

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Bob Blackburn, Steve Dana, Glenn Ellerbe, Kevin McKeehan, Mike Smith and Edna Southard.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rousmaniere requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dana moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION **'NALC FOOD DRIVE DAY'**

Mayor Rousmaniere read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Bob Ratterman.

Mr. Bob Ratterman, Director, Oxford Community Choice Pantry, thanked Mayor Rousmaniere for the Proclamation and advised the pantry received 1,325 pounds of food from the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive last year. Mr. Ratterman noted a lot of that food went towards their Summer Harvest program and the pantry provided an extra bag of food for households with school aged children. Mr. Ratterman advised the pantry also received food from other food drives, from ShareFest, and the Kiwanis Club provided grants for the purchase of extra food. Mr. Ratterman noted last year the pantry was able to distribute 4,997 pounds of food from the Summer Harvest program alone. Mr. Ratterman advised the pantry appreciated the NALC Food Drive and they appreciated the Proclamation.

Mayor Rousmaniere asked Mr. Ratterman to remind the public how to participate in the food drive. Mr. Ratterman advised on Saturday, May 13, 2017 people could place non-perishable food items by their mailbox and the postal carrier would pick it up for distribution to Shared Harvest Foodbank's network of food pantries.

PROCLAMATION **'POLICE WEEK'**

Mayor Rousmaniere read the Proclamation and presented it to Chief Jones.

Chief Jones thanked Mayor Rousmaniere on behalf of the Oxford Police Division and his colleagues at Miami University, Oxford Township and Butler County. Chief Jones thanked Council and the citizens for their all of their support over the years.

REQUEST FOR USE OF MEMORIAL PARK

Ms. Sharon Klein, Director of Wellness, McCullough Hyde – TriHealth, noted she was in attendance on behalf of the Coalition for a Healthy Community Leadership Group to request use of the Memorial Park for Yoga in the Park each Saturday morning from June through August. Ms. Klein advised the last two years had been very successful with up to 51 different people participating in the event. Ms. Klein noted she worked with Jessica Greene of the Visitors Bureau to determine which Saturdays were not available due to other events being scheduled in the Park and Yoga would move to an alternative site on those days. Ms. Klein requested use of the park for the third consecutive year.

Mr. Dana noted as a member of the Obesity Prevention Workgroup of the Coalition for a Healthy Community, endorsed the request for use of the Memorial Park for the Yoga event as it contributed to good health.

Mr. Ellerbe inquired what the average level of yoga was. Ms. Klein advised novices participated as well as very active yoga enthusiasts.

Ms. Southard noted Yoga in the Park was a very successful program and she felt people enjoyed participating in it. Ms. Southard advised she appreciated that the group was flexible enough to move to an alternate site if necessary.

Mr. Dana moved to approve the request for use of the Memorial Park. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Alan Kyger, Vice President, Enjoy Oxford, noted Jessica Greene of the Visitors Bureau could not be in attendance this evening and advised under her guidance there would be 15 summer music festivals this year starting with local musician Ryan Broshear. Mr. Kyger noted there was a good lineup of concerts and it should be another great season for the music festival. Mr. Kyger provided Council members a poster listing all of the performers.

Ms. Melanie Brinkman, owner of 920 and 926 Cedar Drive since 2014, noted Council recently recommended the Planning Commission look into expanding the overlay district for the Cedar Drive neighborhood. Ms. Brinkman advised when the overlay district was originally adopted she requested the properties at 920 and 926 not be included. Ms. Brinkman advised the properties were included in the overlay district and it had been a financial detriment. Ms. Brinkman noted she felt it was unfair and unduly restrictive and since the Planning Commission and Council were going to reconsider the map for that district she would request her properties be removed.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 18, 2017 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the April 5, 2017 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 19, 2017 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the April 20, 2017 Recreation Board Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Report regarding the April 26, 2017 Civil Service Commission Meeting. (Candi Fyffe, Human Resources Director)

RESOLUTION **FEE WAIVER**

A Resolution No. 5060 authorizing the City Manager to waive the fees adopted in the Fee Ordinance for the 2017 Summer Music Festival. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION **CITY DONATION**

A Resolution No. 5061 of Oxford City Council authorizing the donation of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars to the Coalition for a Healthy Community – Oxford Area to assist with funding for outside consulting services. (Kate Rousmaniere, Mayor)

Mayor Rousmaniere advised Amy Macechko of the Coalition for a Healthy Community would speak to the proposed Resolution.

