

A virtual meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor, Mike Smith on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Members participating were William Snavely, Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu and Edna Southard.

Staff members participating were Doug Elliott, City Manager, Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager, Mike Dreisbach, Service Director, Joe Newlin, Finance Director, John Jones, Police Chief, Geoff Robinson, Police Lieutenant, John Detherage, Fire Chief, Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director, Sam Perry, Community Development Director, Chris Conard, Law Director and Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION

“WAYNE & TERRI EMBRY DAY”

Mayor Smith read the Proclamation and advised there was a very nice event at Miami University today honoring Wayne and Terri Embry and encouraged everyone to visit the new statue honoring Mr. Embry.

PRESENTATION

POLCO – THE NATIONAL POLICE SERVICES STUDY

Ms. Laurie Urban and Ms. Michelle Kobayashi provided a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the results of the recent National Police Services Survey conducted by the National Research Center/Polco for the City of Oxford. Ms. Urban and Ms. Kobayashi addressed questions from Council members and from Mr. Egon Kraan, a member of the Oxford Police Community Relations and Review Commission. (*The presentation is available on the City's website at www.cityofoxford.org*)

PRESENTATION
DRAFT INVENTORY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Ms. Carly Dovale, IES Professional Service Team, thanked her team members Joseph Trivette, Ricky Orellana and Sunmbo Olorunfemi. Ms. Dovale provided a PowerPoint and discussed the Draft Inventory of Local Government and Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions for the year 2019. Ms. Dovale addressed the City of Oxford's Local Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory Findings, the City of Oxford's Community Scale Greenhouse Gas Inventory Findings and provided recommendations for conducting future inventories.

Ms. Greene extended a huge thanks to the student team noting she has worked with them all semester, was thrilled with their professionalism and attention to detail. Ms. Greene advised much had been learned about the value of clean data and what is needed to do better. Ms. Greene noted she felt Ms. Dovale presented on behalf of the whole team and did a wonderful job.

Ms. Dovale and Ms. Suzanne Zazycki addressed various questions and comments from Council members.

Mayor Smith thanked Ms. Dovale, Ms. Zazycki and members of the IES Professional Service Team for all of their efforts.

(The presentation is available in the Clerk of Council's Office)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mike Rudolph, 200 Morgan Circle, thanked City staff for providing additional Rumpke waste disposal dumpsters throughout the City for the student move-out weekend to mitigate some of the trash issues. Mr. Rudolph noted his hope the City can continue to work on this problem to help keep Oxford beautiful.

Ms. Amy Shaiman, 11 Heather Ridge Court, thanked Council for providing the two surveys and for engaging the groups in doing them. Ms. Shaiman inquired how Council planned to use the surveys and inquired if there were policy changes based on the surveys if they would be reported on at a particular time.

Mayor Smith advised Council would continue to study the reports and decide how to fit them into policies moving forward.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the April 20, 2021 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Minutes of the May 4, 2021 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Report regarding the May 5, 2021 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

A Resolution No. 7294 authorizing the City Manager to waive the fees adopted in the Fee Ordinance for the street closures for the Visitors Bureau (Enjoy Oxford) for the 2021 annual summer music festival. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager) pg50

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

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

GHG EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS

A Resolution No. 7295 confronting the climate crisis by establishing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets towards a sustainable, carbon-neutral Oxford. (David Prytherch, Councilor)

Mr. Prytherch advised the proposed Resolution was recommended by the Climate Action Steering Committee noting he and Dr. Mark Boardman would provide a PowerPoint presentation to explain the rationale for making this commitment.

Dr. Mark Boardman, advised he was a member of the Climate Action Steering Committee. Dr. Boardman noted the data demonstrating global climate change was not new and advised it is robust and overwhelmingly agreed upon by scientists, world organizations and world governments. Dr. Boardman noted predictions from decades ago have come true and advised the data was compelling that climate is changing. Dr. Boardman noted huge amounts of carbon dioxide have been added to the atmosphere in recent years and advised adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere causes temperature to rise. Dr. Boardman noted it was clear that the specific source of the increase of greenhouse gases was a result of human activity. Dr. Boardman advised in the past 30 years temperatures across the United States are about 1 degree higher than a century ago noting climate change either is or is becoming a climate crisis. Dr. Boardman advised if we continue doing "business as usual" we can expect catastrophic climate change although if we do something to curb greenhouse gases and mitigate negative effects of climate change that can happen.

