

A virtual meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. The members participating were Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, and Edna Southard.

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

Guest participating: Mr. Jordan Haarmann, Affordable Gas & Electric.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Snively joined the meeting a few minutes late.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PRESENTATION

ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM

Mr. Elliott advised he was asked by the Environmental Commission to make a presentation on the City's Electric Aggregation Program and provided a PowerPoint. Mr. Elliott noted Jordan Haarmann from Affordable Gas & Electric, the City's broker for the program, was joining the meeting this evening. Mr. Elliott advised it was appropriate to make the presentation this evening as a Resolution was on the agenda authorizing the City Manager to sign a new three-year contract for the program. Mr. Elliott discussed deregulation in Ohio noting on January 1, 2001, Senate Bill 3 went into effect, allowing Ohio consumers to compare electricity providers and choose a plan from a set of utility providers. Mr. Elliott advised on November 4, 2014, City of Oxford voters authorized the creation of an Electric Aggregation Program allowing the local community buying power to get better rates. Mr. Elliott noted City Council approved the Plan of Operation and Governance and hired Eagle Energy, LLC as broker (now Affordable Gas & Electric). Mr. Elliott advised consumers in Oxford have three choices noting before the Electric Aggregation Program, and before there was competition in Ohio, the only option was to purchase power from Duke Energy under their standard service offer. Mr. Elliott noted under deregulation consumers have the option of choosing their own electric supplier. Mr. Elliott advised the City of Oxford's Electric Aggregation Program was an opt out program noting all eligible customers are enrolled in the program unless they opt out. Mr. Elliott advised the current rate was 5.156 cents per kWh and noted customers may opt out at any time without penalty. Mr. Elliott advised the City and AEP Energy sends opt out letters each fall to all eligible Duke customers.

Mr. Elliott noted customers receiving the opt out letter, whether enrolled or not, may ignore the letter to remain on or enroll in the City's program and advised offers from other Certified Retail Electric Suppliers may be received throughout the year by mail, telephone, or door to door solicitation. Mr. Elliott noted AEP Energy was the City's current contracted energy provider and advised they were responsible for purchasing 100% renewable power equivalent to the City's electric aggregation needs. Mr. Elliott noted AEP Energy provides an environmental disclosure statement informing the City and enrolled customers that the equivalent power purchased is 100% wind generated power sourced from the State of Texas. Mr. Elliott advised a traditional energy (fossil fuel) option at 5.101 cents per kWh is available noting if interested, the customer must call AEP Energy to opt in. Mr. Elliott advised the opt out letter now includes a cautionary statement regarding eligible customers who heat their homes with electricity since Dukes's Standard Service Offer includes a winter electric heating rate which may be lower than the City's green electric aggregation rate. Mr. Elliott discussed the Oxford Electric Aggregation Program monthly bill noting it had two major components, one for the distribution of electricity, and one for the generation of electricity. Mr. Elliott advised whether or not a customer is on the City's program, the customer receives one bill from Duke Energy. Mr. Elliott provided several slides depicting the number of green residential customers, Ohio's regional generation by source (natural gas, nuclear, coal, renewables, and other), renewables regional generation by source (wind, hydropower, biomass and solar), the U.S. electricity generation forecasts and the short term outlook for U.S. electricity markets. Mr. Elliott and Mr. Haarmann offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Southard inquired if the solar projects in Preble County would affect Oxford consumers. Mr. Elliott advised the proposal on tonight's agenda recommends a provider who proposes to provide wind energy from Texas. Mr. Elliott noted Preble County was close to Oxford and advised once the project was online it might be a source of electricity for Oxford.

Mr. Bracken inquired how the program would interact if Oxford should ever do a solar energy project. Mr. Elliott advised it would depend on the scale of the project noting if it was a small project it might provide power to one or two buildings. Mr. Haarmann noted his company has had discussions with multiple suppliers noting there will be a time in the future when the aggregation program is supplied by a locally sourced solar farm or renewable energy technology that is locally based. Mr. Haarmann advised that would change the program to allow 15-25 year agreements on purchasing electricity although the opt out function would remain the same.