Ms. Amy Macechko, thanked Council on behalf of the coalition for the commitment of \$1,000 per year for three years noting the investment was being used towards the coalition's evaluation efforts and they were in the process of preparing their annual community report. Ms. Macechko advised the Coalition for a Healthy Community was a community organization that relied on passionate, dedicated volunteers and contributions from local, county, regional and state level partners. Ms. Macechko highlighted some of the recent accomplishments of the Coalition including the medication 'take back day' where 30 pounds of medication was collected for proper disposal, the mental health first aid training and the walking challenge. Ms. Macechko discussed the collaboration efforts to revive the Merry Day Park located near the mobile home community and noted Miami Athletics members may be there on a regular basis to provide positive role modeling and active play.

Ms. Macechko advised the coalition had an opportunity to align many of their initiatives and comprehensive vision for the City, Miami University and the greater community by inviting Mr. Mark Fenton to Oxford. Ms. Macechko noted Mr. Fenton was a national public health planning and transportation consultant who was a recognized authority on public health issues and the need for community, environmental and public policy initiatives to encourage walking, biking and transit use. Ms. Macechko advised Mr. Fenton would visit the Oxford area in late September of 2017 and be involved in a number of community meetings to explain community design principles and strategies to include Planning Commission members and staff, City and university service staff, participants in Safe Routes to School initiatives, the OATS Trail design participants, Coalition members, the Chamber of Commerce, City Council, Butler County Engineer's Office, Metro Parks and local township trustees. Ms. Macechko noted Mr. Fenton would conduct walking audit training for the general public which would allow the community to develop an internal capacity to audit the community on a regular basis to ensure the community was safe for alternate transit. Ms. Macechko advised the cost for Mr. Fenton's services and visit was \$10,000 and half of the funding was secured through Interact for Health who was a current funder of the Coalition through its Thriving Community initiative. Ms. Macechko noted other funders were Miami University, the Talawanda School District, McCullough Hyde TriHealth and the Miami University Greek Community Fund. Ms. Macechko advised the Coalition felt this was a vehicle to further their vision of improving health, safety and accessibility in the community for all residents.

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

Mr. Dana noted the Coalition for a Healthy Community was on a roll and this would contribute to that momentum.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 5061. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION **MERRY DAY PARK LEASE**

A Resolution No. 5062 authorizing the City Manager to develop an agreement for City Council approval between the City of Oxford and the Oxford Community Choice Pantry Board of Directors for the lease of land at the City-owned Merry Day Park. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised earlier in the year he and Ms. Southard discussed the need for the Oxford Community Choice Pantry to find a new location. Mr. Elliott noted the Oxford Community Choice Pantry would like to build a structure to be utilized for the collection, storage, and distribution of food items. Mr. Elliott advised he and Ms. Southard discussed locating the new facility at the Merry Day Park. Mr. Elliott showed an aerial slide of the park noting there were two public roads leading into the park and noted even with a structure of up to 4000 square feet there would be plenty of parkland left. Mr. Elliott advised before the Oxford Community Choice Pantry spent a lot of time, money and effort on the proposal he wanted to bring it to Council to see if Council concurred with the development of a structure at this location by the Oxford Community Choice Pantry. Mr. Elliott noted the proposed lease would be for 25 years with 10 year renewable options and if the structure was no longer utilized by the pantry the ownership of the structure would revert to the City of Oxford.

