted he was all for creating jobs and a Tech Park was not going to create jobs. Mr. Snyder advised he would support the proposed Ordinance.

Ms. Southard noted the OI property in question had infrastructure in place and the City needed space for offices, research, businesses, governmental offices, etc. and that was what the property in question was for. Ms. Southard advised she did not feel the City needed more residential housing in this area or anywhere. Ms. Southard noted she remained unconvinced that Council needed to rezone the property and she would favor that Council maintained the OI designation in this area.

Ms. Rousmaniere advised she voted against this rezoning at the Planning Commission meeting but changed her mind and would vote for it this evening. Ms. Rousmaniere noted she would like Council to stop talking about the OI district as being designated for only light industrial or Tech Park uses. Ms. Rousmaniere advised the OI designation could be used for professional offices, businesses, government, medical offices, a school building, rental office, fraternity or sorority office etc.

Ms. Southard noted Council should be thinking long term and planning for the future. Ms. Southard advised Council should try to have a vision for the future and having professional offices to the south of town still made sense even if it did not happen in the next year or two.

Mr. Snyder agreed that Council needed to be looking forward and City Council 8-10 years ago was looking forward and tried to come up with a Tech Park concept. Mr. Snyder noted at some point if something did not work out you had to try something else. Mr. Snyder advised the developers tried to market the property in other ways than a Tech Park. Mr. Snyder noted there would still be 128 acres of OI land that had been undeveloped for a long time. Mr. Snyder advised there had been different types of initiatives over the years to try to bring new business into town and when you hit a dead end it was time to try something else.

Mr. Keebler noted it wasn't wrong, but to suggest the community had 74 acres on Oxford Milford Road that could be used for professional offices without a major player with 3 million dollars to match the state grant was a long shot.

Mr. Snyder inquired how long a developer should be held hostage in terms of developing their land. Mr. Snyder noted this developer put in a good faith effort over the years to try to accomplish the Tech Park project. Mr. Snyder advised the City didn't deliver as there was no connector road and the developer was still waiting for a sidewalk to be installed which was part of the agreement.

Mayor McKeehan advised he was on the fence regarding this issue at the last meeting but he too was going to support it. Mayor McKeehan noted the developer tried to market the property in question and owners of other OI property had been unsuccessful in marketing their properties. Mayor McKeehan noted that Mr. Kyger shared at the last meeting that 90% of businesses were looking for existing facilities to move into. Mayor McKeehan advised he did not see the need for the property in question to remain zoned OI and if the need occurred there would still be plenty of land zoned for OI use.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3270. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Snyder, Ms. Southard, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Keebler, Ms. Rousmaniere, Mr. Smith, Mayor McKeehan (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott updated Council and the public regarding technical difficulties the Regional Income Tax Agency had been experiencing.

Mr. Elliott updated Council and the public regarding the City's Community Development Block Grant allocation for 2014 noting Oxford would receive $113,766 which was 10% of the county's allocation.

Mr. Elliott advised staff from the City of Oxford, Miami University, and the Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA) had been meeting to explore a TIGER Discretionary Grant application for a Multi-Modal Transit Center in Oxford. Mr. Elliott noted the federal notice of funding availability stated that $600 million was appropriated to be awarded by the US Department of Transportation and the applications were due April 28, 2014. Mr. Elliott advised $120 million was set aside for rural areas of which Oxford and Butler County qualified. Mr. Elliott noted BCRTA would apply for the funding and Miami University would provide the required match. Mr. Elliott advised the City of Kent, Ohio, Kent State University, and PARTA were successful in obtaining a Tiger grant for $20 million to build a multi-modal transit center as part of their downtown redevelopment project known as Kent Central Gateway.

Ms. Rousmaniere inquired if there was an update on Municipal Income Tax Reform. Mr. Elliott advised no, but he was watching for any activity regarding the matter closely and he would let Council know of any progress.

Ms. Brahier advised the Park and Recreation summer brochure was published and available for the public. Ms. Brahier noted the Night Egg Scramble for 4th-8th graders would take place April 17th at 9:30 p.m. at the TRI and the Day Egg Scramble for 1 yrs. – 3rd grade would take place April 19th at 11:00 a.m. at the Community Park.

Ms. Brahier thanked several fraternities and sororities for volunteering their time to assist with projects at the Community Park and for assisting with the Easter egg hunt preparation.

Mr. McHugh advised he met with Mr. Davis of the Talawanda School District and the closing for the former high school property would take place April 29, 2014.

Ms. Rousmaniere echoed Ms. Macechko's remarks about the Opiate Town Hall Meeting on April 23, 2014 where various medical and legal experts would discuss the problems in the community and around the country with opiates and opiate addiction.

Mr. Smith echoed sentiments from the HAPC Chair and encouraged everyone to watch for information regarding the Historic Guided Walking Tours in May.

Mr. Keebler advised there had been discussions regarding the potential uses of the former Talawanda High School property one of which was a fairly large parking area. Mr. Keebler noted he was not opposed to that as it would get cars off of the streets. Mr. Keebler advised if a parking area was developed he hoped the City could work with Miami University on the project to make sure green space was preserved and that it was a good project for the whole community.

Mr. Keebler advised if the former high school property was developed as a transient lot and transportation hub it would be a significant impact on Chestnut Street and Council might need to look at the signage at Chestnut Street and Campus Avenue as well as realigning Main Street with Collins Run Road. Mr. Keebler reiterated his hope that Council would be involved with whatever occurred on the former high school site.

Mr. Blackburn advised the Kinetics Festival was fantastic and commended Kate Currie and all of the volunteers noting they did a great job. Mr. Keebler concurred

Mr. Blackburn referred to the Community Forum to Address High Risk Alcohol Behaviors which would take place on May 1, 2014 and advised some of the panelists were Sergeant Yates from MUPD, Sergeant Reising from OPD, Katrina Rice from Drug Free Greater Cincinnati, City Manager, Doug Elliott, Amy Macechko with the Coalition for a Healthy Community and Ari Frum from the Student Community Relations Commission. Mr. Blackburn noted he was glad to see the issue being addressed openly and noted his hope this would get more people concerned about the problems.

Mayor McKeehan thanked everyone involved with the Kinetics Festival noting he spent some time there and it was a wonderful event which was very well attended.

Mayor McKeehan noted with the warmer weather more people were out walking, jogging, biking and playing and encouraged everyone to be cognizant of pedestrians and bicyclists to ensure the safety of the community.

Mayor McKeehan advised he traveled to Columbus last week for his day job as the Ohio Bankers League held a conference at the Statehouse. Mayor McKeehan noted after his banking duties were finished he mentioned municipal income tax reform to Senator Seitz, Representative Blessing and Representative Derickson. Mayor McKeehan reiterated that the issue had quieted down but could percolate back up.

Mayor McKeehan noted after spending a day in Columbus – Oxford did not have a parking problem.

ADJOURN

Ms. Rousmaniere moved to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.