Mr. Prytherch noted he felt this was a wonderful program that the Environmental Commission nudged City Council to do a number of years ago. Mr. Prytherch advised the program has benefitted consumers. Mr. Prytherch noted as scary as the COVID-19 crisis is he felt the climate challenge is a challenge of greater magnitude in terms of the planet and human life. Mr. Prytherch advised this transition was important and he felt the City needed to stick with it noting his hope the City's model would encourage Miami University to consider swapping out its energy supplies from fossil fuels. Mr. Prytherch noted this program applies to residential customers and inquired how to encourage large consumers to join such a program. Mr. Elliott advised the City's program includes some business customers although it was limited to a certain demand. Mr. Haarmann noted it was limited to 700,000 kWh consumed on an annual basis or less. Mr. Prytherch advised as the Climate Energy Steering Committee comes on board perhaps they can reach out to some of those customers to encourage them to seek renewable options.

Mr. Elliott advised he would be remiss not to give credit for the program to the League of Women Voters who were very supportive.

Ms. Southard noted if residents have solar panels on their homes, they can still be part of the aggregation program.

Ms. Raghu thanked Mr. Haarmann for participating in the presentation noting aggregation was complicated and she tries to educate herself when talking about it with the Environmental Commission. Ms. Raghu asked Mr. Haarmann to explain why local renewable energy was important and how the electrons from wind energy in Texas make it to Oxford. Mr. Haarmann advised the current process is the purchase of renewable energy certificates and there is no way of knowing where the energy is actually coming from. Mr. Haarmann noted the physical electricity received through the utility grid does not indicate its origin and advised he does see projects coming online locally or being discussed locally. Mr. Haarmann advised it says a lot about a community that wants to combat climate change. Ms. Raghu inquired what the process would be if Oxford were to undergo its own project. Mr. Elliott noted the City has discussed doing a smaller solar project to serve part of the City's needs perhaps at the landfill or other land owned by the City. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Dreisbach has talked to the OEPA about that for monitoring the wells at the landfill. Mr. Elliott noted it depended on how big of a project the City wants to do and how it would be financed. Mr. Elliott advised he liked the aggregation program and noted unless the City is off of the grid and supplying 100% of its own power the City gets power from other sources. Mr. Elliott noted the City will continue these discussions and perhaps do a project with Miami University. Mr. Elliott applauded City Council for enacting this program in Oxford, which allows citizens to get a lower price than they might be able to get on their own. Mr. Haarmann advised the smaller scale projects are not as behind the meter so they are still tied into the grid. Mr. Haarmann noted the electricity generated from solar panels on a home or on a business goes into that facility when electricity is being used and advised if electricity is overproduced it is put on the grid with the home or business owner getting credit for that energy. Mr. Haarmann noted in the next 5-10 years we are going to see suppliers financing and building solar farms for the aggregation programs noting there will not be a cost to the City as the City will be contracted with a supplier to purchase the energy generated from the solar panels for a 15-25 year period. Mr. Elliott inquired how many of the cities Mr. Haarmann represented were asking for 100% renewable energy for their aggregation programs. Mr. Haarmann advised his company represented 33 communities in Ohio and noted Oxford and Springdale are the 2 communities that offer 100% renewable.

Mr. Snavely clarified that citizens will be on this program unless they opt out and Mr. Elliott advised that was correct. Mr. Snavely noted many energy companies send mailers to people offering renewable energy and it was confusing for a lot of residents. Mr. Haarmann advised some of those energy companies go door to door or make phone calls noting sometimes they represent themselves as part of the City's program. Mr. Haarmann advised under the City's program no one will ever call a citizen or make an in person visit asking someone to join the City's program. Mr. Haarmann noted all communications are done via mail.

Mr. Prytherch inquired if the electricity used in his house was carbon neutral. Mr. Haarmann advised there was no way to tell where the physical electricity used in a specific home originated.

Mr. Haarmann noted the renewable energy credits that the City is contracting for are being placed onto the grid. Mr. Prytherch advised for the last 40 days in the United States renewables have exceeded coal and noted he felt people could be confident that their dollars are supporting wind farms.

Ms. Raghu noted this was a good program that she felt everyone was positive about and that it was a step in the right direction. Ms. Raghu advised it was important to highlight what the renewable energy certificates limitations are. Ms. Raghu noted it was a baby step towards having clean energy generated locally so the City can guarantee the electron coming through our walls is actually renewable.