Ms. Southard advised the City had always been supportive of the Oxford Community Choice Pantry and the pantry was very grateful for that. Ms. Southard noted the current building was 2,000 square feet located in St. Mary's cemetery building and the pantry board members always knew they would eventually need to find another location. Ms. Southard advised the pantry had a three year window in which to move. Ms. Southard noted she felt the location at Merry Day Park was ideal for a lot of reasons including the proximity to the Family Resource Center and other organizations and many customers lived in this area of town. Ms. Southard advised the pantry was open Monday and Thursday from 5- 7 p.m. and Saturday from 2-4 p.m. Ms. Southard noted some customers brought their children to the pantry and there was a small interior play area there and Merry Day Park would offer a lot more options. Ms. Southard advised the board members wanted to build a structure larger than 2,000 square feet as that was what they had now and they had larger needs although it would depend on funding. Ms. Southard noted she felt this location was ideal as it was accessible, there was a road to the site, available parking, the ground was clear and level, there was plenty of space, it's close to the Family Resource Center and clients with children would use the park. Ms. Southard noted her hope Council would agree that it was in the best interest of the City to develop this park in this way.

Mr. Bob Ratterman, advised there was a definite need for more space for the pantry especially when there were large food drives like the one coming up May 13th. Mr. Ratterman noted it would be wonderful to design a building to meet their needs rather than having a building and making it work. Mr. Ratterman thanked St. Mary's for the use of the current building the last 10 years noting it had been a plus for the community and the pantry couldn't do what they did without the use of the building. Mr. Ratterman advised the board needed to decide how much space they needed for each piece of the puzzle, shopping area, carts, play area, storage etc. Mr. Ratterman noted last year the pantry's food donations totaled more than 100,000 pounds and it would be nice to plan ahead with regard to storage of the food. Mr. Ratterman thanked Council for considering the proposed Resolution.

Ms. Ann Fuehrer, 5595 Reily Millville Road, advised she was a member of the Board of the Oxford Community Choice Pantry, a Miami University faculty member, and a community psychologist by training. Ms. Fuehrer noted in the fall of 2015 she created, helped administer and analyzed a survey with pantry customers and 200 customers participated. Ms. Fuehrer advised the survey showed the location of the pantry was crucial to the use of and satisfaction with the customer's shopping experience at the pantry. Ms. Fuehrer noted a third of the customers lived within walking distance of the current pantry and they didn't have reliable transportation to go long distances. Ms. Fuehrer advised a location on College Corner Pike would be ideal for the current customer base. Ms. Fuehrer noted other questions on the survey dealt with expanded services and they found customers were very interested in services consistent with the pantry's mission that could be offered with a larger facility such as nutrition classes, gardening workshops and expanded services for children. Ms. Fuehrer advised having the land and the flexibility provided by City support for building would allow the pantry to include things like a kitchen, a multi-use classroom, expanded children's areas and services consistent with the pantry's mission that are of considerable interest to the pantry's clients.

Ms. Ann Farrell, 5160 Hickory Wood Court, advised she was a new Board member of the Oxford Community Choice Pantry and the new Treasurer for the organization. Ms. Farrell noted she came to speak on behalf of the proposed Resolution and hoped Council would approve it. Ms. Farrell advised she had been a volunteer at the pantry for along time as was her husband and two teenagers. Ms. Farrell advised she felt the pantry was an incredible asset to the community and through the generosity of St. Mary's the pantry was able to use the current facility and it was time to find a new long term location. Ms. Farrell noted the pantry was hitting the bounds of their capacity and there were a lot of residents who needed to be served. Ms. Farrell advised the pantry served 600 households, almost 1800 individuals in the community and the pantry wanted to treat them with the dignity and respect they deserved with a nice facility. Ms. Farrell noted the pantry offered holiday and summer food programs and support for homebound families. Ms. Farrell reiterated the pantry was outgrowing the current facility, the current facility was in need of repair and St. Mary's Parish wanted to use the property to improve their cemetery. Ms. Farrell noted the pantry needed a concrete vision for their future and this was a tremendous opportunity for the pantry and for the community.

Mr. Dana noted as a former President of the Board of the Oxford Community Choice Pantry he completely supported the proposed Resolution. Mr. Dana reiterated locating it close to the Merry Day Park and near the Family Resource Center made great sense and would augment service to needy persons. Mr. Dana thanked Councilor Southard for pursuing the need for the pantry to relocate.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised the proposed Resolution would authorize the City Manager to develop an agreement with the OCCP Board for Council's consideration.