Dr. Boardman noted the City of Oxford has not been idle and advised in 2018 a task force was created leading to the recommendation that the City align itself with the goals of the Global Covenant of Mayors and the multi-stage process of climate action that this covenant delineates. Dr. Boardman noted in 2019 City Council accepted the recommendation and pledged the City of Oxford to the goals of the Global Covenant of Mayors. Dr. Boardman advised in 2020 Council created the Climate Action Steering Committee to assist the City in meeting the goals of the Global Covenant of Mayors noting the committee meets monthly and includes members of City staff, Council, boards, commissions and the community. Dr. Boardman advised the committee is operating under a three-year timeline noting the first year included assessing Oxford's current climate impact and in the second year, they are assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities that climate change is likely to impose on Oxford. Dr. Boardman advised one of the tasks assigned to the committee by Council was to recommend to Council specific greenhouse gas targets to meet the goals of the Global Covenant of Mayors, which would be made this evening. Dr. Boardman noted in 2022 the committee will assist City staff and boards and commissions in creating and implementing climate action plans. Dr. Boardman advised this evening a Resolution would be presented to Council that includes recommendations for targets of greenhouse gas reductions which are: a 50% reduction over the 2019 baseline by 2030, a 90% reduction over the 2019 baseline by 2040 and by 2045 community-wide net neutrality. Dr. Boardman noted the focus will be on energy, buildings, transportation, waste, water and wastewater which will apply to emissions within the City trying to exclude Miami University.

Mr. Prytherch advised the climate science is clear that if we want to limit the catastrophic effects of climate change society needs to be net neutral by 2050. Mr. Prytherch discussed the committee's rationale for the recommended goals and advised locally we can continue promoting alternative forms of transportation and create infrastructure to support electric vehicles. Mr. Prytherch noted we can strive for advances in recycling and zero waste and improve upon and expand composting in partnership with community members. Mr. Prytherch advised we can switch to renewables at the wastewater plant noting City staff has been working hard on efficiencies already.

Dr. Boardman noted we know what the problems are, what we need to do and how to address the problems. Dr. Boardman advised working within the framework of City government, staff, boards, committees and community concrete steps can be made to confront the climate crises. Dr. Boardman noted setting targets for greenhouse gas reduction is a significant first step to provide guidance for climate actions that the City can make to meet the commitment via the Global Covenant of Mayors. Dr. Boardman advised the Climate Action Steering Committee recommends City Council establish the climate action targets set forth in the proposed Resolution.

(The presentation is available in the Clerk of Council's Office)

Ms. Carla Blackmar Rice, 400 W. Vine Street, expressed her appreciation for the work of the Miami students who presented earlier this evening and the Climate Action Steering Committee. Ms. Blackmar noted her strong support for the proposed targets and advised she felt they were attainable and that national shifts will enable them.

Ms. Joan Potter Sommer, noted as a member of the Climate Action Steering Committee she appreciated and valued working with the committee members, the Professional Service Project students, their advisors and City staff. Ms. Potter Sommer advised the efforts of the group are based on science and earnest decision making noting Oxford has made a commitment through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy to address climate change on a community-wide basis in order to support worldwide efforts to mitigate climate change. Ms. Potter Sommer noted it was important for community members to come together and support these efforts.

Council members and Mayor Smith noted their support for the proposed Resolution.

Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Resolution No. 7295. Mr. Bracken seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
TUESDAY MARKET

A Resolution No. 7296 authorizing the City Manager to close the south side of Lot 52 each Tuesday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to permit the operation of the Tuesday Farmers Market within Lot 52 from May of 2021 through May of 2022. (Doug Elliott, City Manager) pg55

Mr. Elliott noted the Oxford Farmers Market wishes to expand the market by using the southern portion of Lot 52 on Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a Tuesday Market. Mr. Elliott advised Larry Slocum, Market Manager was available to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Councilor members noted their support for the proposed Resolution.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 7296. Mr. Prytherch 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
RLF RULES & PROCEDURES

A Resolution No. 7297 repealing the City of Oxford's revolving loan fund rules and procedures and adopting new City of Oxford revolving loan fund rules and procedures. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Greene advised staff and the Community Improvement Corporation has worked on cleaning up the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Rules and Procedures for several months noting they contained some dated and/or inconsistent information. Ms. Greene noted the existing program has been renamed "Growth and Startup Loans" and advised the CIC recommended the adoption of a smaller loan program called "Improvement and Retention Loans" for loans up to \$10,000. Ms. Greene advised the goal was to get the funds out and into the community.

Ms. Raghu advised she did not wish to see loans made to franchised businesses noting Buffalo Wild Wings received a loan many years ago, which Mr. Newlin addressed.