Mr. Bracken inquired if the City's purchase of renewable energy certificates was increasing the amount of renewable energy that the world has noting the answer to that is complicated to his understanding. Mr. Bracken advised at the very least it incentivizes renewable energy although it does not inherently make more renewable energy. Mr. Bracken agreed that the aggregation program was a small step in the right direction. Mr. Bracken noted he would like the City to move forward with a large solar project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the April 21, 2020 City Council Virtual Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

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

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION **CONDEMNING HATE SPEECH** **AND DISCRIMINATION**

A Resolution No. 7181 condemning hate speech and discrimination in the City of Oxford, Ohio.
(Chantel Raghu, William Snavelly and Jason Bracken, City Councilors)

Mr. Snavely advised he felt the Resolution was straightforward and that Council should adopt it.

Mayor Smith advised he felt it was a great Resolution and thanked Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavely and Mr. Bracken for putting it together.

Ms. Raghu advised the Resolution discusses discrimination, xenophobia and racism that has been brought even more so to the surface and magnified because of the pandemic not only with Asian Americans or AAPI people but also the African American community who are dying 6 times more than that of a white person. Ms. Raghu noted people of color are really taking a hard hit and advised it was something Council could do something about from a policy level whether it is local, state or federal. Ms. Raghu advised Council had the ability to look at the policy being put forward making sure they are leading with equality and making sure Council is trying to always push towards progress to make things as fair as possible. Ms. Raghu noted she felt Governor DeWine was doing an amazing job and she felt we can only sing high praises of him. Ms. Raghu advised not only has he established a task force to evaluate how people of color might be affected but he has really pushed towards tangible things that can be done. Ms. Raghu noted not only does Council condemn hate speech and discrimination within the City of Oxford but they also support the Ohio legislature in passing the State Senate Resolution No.12 denouncing all forms of stigmatization, racism and discrimination occurring as a result of this pandemic. Ms. Raghu advised Council calls upon the Ohio Legislature to support passage of Senate Bill 98 to establish and fund the Ohio AAPI Public Affairs Commission and calls upon the Ohio Department of Health and local public health departments to incorporate anti-racism messaging and outreach to impacted communities. Ms. Raghu noted it was a very scary time and information was changing quickly and suggested making sure the City was communicating in as many languages as might be needed. Ms. Raghu advised she felt there was a lot Council could do from the local level and also push the state to do as much as they could as well.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7181. Mr. Bracken seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION **ELECTRIC AGGREGATION**

A Resolution No. 7182 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Energy Harbor LLC for the procurement of electricity generation for the City of Oxford's Electric Aggregation Program for a period of thirty six (36) months. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised the current provider for the City's Electric Aggregation Program is AEP Energy and the contract will expire with the December 2020 billing cycle. Mr. Elliott noted in order to secure updated rates proposals were requested from 5 companies for the City's program.

Mr. Elliott advised 4 Certified Residential Electric Suppliers responded on April 20, 2020 including AEP Energy, Energy Harbor LLC, Constellation, and Dynegy Energy Services. Mr. Elliott noted the pricing from Energy Harbor LLC had the lowest and best pricing for each contract term length requested (1,2 and 3 years). Mr. Elliott recommended the City enter into a 3 year agreement with Energy Harbor LLC noting the recommended proposal is for 100% renewable energy for the opt out program. Mr. Elliott advised the 36-month rate is 4.71 cents per kWh noting the rate for traditional power is 4.62 cents per kWh. Mr. Elliott advised the current rate is 5.15 cents per kWh for renewable and 5.101 cents per kWh for traditional energy. Mr. Elliott noted the annual savings to an electric consumer using 9,000 kWh per year is \$40.14.