Mr. Ellerbe noted he was in favor of the proposed Resolution and noted his hope there was not an artificial limitation on the size of the proposed building.

Mr. McKeehan advised he also supported the proposed Resolution.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 5062. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH
EVERETT J. PRESCOTT, INC.

A Resolution No. 5063 accepting the bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Everett J. Prescott, Inc. for the acquisition and implementation of a fixed based automated meter management system at a cost not to exceed \$187,275.00. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised \$200,000 was included in the Capital Improvement Budget for an automated meter reading system in anticipation of the major housing complex at Southpointe being complete this fall. Mr. Dreisbach noted capacity benefit charges the developer has paid would be used to install a state of the art meter reading and management system. Mr. Dreisbach noted the City would install an antenna on the Sheriff's communication tower at the City Garage and the antenna will communicate directly with the meters at the new complex.

Mr. Dreisbach advised the system would read the meters and transmit the data to the Finance Department for billing purposes and it will turn the meters off and on remotely. Mr. Dreisbach reiterated the system would be paid for by the developer through the capacity benefit charges and not by the utility as a whole. Mr. Dreisbach noted the new technology based on staff's forecast may eventually be used in 98% of the City.

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

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired about the capacity benefit charges. Mr. Dreisbach advised the City charged a fee when a new customer tapped into the system and noted the fee was based on the size of the meter and that fee was funding this project. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff felt very comfortable with the bid price of \$187,275.00. Mayor Rousmaniere noted this technology would eliminate the need for an employee to physically read the meter or turn water on or off and Mr. Dreisbach advised yes.

Mr. Dana inquired if Mr. Dreisbach could speak to the savings related to the new technology. Mr. Dreisbach noted the obvious savings would result from not having someone read meters every month and there would be a savings on the vehicle that's not being used and there was no risk to the employee of injury or accident. Mr. Dreisbach advised there would be a huge savings during Miami's move-in and move-out periods since the water could be turned off/on remotely.

Mr. Blackburn inquired if the fees would remain the same for turning water on and Mr. Dreisbach advised yes.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 5063. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION **OVI TASKFORCE**

A Resolution No. 5064 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a \$225,000.00 grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, to engage in and coordinate as lead agency for the Countywide OVI Taskforce. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones noted this would be the third year for OPD to be the Lead Agency for the Butler County OVI Taskforce and an approved Resolution would authorize the City to apply for the grant.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if the Resolution was done each year and Chief Jones advised yes.

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

Mr. Dana inquired which agencies participated in the Taskforce. Chief Jones advised 13 agencies in Butler County participated and Oxford administered the grant. Chief Jones noted each agency had a coordinator who reported to the Lead Coordinator.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 5064. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
NATUREWORKS GRANT

A Resolution No. 5065 authorizing the City Manager to apply for a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources through the NatureWorks grant program for the purchase of a Playground structure for Leonard Howell Park. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Mr. Wooddell noted the proposed grant was for the Leonard Howell Park on Bonham Road which had a playground structure several years ago and it was removed due to deterioration. Mr. Wooddell advised at the time there was not a high demand for the playground equipment to be replaced but with the construction of the OATS Trail that location will become a trail head and with other improvements being done at the park he felt it was a good time to apply for a grant to cover most of the cost of replacing the playground structure. Mr. Wooddell noted ODNR required an approved Resolution of Council for the grant application.

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

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if ODNR gave grants for playground equipment. Mr. Wooddell advised ODNR provided grants for land acquisition, development of ball fields, gymnasiums, playgrounds, etc. Mr. Wooddell noted under the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Leonard Howell was considered a community park because it was more than 20 acres and it had every other aspect required to be a community park other than a play structure.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 5065. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
STREET NAME CHANGE

An Ordinance Changing The Name Of “Collins Run Road” In The City Of Oxford To “South Main Street” And Directing The Clerk Of Council To Forward A Certified Copy Of This Ordinance To The County Engineer. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised Council authorized the reconstruction of the existing Collins Run Road so it becomes aligned with S. Main Street south of Chestnut Street. Mr. Dreisbach noted a contract had already been awarded for this project and traffic control signals would be installed at the intersection this summer. Mr. Dreisbach advised the question came up of what to name the new road and staff interacted with stakeholders including Oxford Township, the Talawanda School District, Miami University, OPD, and City Garage personnel and they supported the name of S. Main Street as the continuation for the new road except the Oxford Township Trustees who prefer the name remain Collins Run Road. Mr. Dreisbach advised he included an email from the trustees in his report to Council. Mr. Dreisbach noted staff needed guidance from Council regarding the name of the new portion of roadway.

