A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, April 16 , 2013 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Bob Blackburn, John Harman, Kate Rousmaniere and Steve Snyder. Kevin McKeehan was excused.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. Bob Holzworth, Police Chief; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director, and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keebler requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bogard moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PRESENTATION
BUTLER COUNTY
REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Ms. Carla Lakatos, Executive Director, advised she and Mr. Matthew Dutkevicz, Assistant General Manager, would provide an update on the Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA), answer any questions and ask for Council's political and financial support. Ms. Lakatos noted in 2008 BCRTA served 12,000 trips and in 2013 they anticipated serving over 250,000 trips. Ms. Lakatos advised the cost to provide transportation services was $57.00 per hour for each bus on the street and noted some of their funding sources included contracts with Butler County and SORTA, the Hamilton County system. Ms. Lakatos advised BCRTA also aggressively sought grants and had been successful through the years. Ms. Lakatos noted in 2009 BCRTA partnered with the City of Middletown and most recently BCRTA entered into a 1.6 million dollar annual contract with Miami University to run their campus service and well as service for the general public in Oxford. Ms. Lakatos recognized Lt. Spilman from Miami University who was in attendance and noted he did a lot of work on the contract. Ms. Lakatos advised the Middletown-Hamilton route was initiated in 2009, ran 3 times a day, and provided 900 trips per month at a fare of $2.00 each way for the general public. Ms. Lakatos noted 89% of the riders were from the general public and the remainder of the riders were Miami students or faculty. Ms. Lakatos advised the Middletown-Oxford route was initiated in 2010 and provided 950 trips a month with ¼ of the riders from the general public and the remaining riders were Miami students or faculty. Ms. Lakatos noted the Oxford-Hamilton route was initiated in August of 2012 and it did not operate when Miami was not in session. Ms. Lakatos advised that route provided 4300 trips a month and under 10% of the riders were from the general public.

Mr. Matthew Dutkevicz, referred to the PowerPoint slide being shown and discussed the proposed new service for Oxford. Mr. Dutkevicz noted the routes were developed through public participation with the university and community members. Mr. Dutkevicz advised the City had been involved in the process while Miami's Master Circulation Plan was being developed. Mr. Dutkevicz noted BCRTA was still accepting comments from the public regarding the proposed routes. Mr. Dutkevicz advised a City Loop was proposed for this fall which included stops along College Corner Pike and at McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital. Mr. Dutkevicz noted the vehicles would be handicapped accessible, equipped with bicycle racks, and would have on board surveillance systems. Mr. Dutkevicz advised the proposed route would only be available when Miami was in session and the fare for the public would be $2.00 each way.

Ms. Carla Lakatos, noted BCRTA was focused on connecting the major urban areas in Butler County conveniently and affordably and have those connections feed into the Cincinnati system. Ms. Lakatos referred to the Oxford-Hamilton route and noted BCRTA would like to offer that service throughout the entire year and the estimated was $90,000 for the weeks that Miami was not in session. Ms. Lakatos advised BCRTA had identified 50% of that funding and was seeking financial support to allow for expanded routes in the Oxford community.

Mr. Blackburn inquired how large the busses would be. Ms. Lakatos advised initially there would be 4 small simulated street cars and some 35 foot buses and BCRTA would evaluate the demand once the route was up and running. Ms. Lakatos noted BCRTA was working with the university and others to procure a new fleet when funding was available in 2015.

Mr. Blackburn inquired if the current Miami Metro employees would have an opportunity to work for BCRTA and Ms. Lakatos advised yes.

Mr. Bogard commended Ms. Lakatos and the BCRTA staff for all of their efforts.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted she attended the community forum and community members were very interested in a route with a stop at the Senior Center and at the Community Park. Ms. Rousmaniere inquired if City funding would accomplish that. Mr. Dutkevicz noted BCRTA was open to discussion regarding adjusting the route.

Mayor Keebler thanked Ms. Lakatos and Mr. Dutkevicz for providing the presentation this evening and noted the request for financial assistance would have to go through the City Manager and the budgeting process.

PROCLAMATION
'EARTH DAY'

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Rousmaniere, Council representative on the City of Oxford's Environmental Commission.

PROCLAMATION
'ARBOR DAY'

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Bogard who would represent the City at the tree planting at the Community Park for the Arbor Day celebration.

PROCLAMATION
'NATIONAL PRESERVATION DAY'

Mayor Keebler read the Proclamation and presented it to Mr. Mike Smith, Chair of the City's Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission.