Mr. Bracken inquired how the prices compare for a 1 and 2 year verses a 3 year contract. Mr. Elliott advised the pricing the City received this evening for a 1 year contract is 4.93 cents per kWh and for 2 years it is 4.82 cents per kWh.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 7182. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION **OATS GRANT**

A Resolution No. 7183 of Council authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments Requesting funding from the Surface Transportation Block Grant program and authorizing the City Manager to secure through property tax levy funds a 32% local match for the engineering, design and construction of the Oxford Area Trail System (OATS) from Peffer Park to the Talawanda Middle School. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Green provided a PowerPoint and advised the proposed trail segment would go from Peffer Park to Kehr Road and continue on to the Talawanda Middle School. Ms. Greene noted it would also include a connection to Chestnut Street which is where the Butler County Regional Transit Authority will have a new hub and hopefully where Amtrak will be located. Ms. Greene advised this was a Surface Transportation Block Grant which is usually for roads and highways although it allows for applications for bike and pedestrian projects as well. Ms. Greene noted these grants are typically not as competitive and allow requests of up to 6 million dollars where as a bike and pedestrian grant is only \$750,000 which would not allow the City to proceed with this segment. Ms. Greene advised OKI informed her if the City had a match and the project is strong she should “put her hat in the ring”. Ms. Greene noted she felt it was worthwhile to apply for the grant. Ms. Greene advised if the grant is successful the funds would be released in 2024 and construction would take place in 2024-2025. Ms. Greene noted the total budget for the project was \$4,839,002 with \$3,290,521 in grant funds and \$1,548,481 as the levy match.

Mr. Prytherch advised a lot of people are anticipating stimulus dollars focused on infrastructure coming out of an additional COVID relief package in the future and inquired how that positioned the City if stimulus dollars come available. Ms. Greene noted she felt any shovel ready project the City has would be eligible for future stimulus dollars so while it might not be for this segment it might be for another segment.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 7183. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCES **SECOND READING**

ORDINANCE **NEW CHAPTER 1148**

An Ordinance No. 3558 Adopting Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1148 Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised there were no changes to the proposed Ordinance since the first reading. Mr. Perry noted this was the end of a many year process which originated from not only a goal of the Comprehensive Plan but also from concerns of neighbors of a development for developers to be more thoughtful about how existing trees in the area are treated. Mr. Perry advised the language came from the Planning Commission most recently and originated through the Environmental Commission in 2017. Mr. Perry noted the language has gone through several iterations. Mr. Perry addressed the proposed new Chapter 1148 and the necessary text amendments within the zoning code based on the new Chapter as presented on pages 51-64 of Council's packet.

Ms. Southard thanked everyone involved for their hard work on this project noting it went through a lot of study. Ms. Southard advised she was impressed with the results and noted she felt it was a very good step for the community since Oxford was a "Tree City USA". Ms. Southard noted trees were important to the environment, which fits in with Council's goal of protecting the environment and the climate.

Mr. Prytherch advised he felt this goes along with Electric Aggregation and renewable energy credits noting maintaining the urban forest to the degree of having developers plant trees is part of offsetting emissions. Mr. Prytherch thanked staff all of those involved with this project.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3558. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Mayor Smith reminded everyone several Chapters in the zoning code need to be amended to comply with new Chapter 1148, Landscaping and Tree Preservation. Mayor Smith noted a long string of Ordinances would be read and voted upon.

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTIONS
IN CHAPTER 1101 - SUBDIVISIONS

An Ordinance No. 3559 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1101.4(400) Entitled General Statement, 1101.4(403) Entitled Typical Sections, And 1101.4(410) Entitled Landscape Plan In Chapter 1101 Entitled Subdivision Regulations And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1101.4(400) Entitled General Statement, 1101.4(403) Entitled Typical Sections And 1101.4(410) Entitled Landscape Plan In Chapter 1101 Entitled Subdivision Regulations To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3559. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1143 – DISTRICTS

An Ordinance No. 3560 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1143.03 c(13) Entitled Landscaping, 1143.05c(13) Entitled Landscaping, And 1143.07(d)(13) Entitled Landscaping In Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1143.03c(13) Entitled Landscaping, 1143.05c(13) Entitled Landscaping, And 1143.07(d)(13) Entitled Landscaping In Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3560. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1143 – DISTRICTS

An Ordinance No. 3561 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1143.12(d)(2) Entitled Landscaping And 1143.16(d) Entitled Supplementary Regulations In Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1143.12(d)(2) Entitled Landscaping And 1143.16(d) Entitled Supplementary Regulations In Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3561. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1145
PLANNED DEVELOPMENTS