Mr. John Kinne, 3794 Indian Creek Road, Oxford Township Trustee, noted the township office was located at 935 Collins Run Road. Mr. Kinne noted at the March meeting of the Oxford Township Trustees Gary Salmon told the trustees that Mr. Dreisbach communicated with him and asked if the trustees had an opinion about changing the name of Collins Run Road. Mr. Kinne noted the trustees and township staff discussed the matter and decided there would be some work involved in changing the name and their conclusion was that they preferred the name stay the same. Mr. Kinne advised they preferred their mailing address to remain 935 Collins Run Road. Mr. Kinne advised the board met at 925 Collins Run Road, and the Police Department and township garage was on Collins Run Road. Mr. Kinne noted the township had been known at that address to a large number of associates and colleagues for a long time. Mr. Kinne advised the township would incur some expense with updating documents and updating webpages. Mr. Kinne noted Main Street already becomes Morning Sun Road on the north side of town, High Street becomes Contreras Road, Spring Street becomes Fairfield Road, Patterson becomes Oxford Millville Road and there was good precedent to not have a continuous name and the trustees were not asking for anything unusual.

Mr. Smith inquired if there was a logical place for the name to transition without causing confusion. Mr. Dreisbach advised there was confusion sometimes with Spring Street becoming Fairfield Road and he was not sure if this intersection would present that or not. Mr. Dreisbach noted Collins Run Road was not a through street and most people going there have business there and know where they are going.

Ms. Southard advised the Amtrak station would potentially be in that area and people getting off the train could get off at Main Street rather than Collins Run Road. Ms. Southard noted when there was an opportunity to simplify something perhaps that opportunity should be taken.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted this issue was raised at the last Council meeting and the consensus of Council was to have the legislation brought forward to consider changing Collins Run Road to South Main Street.

ORDINANCE **SOUTHPOINT TIF**

An Ordinance Declaring Improvements To Parcels Of Real Property Located In Oxford, Ohio, To Be A public Purpose Under Section 5709.40(B) Of The Ohio Revised Code, Exempting Such Improvements From Real Property Taxation, Declaring Certain Public Improvements To Be Necessary For The Further Development Of Those Parcels, And Establishing A Tax Increment Equivalent Fund. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mayor Rousmaniere advised Mr. Elliott would introduce the next five proposed Ordinances which dealt with creating Tax Increment Financing Districts.

Mr. Elliott provided a PowerPoint and gave an overview of the project noting a Development Agreement was signed in 2006 between the City of Oxford and 4-Leaf Development, LLC. Mr. Elliott advised under the Failure of Connector Conditions, 4-Leaf may elect to construct and dedicate a road in the area generally shown for the connector.

Mr. Elliott noted the City would create one or more Tax Increment Financing Districts (TIF Districts) and enter into a Service Payment Agreement for the purpose of providing for the financing of the construction of the road. Mr. Elliott advised neither 4-Leaf nor any of its members shall be obligated to guarantee any service payments made in lieu of taxes or any shortfall nor shall 4-Leaf be required to reimburse the Talawanda School District for lost revenue. Mr. Elliott showed a slide of the proposed roadway noting the Trinitas project was north of the proposed roadway and it would be built to the same standards as Southpointe Parkway. Mr. Elliott emphasized the proposed roadway was not about the failed 2006 'connector'. Mr. Elliott explained that one commercial TIF needed to be created for the duplex and multi-family buildings and four incentive TIF Districts needed to be created for the single family homes. Mr. Elliott noted all five TIF Districts encompassed the Trinitas or the ANNEX project and all five would exempt 75% of new incremental property value for 10 years. Mr. Elliott advised the Talawanda School District and the Butler Technology Center had been notified of the proposed TIF Districts. Mr. Elliott showed a slide which illustrated an example of how a basic TIF worked for a period of 25 years and another slide illustrating a 10 year TIF. Mr. Elliott provided the estimated timeline to establish the TIF Districts, apply for real property tax exemption, obtain taxable value from the County Auditor, complete the final engineering of the proposed roadway, issue notes or bonds and begin construction of the first phase of the proposed roadway (2018). Mr. Elliott noted the 2006 agreement between the City of Oxford and 4-Leaf Development was driving this project which required the City to reimburse 4-Leaf for the construction of a road through the site.