Mr. Mike Smith, advised in observation of National Preservation Month the Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission looked at Oxford's historic women's colleges and focused on Ox College and the Western College for Women. Mr. Smith noted there would be a full slate of tours on Saturdays in May and encouraged everyone to follow the Oxford Press for details on the times, locations and destinations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Martha Slager and Ms. Lucille Hautau, from the Oxford Community Arts Center (OCAC) addressed Council on behalf of the Board. Ms. Slager advised she wanted to publically thank the community for its tremendous support of the Oxford Community Arts Center and specifically with regard to the OCAC's recent annual fund raising event. Ms. Slager noted in Phase II of the OCAC's restoration project the Board realized that the dormant building had become something very viable to the community.

Ms. Hautau spoke on behalf of the OCAC and noted how much they appreciated the support received not just from City Council but from the entire City of Oxford. Ms. Hautau advised almost every restaurant in Oxford responded to a request for support of the OCAC's annual gala and provided food for the event. Ms. Hautau noted countless retailers responded with an outpouring of gifts and she was overwhelmed when one business in particular donated a $500 shopping spree. Ms. Hautau advised the gala raised almost $58,000 this year due to the generous support from the entire Oxford community.

Ms. Slager thanked the City of Oxford for lending its support which allowed them to secure an Ohio Historic Restoration grant which would be used to restore exterior elements of the building. Ms. Slager advised the Board looked forward to welcoming people to the veranda at the OCAC to revitalize and come inside for appreciation of the arts. Ms. Slager noted the Board also looked forward to attracting visitors to Oxford.

Ms. Hautau noted 10-12 years ago some people thought the arts center building was not worth saving and now it was a presence in Oxford flourishing with activities. Ms. Hautau thanked everyone for helping them preserve the legacy and promote the arts in Oxford.

Mayor Keebler congratulated Ms. Slager and Ms. Hautau for the success of the OCAC and wished them good luck in the future.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 2, 2013 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Minutes of the April 8, 2013 City Council Special Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the March 20, 2013 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 3, 2013 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 3, 2013 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

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

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION
WAIVE FEES FOR
THE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

A Resolution No. 4742 of Council authorizing the City Manager to waive the fees adopted in the Fee Ordinance for the street closings for the Visitors Bureau for the 2013 annual Summer Music Festival. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott noted this request was for the annual Summer Music Festival and Council had approved the request every year since 2005. Mr. Elliott advised staff recommended that Council once again approved the Resolution to waive the fees for the street closures during the concerts.

Ms. Jessica Greene, Executive Director, Oxford Visitors Bureau, thanked Council for their support of the Oxford Summer Music Festival. Ms. Greene noted the Visitors Bureau was excited to have a concert every week from June 6th to August 29th with the exception of the 4th of July. Ms. Greene noted she felt there would be a nice diverse type of music and the bureau was able to cut costs significantly this year. Ms. Greene advised if Council waived the fees for the street closures they would be able to stay within budget.

All of Council was in favor of the proposed Resolution and Mr. Blackburn noted that Ms. Greene partnered with Hueston Woods this year and they would help support the concerts.

Mr. Harman moved to adopt Resolution No. 4742. Mr. Snyder seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION
ALCOHOL SALES IN
UPTOWN PARK

A Resolution No. 4743 authorizing the City Manager to permit the Miami University Alumni Association to hold an Alumni Weekend 2013 event to include the sale of beer and wine from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, June 21, 2013 in the Oxford Memorial Park. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised the sale of alcohol on City property required the approval of City Council and Council had approved this request for the past two years. Mr. Elliott noted he recommended Council's approval again this year.

Mr. Mark Macechko, Associate Director, Miami University Alumni Association, advised the right-of-way request for this event included a partial closure of High Street and after discussions with Mr. Elliott and Miami staff, they felt this closure was not warranted. Mr. Macechko noted the amended right-of-way request would include the closure of Main Street between Church Street and High Street and the use of both Uptown Parks. Mr. Macechko advised the Alumni Association hoped to build the event and in future years they may request the closure of High Street.

Mr. Bogard noted in previous years the alumni were encouraged to meet at certain restaurants Uptown and inquired if that was the same this year. Mr. Macechko advised the alumni would gather in the Uptown Parks initially and classes in 5 year increments would move into various different establishments.

Ms. Rousmaniere asked Mr. Macechko to describe how the event went last year and the previous year. Mr. Macechko advised the alumni come back for Alumni Weekend to visit Miami, participate in different classes, learn what's happening on campus and connect with friends. Mr. Macechko noted the Alumni Association realized the Uptown area was also part of the alumni's Miami experience and 3 years ago they felt they needed to be where the alumni were. Mr. Macechko advised the Alumni Associations' tents set up on campus for the event were not effective so they decided to bring part of the Alumni Weekend event to the Uptown area. Mr. Macechko noted the event Uptown had been successful and the Alumni Association wanted to expand it and make it a stronger event going forward.