Ms. Southard noted her support for the proposed Resolution and thanked members of the CIC and staff for their efforts.

Councilors Ellerbe and Prytherch, members of the CIC , noted their support for the proposed Resolution and thanked Ms. Greene and her team for their assistance with this effort.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7297. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Resolution 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)

RESOLUTION
CARES FUNDING

A Resolution No. 7298 redirecting the expenditure of eleven thousand four hundred forty three dollars (\$11,443.00) of Federal CARES Act funds which shall be used to create a vaccine incentive and education program to encourage those who are vaccine hesitant to be vaccinated. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Greene advised the City has CARES Act funding set aside to assist with Covid-19 testing noting it has not been used in two months. Ms. Greene noted staff was working with McCullough-Hyde Hospital to arrange for mobile clinics to visit Park View Arms, the mobile home community, and several churches initially to administer vaccines on site.

Ms. Greene advised staff researched what other communities and states were doing to incentivize or encourage vaccines noting part one was education and part two was possibly the use of incentives. Ms. Greene noted staff felt this could be a small pilot program with the last bit of the CARES Act dollars to help get more Oxford residents vaccinated.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Southard noted her support for the proposed Resolution and inquired if vaccinations would be available at convenient times to accommodate people who work. Ms. Greene advised the vaccines would be available in the evenings, weekends and off-hours while people are home.

Mr. Snavelly noted his support for mobile units going out to where people are. Mr. Snavelly referred to the gift card incentives and inquired if they would be from local businesses. Ms. Greene advised staff was leaning towards a Visa gift card since it would be difficult to be fair to all local businesses. Ms. Greene noted the incentive would be awarded when a person received their second shot. Mr. Snavelly inquired how much the gift cards would be worth and how many people staff anticipated would get vaccinated. Ms. Greene advised staff was exploring \$50 to \$100 for the gift card in hopes of getting 100 to 200 people to change their mind about getting vaccinated. Mr. Snavelly noted he was inclined to vote against the proposal and inquired why the City would reward the laggards instead of the people who fought to get their vaccine. Mr. Snavelly advised he was all for the mobile vaccines and would like to see them at the music festivals and at the Red Brick Friday events. Mr. Snavelly noted he felt there were better uses for the money going towards gift cards such as using it for cold shelters or for the foodbank.

Ms. Raghu noted her support for the proposed Resolution and advised she felt a Visa card was the most equitable way to administer the gift card portion as people could use it towards a utility bill or rent if they wanted to.

Mr. Bracken noted his support for the proposed Resolution and advised he agreed with the sentiments of Councilor Snavelly although he felt Council needed to help those who have the need, which has net benefits for everyone.

Mr. Prytherch noted his support for the proposed Resolution. Mr. Prytherch advised he did not think laggards should be rewarded although as a society it will have been money well spent.

Ms. Southard noted her hope part of the educational effort will go toward getting people 12-18 years of age vaccinated.

Mr. Elliott advised staff had a long discussion of this issue and he understood Mr. Snavelly's concern. Mr. Elliott noted the goal was to get more people vaccinated and educated.

Mr. Ellerbe advised he could not agree with the proposal either and noted he was all for the mobile units, the education and providing the easiest option for anyone who wants to get vaccinated but may have situations causing them not to get it. Mr. Ellerbe advised an incentive in his mind runs into an equity issue because all of the people who decided to be good stewards are not being rewarded.

Mr. Ellerbe noted if an incentive was not part of the proposal he would vote in favor of it.

Mr. Snavelly moved to amend the proposed Resolution to remove the incentive portion of the program. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion failed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard (3)

NAY: Mr. Bracken, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mayor Smith (4)

ABS: None (0)

Mayor Smith advised the first stops for this program are the Park View Arms apartments and the mobile home park noting those seem to be the most underserved communities where people may not have gotten vaccinated due to economic reasons or transportation reasons. Mayor Smith advised he was fine with an incentive for people in those communities.

Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Resolution No. 7298. Mr. Bracken seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mayor Smith (5)

NAY: Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Snavelly (2)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISE, INC.

A Resolution No. 7299 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a five (5) year contract with AXON Enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of twenty-eight (28) body worn cameras and the associated docking equipment, data storage, software licensing and support for the Police Division at a cost not to exceed \$26,708.44 per year or \$133,542.20 over the 5-year life of the contract subject to the Law Director's approval of the contract. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones advised Lt. Geoff Robinson is the point person for body cameras and has helped implement and run the program since its inception approximately 4 years ago.