An Ordinance No. 3562 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1145.01(a) Entitled Purpose, 1145.05(a) Entitled Preliminary Plan, And 1145.06(b) Entitled General Decision Standards In Chapter 1145 Entitled Planned Developments And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1145.01(a) Entitled Purpose, 1145.05(a) Entitled Preliminary Plan, And 1145.06(b) Entitled General Decision Standards In Chapter 1145 Entitled Planned Developments To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3562. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1147
CONDITIONAL USES

An Ordinance No. 3563 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1147.02(a)(1) Entitled Contents Of Application For Conditional Use Permit and 1147.02c(2) Entitled General Decision Standards In Chapter 1147 Entitled Conditional Uses And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Sections 1147.02(a)(1) Entitled Contents Of Application For Conditional Use Permit And 1147.02c(2) Entitled General Decision Standards To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3563. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 1149
PARKING AND SITE ACCESS

An Ordinance No. 3564 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1149.05(e)(6) Entitled Landscaping In Chapter 1149 Entitled Parking And Site Access And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1149.05(e)(6) Entitled Landscaping In Chapter 1149 Entitled Parking And Site Access To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3564. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS

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

An Ordinance No. 3565 Adopting Additional Exhibits Into Attachment H Entitled Typical Section Drawings In Part Eleven, Title One Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances To Be In Compliance With Chapter 1148 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances Entitled Landscaping And Tree Preservation. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3565. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE

FINAL PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

An Ordinance No. 3566 Accepting The Recommendation Of The Planning Commission And Approving The Final Planned Development Application For South Farm Section IV With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry provided a PowerPoint and summarized the proposed Final Planned Development Ordinance, the Vacation of Right-of-Way Ordinance, and the Final Subdivision Ordinance for South Farm IV as presented on pages 93-195 of Council’s packet. Mr. Perry offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments or questions regarding the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3566. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
RIGHT-OF-WAY
VACATION

An Ordinance No. 3567 Vacating Right-Of-Way Associated With Roberts Drive And Hoover Drive As Was Previously Dedicated By O.R. 7959 Pg. 1551, Replat For South Farm Section 2 & 2A. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

There were no comments or questions regarding the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3567. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
FINAL SUBDIVISION

An Ordinance No. 3568 Approving The Final Subdivision Application For South Farm Section IV With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

There were no comments or questions regarding the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3568. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Elliott noted several Council members have inquired what the City is doing to protect the citizens of Oxford. Mr. Elliott advised the City takes very seriously its responsibility to protect citizens from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Mr. Elliott noted the City relies on the Ohio Department of Health and the Butler County Health Board for their support and leadership in this evolving situation. Mr. Elliott advised all citizens including students have a role in the battle against the pandemic. Mr. Elliott noted staff saw figures from the Ohio Department of Health today indicating there are over 20,000 cases within the state and over 1,000 deaths. Mr. Elliott advised the Police Division was very busy this weekend making one arrest for violation of the Health Department Order and noted a number of litter and noise citations were issued. Mr. Elliott advised when OPD goes to a large gathering many times they will issue one citation to get things under control. Mr. Elliott noted over the weekend there were 27 littering complaints, 19 noise complaints and 6 complaints regarding violations of the Health Order due to large gatherings. Mr. Elliott advised the City's goal was to gain compliance before the need to make any arrests noting most individuals comply with this strategy. Mr. Elliott noted there were many locations where students assembled live in a unit with a greater occupancy than 10 and advised the rental permit program includes 48 locations with occupancies of 10 or greater. Mr. Elliott noted this includes 28 fraternity houses which have an average permitted occupancy of 46.5 persons and 19 lodging houses with an average permitted occupancy of 12 persons. Mr. Elliott advised members of those households are exempt from the gathering prohibition of 10 or more people. Mr. Elliott noted the City has received some complaints about businesses not complying with the health orders and advised the Governor issued an original order that both customers and employees needed to wear a facemask although he decided to revise that and now only employees are required to wear a facemask. Mr. Elliott encouraged everyone to wear a facemask when out in the public. Mr. Elliott noted many retail establishments will open May 12 which does not include restaurants and bars or hair salons and barber shops. Mr. Elliott encouraged everyone to follow the Governor's mandate with regard to wearing facemasks. Mr. Elliott applauded the Police Division for the work they have been doing noting it has been a challenge unlike other challenges the City has experienced.