Mr. Dana referred to page 47 of Council's packet and advised he felt this was a prudent sequence because only after the property tax exemption amount is determined by the County Auditor will the City issue debt to finance the road.

Mr. Ellerbe noted it was his understanding that the City was not building the road and that 4-Leaf and their subcontractor were building the road and inquired if that was correct. Mr. Elliott advised the agreement stipulates that 4-Leaf could build the road and the City would reimburse them. Mr. Elliott and Mr. McHugh mentioned it would be better for the City to bid the project and control the construction contract as well as the funding.

Mr. McKeehan noted these would be 10 year TIF's and inquired what would occur when the assessed property value increased or decreased. Mr. Elliott advised there was a risk if the property value decreased. Mr. Elliott noted it might be wishful thinking that the property value would increase significantly.

Mr. Elliott noted the above Ordinance dealt with the commercial TIF District (duplexes and multi-family buildings) and the next 4 dealt with the incentive TIF Districts (single family homes).

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

ORDINANCE
SOUTHPOINT TIF

An Ordinance Declaring Improvements To Parcels Of Real Property Located In The City Of Oxford, Ohio, To Be A Public Purpose Under Section 5907.40 (C) Of The Ohio Revised Code, Exempting Such Improvements From Real Property Taxation, Authorizing The Execution Of Such Documents As May Be Necessary, And Establishing A Tax Increment Equivalent Fund.
(Doug Elliott, City Manager)

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

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(Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if there were any comments from the public or from Council and there were none. Mayor Rousmaniere noted at the next meeting any other questions or clarifications would be addressed and a vote would be taken on each Ordinance.

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3381. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 4 to Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2017. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised both items on the supplemental budget dealt with grant money noting one grant was through the NatureWorks program and would cover 75% of the cost for playground equipment for the Leonard Howell Park. Mr. Newlin noted the other grant was through the Local Government Safety Capital Grant which the Fire Chief applied for and it was for the purchase of a heavy duty custom pumper. Mr. Newlin advised the grant proceeds would cover 34.8% of the cost of the pumper and Miami University was contributing \$113,333.00. Mr. Newlin noted the balance would be paid through the Fire/EMS fund which contained funds from Oxford Township to go towards the \$574,405.00 purchase of the pumper.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott reminded Council their annual Financial Disclosure Statements were due by May 15, 2017. Mr. Elliott advised the statements could be submitted to the Clerk of Council who would send them to the Ethics Commission along with the filing fee. Mr. Elliott noted the statements could also be submitted and paid for online.

Mr. Elliott advised he received a letter on April 27, 2017 from Michael Gmoser, Butler County Prosecuting Attorney who stated in early July he will no longer prosecute Oxford's local Ordinances. Mr. Elliott noted Mr. Gmoser asked the City's attorney to review the statute he quoted in the letter that made him feel he is not obligated to provide the service to the City of Oxford. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. McHugh was reviewing Mr. Gmoser's findings. Mr. Elliott advised he was not sure the City would be able to convince Mr. Gmoser to provide the service without going to court.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if the Butler County Prosecutor was saying as of July 1st he will no longer prosecute any cases in the City of Oxford. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Gmoser would no longer prosecute local Ordinances and noted sometimes OPD cited under a state statute rather than under a local Ordinance and he would continue to provide services if OPD cited under a state statute. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Gmoser's letter contained options such as establishing a Mayor's Court or establishing a Municipal Court. Mr. Elliott provided some background information noting in 2015, Mr. Gmoser proposed the abolishment of the three Butler County Area Court (part-time) judges and the establishment of an Oxford Municipal Court and two Butler County Municipal Courts with three full-time judges. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Gmoser provided a notebook with this proposal to the City Manager's Office and he shared the information with Council. Mr. Elliott noted his analysis of the proposal indicated the proposal would cost the City of Oxford additional money in the range of \$200,000 to \$300,000 per year.

Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Gmoser's proposal indicated a savings to Butler County of approximately \$260,000.00 which did not include the cost for court security which is now provided by the Sheriff's Office, prosecution which is now provided by Mr. Gmoser's office or the construction of a new municipal court facility meeting the Ohio Supreme Court standards. Mr. Elliott reiterated Mr. Gmoser's proposal would eliminate the three part-time judges and create three full-time judges with the present case load. Mr. Elliott noted one of the full-time judges if the City of Oxford accepted Mr. Gmoser's proposal would be an Oxford Municipal Court Judge and there would be two new Butler County Municipal Court Judges. Mr. Elliott advised the county would continue under that proposal to pay for the cost of the two new Butler County Municipal Courts serving Liberty, Milford, Wayne, Reily, Hanover, Morgan and West Chester townships but would no longer fund the Municipal Court in Oxford. Mr. Elliott noted the City of Oxford would no longer be supported and possibly Oxford Township with a proposed new municipal court although the same county taxes would be paid. Mr. Elliott advised he looked at the proposal from a financial perspective. Mr. Elliott noted another option for the City was to use one of the two proposed Butler County Municipal Courts which would avoid the additional costs to the city of staffing and constructing a new Municipal Court but it would require Oxford Police Officers who are required to appear in Municipal Court to travel to Hamilton. Mr. Elliott advised staff was tracking the hours officers spend in Area One Court and noted officers already travel to Hamilton for Common Pleas, Juvenile, and Grand Jury appearances. Mr. Elliott reiterated he looked at the proposal from a financial perspective and noted there may be other intangibles which should be considered with this option such as the impact on the clients and local attorney offices of not having a court in Oxford. Mr. Elliott advised in March of 2016 he recommended that the City select the most cost effective option of utilizing one of the proposed Butler County Municipal Courts (in Hamilton) rather than establishing an Oxford Municipal Court. Mr. Elliott noted Mr. Gmoser has not moved forward with this proposal to his knowledge and it would require the adoption of a Resolution by the County Commissioners as well as introduction and adoption of state legislation. Mr. Elliott advised he was waiting for Mr. McHugh's opinion regarding the April 27, 2017 letter from Mr. Gmoser and he envisioned calling Mr. Gmoser to ask him to continue providing prosecution services and that the City respectfully disagreed with his determination. Mr. Elliott noted if the City was forced to provide prosecution services it was not in the budget. Mr. Elliott advised he and Mayor Rousmaniere discussed appointing a committee of stakeholders to look at the issue of a Municipal Court and provide a recommendation and they also discussed hiring a consultant. Mr. Elliott noted for the short term he and Chief Jones discussed the possibility of citing under state statute and not local ordinances which would result in a loss of revenue. Mr. Elliott advised the public should be aware of this situation as it affected the community and it will affect the City financially.

Mr. Dana advised he and Mr. Elliott communicated on this issue and inquired if Mr. Gmoser discovered a statute in the Ohio Revised Code that Mr. Elliott did not feel was germane but Mr. Gmoser himself was operating under the terms of the ruling that he said was not permitted.

Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Gmoser said he had overlooked for years Ohio Revised Code Section 1901.34(D) that does not give him authority to prosecute municipal ordinance cases in the Area One County Court. Mr. Elliott advised the City needed to work out this situation quickly and Mr. McHugh was reviewing the issue.

Mr. McHugh advised he was looking for any court decisions with respect to similar situations.