Mayor Keebler noted from personal observation he felt this was a good event, it was good to see people Uptown and it helped the merchants and restaurants.

Mr. Macechko reminded everyone that they did not have to be affiliated with Miami University to participate in the event.

Mr. Elliott noted the area where alcohol was being served had to be roped off and participants had to wear a wristband due to Ohio liquor laws but those not wanting alcoholic beverages could still listen to music and participate in the event.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4743. Mr. Harman seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH
JACKSON CONSTRUCTION CO.

A Resolution No. 4744 accepting the bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Jackson Construction Co. for the improvement and replacement of defective curb, gutter, and sidewalk at a cost of $164,522.55 plus a contingency amount of ten percent (10%) of the contract price or $16,453.00 for a total cost not to exceed $180,975.55. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach addressed his staff report as presented on page 34 of the agenda and noted staff prepared specifications for the work to be performed and advertised for bids. Mr. Dreisbach advised 4 bids were received with the lowest and best bid being submitted by Jackson Construction Co. Mr. Dreisbach noted Jackson Construction Co. had done work for the City in the past and staff was very pleased with their work and recommended they be awarded this contract.

Mr. Bogard inquired when the blacktopping of Chestnut Street would occur and Mr. Dreisbach advised in mid July.

Mr. Bogard moved to adopt Resolution No. 4744. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH
BARRETT PAVING MATERIALS, INC.

A Resolution No. 4745 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 $266,737.40 plus a contingency amount of ten percent (10%) of the contract price or $ 26,674.00 for a total cost not to exceed $293,411.40. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Blackburn recused himself and stepped down from the dais.

Mr. Dreisbach discussed his staff report as presented on pages 36 and 37 of the agenda and advised staff developed specifications for the 2013 paving program and specified alternates to evaluate what could be funded from the available appropriation. Mr. Dreisbach noted 3 bids were received for this project with the lowest bid being submitted by Barrett Paving Materials, Inc. who had done fine work for the City in the past. Mr. Dreisbach advised the project focused on the south side of the City including Kehr Road and parts of South Locust Street in preparation of the construction on US27 S next year when Kehr Road would be a favored alternate route to get around the construction. Mr. Dreisbach noted part of Church Street from Locust to College would also be repaved as the City was eligible for some state reimbursement since it was part of US 27.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted Kehr Road was a tough road and inquired if it could be widened, straightened, or flattened to make it safer in addition to the paving. Mr. Dreisbach advised the budget was not there for major improvements and noted there was money for failed base repair. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff was pleased that the erosion issues along the stream were corrected as an in house project which saved the City a significant amount of money.

Mr. Bogard inquired if stop signs could be installed at Kehr Road and Chestnut Street while US 27 was under construction to allow the Kehr Road traffic onto Chestnut Street safely. Mr. Dreisbach advised the installation of stop signs was regulated by the Ohio Revised Code and staff could evaluate the traffic in that area once the US 27 construction was underway to see if stop signs were warranted.

Mayor Keebler noted in some ways he understood the repaving of Kehr Road and inquired if it was a waste of money to repave the road before it received heavy traffic. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff felt getting the road in the best possible condition before it received heavy traffic would reduce the chance of it receiving significant damage from the increased traffic. Mayor Keebler referred to Exhibit A on page 39 of the agenda and inquired why the City was repaving the 2 alleys and if they were right-of-way, what would it take to abandon them. Mr. Dreisbach advised the alley off of Central Avenue was recommended for repaving due to a drainage issue and it was in very poor condition. Mr. Dreisbach noted the alley off of Tollgate served a limited number of people but it was in poor condition and the City had spent a fair amount of money patching potholes in that alley already. Mayor Keebler instructed staff to look into abandoning the two alleys after they were repaved and noted they were of no use to the public. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff would study what utilities might be involved and see if they could be put into an easement. Mr. Dreisbach noted there were a few pockets like these scattered about town. Mayor Keebler advised he knew the City couldn't afford to do any additional improvements on Kehr Road at this time but noted without curbs and gutters the sides of the road would not hold up. Mayor Keebler advised the same was true on Fairfield and Contreras Roads where the pavement was breaking away at numerous locations. Mayor Keebler noted the City had to come up with a way to fix these roads. Mr. Dreisbach noted Council had this discussion when the City installed sidewalks on Fairfield and Contreras Roads leading to the Community Park and it was decided at that time that the City could not afford to fund the construction of curbs and gutters. Mr. Dreisbach advised one option would be a special assessment to the property owners for the installation of curbs and gutters and staff could obtain pricing for such a project.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4745. Mr. Harman seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Blackburn returned to the dais.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTION 1143.11

An Ordinance No. 3213 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1143.11 Entitled MU University District, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1143.11 Entitled MU University District. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised the proposed Ordinance would provide guidelines for privately owned property owners in the MU District to proceed with obtaining building permits and noted currently there were no guidelines for this district.