Mr. Elliott advised as of May 4, 2020 nearly all City employees returned to work noting a few are working from home a few days per week if it is possible and feasible. Mr. Elliott noted city employees are wearing face coverings when interacting with each other. Mr. Elliott advised the City has not opened buildings (City Hall, Parks and Recreation, Street Division) to the public noting the Police lobby is open to the public. Mr. Elliott noted City employees are asked to do a health assessment prior to reporting to work each day noting if employees feel sick or have a temperature they need to stay home. Mr. Elliott advised City employees are practicing hand washing and physical distancing protocols. Mr. Elliott thanked City Council for their support during these trying times noting we are all in this together.

Chief Jones advised house parties that OPD has driven by previously and thought were perfectly under control may not be now with different rules involved noting OPD has to navigate those waters and try to enforce something in a constitutional and procedurally just way. Chief Jones encouraged the public to call OPD at the non-emergency phone number (523-4321) if they see something they feel might be a violation.

Chief Jones advised most complaints regarding restaurants should be directed to the Butler County General Health District since restaurants are under its purview.

Chief Jones thanked his staff noting they continue to answer calls and adapt to ever changing policies.

Ms. Southard referred to the comment made by Chief Jones regarding the Health Department being alerted to businesses being out of compliance such as employees at businesses who do not wear masks. Ms. Southard advised that includes not only the small vendors and grocery stores but also the large chains and the open-air markets such as the Farmers Market. Ms. Southard inquired who people should contact if they see something they feel is not quite right such as a sales person not using a mask. Chief Jones advised there is individual responsibility for ones own personal safety. Chief Jones noted the police are not always going to be there when the burglar breaks into your home and people have to take actions to protect themselves. Chief Jones advised if someone sees something they feel might endanger them they should leave that area. Chief Jones noted most of the business complaints should go to the Butler County General Health District as they were best suited to handle those complaints. Chief Jones advised people can also call the non-emergency Dispatch number and the information can be relayed to the health district for an interpretation.

Ms. Southard inquired who the City was working with at Miami University to make sure students moving out are following proper protocols. Chief Jones advised there had been a lot of messaging and communication between Ms. Greene and staff members at Miami University. Chief Jones noted the Police Division typically deals with the Office of Community Standards to share information. Ms. Southard advised she appreciated this information as many citizens have had questions and concerns.

Mr. Conard advised there had been some confusion as to when a public body should return to in person meetings. Mr. Conard noted under H.B.197 the exception to in person meetings is in effect until December of 2020. Mr. Conard advised there is flexibility and he felt the idea was that there is no rush to go back to in person meetings taking into account all of those things that start with safety and the comfort level of committee members, elected officials and the general public.

Mr. Perry advised the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals meetings would be virtual for the month of May and noted the HAPC meeting was cancelled.

Chief Jones advised a virtual Police Community Relations and Review Commission meeting would take place Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Raghu advised she felt the pandemic has highlighted how important everyone's work has been whether someone is administrative or a Councilor. Ms. Raghu noted the two key things especially with an infectious disease is that we are only as strong of a society as our most vulnerable, those who are financially insecure, those who are experiencing homelessness, those who are in detention centers and undocumented Americans. Ms. Raghu advised we are all in this together which highlights how our work should address those vulnerabilities since we are all touched by them.

Ms. Raghu noted with this specific coronavirus although we do not know the origin we know that the way we interact with the environment is of utmost importance whether it is from a penguin that has been trafficked for different purposes or it is from a bat source, we know it is human interaction inappropriately so with the environment that has released this onto the human species. Ms. Raghu advised when we look at what we are working towards whether it is solar panels or trying to be as sustainable as possible, it highlights that our status-quo is no longer an option. Ms. Raghu noted she felt we should do everything we can on a local level to make sure we are making progress to correct previous mistakes and make sure something like this does not happen again.

Mr. Ellerbe wished everyone a “Happy Cinco de Mayo “.