Ms. Southard inquired if other municipalities received the same letter from Mr. Gmoser and Chief Jones advised other municipalities in Butler County already had a municipal court and Monroe had a Mayor's Court.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised there were two issues, the July 1st deadline that needs to be resolved and whether or not Oxford creates a Municipal Court. Mayor Rousmaniere noted the City Manager had a financial opinion but she had been urging for some time that the City did a study as there were a lot of reasons to have a Municipal Court. Mayor Rousmaniere advised she supported doing a study regarding Municipal Court options and possibly by contracting it out to people who understand the state. Mayor Rousmaniere noted Miami University needed to be involved since a lot of their people spend time in court and they may have an opinion on it. Mayor Rousmaniere advised there were a lot of reasons to have a Municipal Court and the finances may be as bad as Mr. Elliott predicted but they may not and she would like to know more before she completely wrote off the idea of a Municipal Court. Mayor Rousmaniere reiterated the City needed to find out what happens on July 1st. Mr. Elliott advised the City would have a plan noting if an appropriation was needed to hire a prosecutor staff would come to Council for a supplemental appropriation. Mr. Elliott noted one option was to site under state law for a period of time. Mayor Rousmaniere asked Mr. Elliott to keep Council informed of the progress on this issue.

Mr. Dreisbach advised plans and specifications were complete for the renovation of the former Lane Library and the Municipal Building, advertising would begin this Friday, and bids would be opened towards the end of the month. Mr. Dreisbach noted a meeting was held with the HAPC and they granted Certificates of Appropriateness for both buildings. Mr. Dreisbach noted his hope Council would have legislation before them in June to consider approving a construction contract for the project.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired when the Collins Run Road realignment project would begin and Mr. Dreisbach advised on or about June 1st.

Mr. Wooddell noted the Oxford Community Park was hosting its first Epic Cup soccer tournament this weekend and over 160 teams were registered. Mr. Wooddell advised the teams would be in town over the two day period.

Mr. Dana advised the Oxford VillAGE Network was forming a relationship with AARP and that backing would strengthen the efforts of the Oxford VillAGE Network which blended nicely with the Coalition for a Healthy Community's work and the food pantry's work.

Mr. Smith advised May was Historic Preservation Month and the annual Historic Walking Tours would begin this Saturday sponsored by the HAPC, the Smith Library of Regional History and the McGuffey Museum. Mr. Smith noted the Springwood Subdivision would be toured this Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

Ms. Southard reminded everyone ShareFest was May 10-16 and it was an incredible community event that provides household and other items to families in need and saves items from going to the landfill. Ms. Southard noted volunteer opportunities were available.

Ms. Southard advised Council received a report earlier this year from Jackson Gray regarding his 'Race the River' event to raise money for suicide awareness and prevention. Ms. Southard noted the event was taking place soon and wished Mr. Gray and his team every success as they canoed the entire Ohio River.

Ms. Southard noted the Farmers Market was Uptown this Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Mr. Blackburn noted the Red Brick and Roses horse parade was this Saturday and there was also a Cystic Fibrosis walk Uptown Saturday at 10:00 a.m. with a goal of raising \$33,000. Mr. Blackburn advised the group already had commitments of \$21,000.

Mayor Rousmaniere advised Saturday was the last Outdoor Boot Camp sponsored by President and Dr. Crawford at Lewis Place and noted it had been a successful event with students, faculty, and community members participating.

Mayor Rousmaniere echoed Ms. Southard's comments regarding ShareFest and advised those interested could visit sharefestoxford.com to sign up for volunteer hours.

Mayor Rousmaniere announced Mike Johnson won the Janet Clemmons Community Service Award on Friday night at the SELF annual banquet. Mayor Rousmaniere noted SELF was a community action agency of Butler County and provides federal and state funding of social service agencies across the county. Mayor Rousmaniere advised the Janet Clemmons Community Service Award is given to someone who has spent a lot of their life and career not only doing good social service work but also volunteering. Mayor Rousmaniere noted Mr. Johnson was currently the Interfaith Center Director at Miami University and had been the director of the food pantry and a board member of the Family Resource Center. Mayor Rousmaniere advised Mr. Johnson has been a social worker and manager in public child welfare systems in Hamilton County for a long time. Mayor Rousmaniere noted Mr. Johnson may be the first person from Oxford to receive the Janet Clemmons award.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn at 9:38 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.