Ms. Rousmaniere asked Mr. Chen to review the intent of the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Chen advised currently the MU District had no site development regulations or list of conditional uses and if a property owner wished to add on to a structure there were no guidelines to follow.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3213. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Snyder, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Mr. Harman, Ms. Rousmaniere, Mayor Keebler (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
AMENDING SECTION 1139.02

An Ordinance No. 3214 Amending Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1139.02 Entitled Procedure. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised the amendment to the Ordinance would allow a variance petition to be re-filed after a period of one year. Mayor Keebler noted this would codify an existing practice.

Mr. Bogard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3214. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Mr. Harman, Ms. Rousmaniere, Mr. Snyder, Mayor Keebler (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott updated Council and the public on the initiative to redesign the City's website and thanked Andrew Wilson and Kim Newton for spearheading this project. Mr. Elliott also thanked the Departments for their input. Mr. Elliott noted the City planned to roll out the new website the first of August.

Mr. Elliott discussed Amended Substitute House Bill 360 signed by the Governor in December of 2012 which made the 9-1-1 charge for all wireless subscribers permanent beginning July 1, 2013. (the charge was set to expire 12/31/12). Mr. Elliott noted a portion of the money collected by the state was dispersed to the 9-1-1 Planning Committees of each county. Mr. Elliott advised Am. Sub. H.B. 360 would gradually reduce the number of Public Safety Answering Points in each county and the state's objective was to provide incentive for counties to consider dispatching options such as consolidation in order to continue receiving 100% of the funding. Mr. Elliott noted he would keep Council and the public informed on this issue.

Mr. Kyger noted TJ Maxx opened in Oxford on Sunday and would be a nice addition to town. Mr. Kyger reminded everyone that Oxford had many great local boutiques such as Blue Tique, Collected Works, Juniper, Magnolia, Apple Tree, Paisley on High, Seaview Outfitters and Alpha House just to name a few.

Mr. McHugh advised he received signed documents this afternoon pertaining to the former Dairy Queen property and he would file the appropriate documents for the closing of this property later this week.

Mr. Bogard provided an update from the OKI meeting noting discussion on the Brent Spence Bridge was on hold pending action from the Kentucky legislature. Mr. Bogard noted the Governor would release 1.2 billion in bonds for the turnpike and speed limits on highways in Ohio outside of urban areas would be increased to 70 mph. Mr. Bogard advised discussion also took place with regard to the widening of the Panama Canal and how that would affect the transport of freight on river, rail and highways.

Mr. Snyder publically acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the work Bob Ratterman was doing and noted with the untimely passing of Pete Conrad there was a void in the dissemination of information through print media. Mr. Snyder advised Mr. Ratterman came back from retirement to cover City Council Meetings, School Board Meetings and other events in Oxford and his efforts were appreciated.

Ms. Rousmaniere thanked the City and the Mayor for the Earth Day and Arbor Day Proclamations. Ms. Rousmaniere advised Earth Fest would take place this Saturday coordinated by Miami's Institute for Environmental Sciences. Ms. Rousmaniere noted participants would collect litter on campus from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. informational displays and activities were planned on the slant walk at the corner of Campus Avenue and High Street.

Ms. Rousmaniere advised Arbor Day was Friday, April 26th and the annual celebratory planting of an October Glory Maple tree was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. at the Tri Center.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted the Memorial Plaque recognition ceremony was scheduled for 12:00 noon where a Red Sunset Maple tree that was donated would be planted as part of the program. Ms. Rousmaniere advised 11 trees had been donated since the program began in 2009.

Mr. Blackburn advised the Somerville Fire Department would hold a Chicken Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, May 4th from 4:00 to 7:00p.m.

Mr. Blackburn noted the Oxford NAACP would hold its annual Freedom Fund Banquet on Sunday, April 21st at 5:00 p.m. at the Shriver Center and tickets could be purchased through Ms. Rousmaniere.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bogard moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.