Mr. Ellerbe echoed the sentiments of Mr. Elliott and Chief Jones. Mr. Ellerbe encouraged everyone to be considerate of each other and understand that every time you go out in public you are risking your life. Mr. Ellerbe noted the mask is protection for the person wearing it as well as members of the public. Mr. Ellerbe advised he was looking forward to talking about hornets next month.

Mr. Snively advised move-out and graduation was coming up for Miami University noting it was especially important that Oxford residents are attentive and are following the rules of social distancing with so many out of town visitors. Mr. Snively encouraged citizens to stay as clear as possible from them and be vigilant. Mr. Snively noted he has talked to restaurant owners who are looking forward to opening quickly and safely although if the virus spreads in town it will delay the opening and delay all of the small businesses from operating the way they would like to.

Mr. Snively congratulated the graduates of the Talawanda School District and of Miami University noting this was not how they thought their graduation would be. Mr. Snively advised they will remember their graduation as a bizarre time. Mr. Snively asked the graduates to know the City of Oxford congratulates them, are very proud of them, and will be thinking of them as these weekends come up.

Mr. Snively noted the Kiwanis Food Drive was coming up and advised food could be dropped off on Thursday of this week from 1-3 p.m. at the Family Resource Center on College Corner Pike. Mr. Snively encouraged those that could to help their fellow citizens who are not as fortunate by putting together a bag or a box of food to share.

Mr. Snively advised he had computer problems this evening and thanked Ms. Greene who was kind enough to share her space at the Municipal Building with him. Mr. Snively noted Ms. Greene is always very gracious and very helpful.

Ms. Southard urged everyone to support the U.S. Postal Service noting like everyone she cannot visit people including her grandchildren so she is sending books, packages, letters and cards to them and to other people. Ms. Southard advised we need postal services and they need our support now. Ms. Southard noted nearly half of the postal service workers are people of color and they handle nearly half of the mail in the entire world.

Ms. Southard advised service has not been interrupted and everyone has received mail without stop. Ms. Southard noted she felt the local post office on Brown Road is one of the safest places in town adhering very well to the Governor's recommendations for safety and health. Ms. Southard advised the postal service workers maintain an efficient, courteous, clean and safe operation noting she felt they should be celebrated and highly valued for their excellent work.

Ms. Southard encouraged all establishments to remember that citizens are customers who have choices noting if she learns a business or organization cares more about her health than her money she will shop there. Ms. Southard advised she knew everyone would support the post office, local businesses and national chains that demonstrate that they care for everyone's health noting if they do not, citizens will vote with their feet and not go there. Ms. Southard advised the guidelines they follow are more than a legal imperative; they are moral and ethical imperatives. Ms. Southard noted the choice was to care about each other and about the vulnerable populations including the elderly, and other citizens who live here year round. Ms. Southard advised visitors to Oxford need to be reminded that they have the responsibility to care for the people who live here long term.

Mayor Smith thanked staff for continuing to set up the new virtual norm noting the second meeting in May would be virtual and June will be evaluated, as it gets closer.

Mayor Smith requested everyone to wear masks noting Oxford has a large vulnerable population. Mayor Smith advised even if people do not think they are vulnerable themselves, wearing a mask protects Oxford's most vulnerable. Mayor Smith noted he wanted to see more masks in stores and grocery stores when he is around town.

Mr. Prytherch thanked Ms. Greene, the CIC and the Finance Department noting the small business stimulus gift card purchase checks went out this week. Mr. Prytherch advised there was an initial round of \$2,000 per eligible applicant noting the CIC will meet again to determine what other steps can be taken.

Mr. Prytherch advised the cases of COVID in Ohio are on the rise again noting on the assumption that COVID will be a relatively long-term situation to deal with he felt Council should perhaps work with the Chamber of Commerce on some educational initiatives. Mr. Prytherch noted he wished the Governor's orders had been more firm and advised he did not want to be in the position of enforcing masks. Mr. Prytherch stated he hoped Council could take a proactive strategy regarding that.

Mayor Smith noted his hope to see some light at the end of the tunnel and encouraged everyone to keep up social distancing over the next few weeks.

ADJOURN

Mr. Prytherch moved to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)