Lt. Robinson addressed his staff report as presented on pages 108-110 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions. Lt. Robinson thanked Amber Stanton from Axon Enterprises, Inc. for being available to answer any questions if necessary.

There were no comments from the public.

Lt. Robinson addressed questions from Mr. Bracken regarding pre-recording capabilities and policies and addressed various other questions from Councilors regarding the body camera program.

Mr. Bracken highly recommended pre-recording for at least two minutes to help clarify situations Chief Jones reminded everyone Council was considering the purchase of body cameras not the body camera policy. Mr. Ellerbe inquired what the retention period was for body worn camera video and Lt. Robinson advised 366 days for most video. Mr. Ellerbe noted he was a fan of having cameras installed in police cruisers, which Lt Robinson addressed.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7299. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution 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)

ORDINANCES -- FIRST READING

ORDINANCE

REPEAL ORDINANCE NO. 3573

An Ordinance No. 3621 Repealing Ordinance No. 3573 Adopted July 14, 2020 Requiring Face Coverings In Any Public Space Within The City Of Oxford, Ohio, To Limit The Spread Of Covid-19, And Declaring An Emergency. (Doug Elliott, City Manager) (Tabled)

Mr. Snavelly moved to remove the proposed Ordinance from the table. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 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)

Mr. Elliott advised there were fewer and fewer average Covid-19 cases per day in Ohio and in Butler County. Mr. Elliott noted the Governor has stated publicly he plans to repeal the Health Orders on June 2, 2021. Mr. Elliott advised he felt it was time for Council to repeal the City's face covering Ordinance and follow the state's lead on this matter.

Ms. Amy Shaiman, 11 Heather Ridge Court, advised she appreciates the action Council has taken on the issues surrounding Covid-19 and understands it is no longer appropriate to say there is a State of Emergency when the state says there is not. Ms. Shaiman noted the Covid-19 battle has not been won and asked if Council would still recommend that those who are un-vaccinated do wear face coverings inside businesses. Ms. Shaiman noted concern that cases of Covid-19 among children is growing by 22%.

Ms. Shaiman advised she did not believe we are ready to say our community has fully conquered Covid-19 until all of the community is vaccinated.

Mr. Snavely noted his support for the proposed Ordinance and advised he assumed if adopted the City is still under the state rules until they are lifted. Mr. Snavely advised he assumed a private business can still require face coverings to protect their employees inside.

Ms. Raghu advised she did not want the e-comments sent prior to the last meeting to get lost because the proposed Ordinance was tabled. Ms. Raghu noted 10 people were opposed to the proposed Ordinance and 1 person was neutral.

Ms. Southard noted not enough people are vaccinated and Council just talked about vaccinating more people. Ms. Southard advised everyone should worry about children and noted she worried about people who are unvaccinated because they do not know better or because they have not gotten around to it. Ms. Southard advised she was worried about workers inside places of businesses who will be very vulnerable. Ms. Southard noted concern that 3 or 4 million people have suppressed immune systems and stated she knows someone who will have to isolate because Council changed the mask Ordinance. Ms. Southard suggested tabling the proposed Ordinance for another two weeks.

Mr. Prytherch advised the face covering Ordinance was adopted last July because the science told us it was a good idea and noted Oxford also followed the CDC and the Governor's recommendations. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt transitioning away will require following the science too.

Mr. Bracken advised wearing a mask is a minor inconvenience which could potentially have major ramifications if not worn. Mr. Bracken noted he would like to keep the face covering Ordinance in place for inside but remove it for outside.

Ms. Southard moved to table the proposed Ordinance. Ms. Raghu seconded. The motion failed by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Raghu (3)

NAY: Mr. Snavely, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Mayor Smith (4)

ABS: None (0)

Mr. Ellerbe noted when Council adopted the face covering Ordinance last year he said he did not want to adopt it although he had to adopt it for the safety of the majority of the population of Oxford. Mr. Ellerbe advised it was after the students had left and the majority of Oxford residents were in the more senior category. Mr. Ellerbe noted Council finds itself in the same place a year later under drastically different circumstances supported by the CDC and other scientists saying that the light is at the end of the tunnel and being outside without a mask is an acceptable risk.

Mr. Ellerbe noted he felt Council can make that change and allow people get one more piece of normalcy back into their lives.

After further discussion by Councilors, Ms. Raghu advised she was in favor of Mr. Bracken's suggestion and inquired if he was making a motion regarding face coverings being required inside.

Mr. Snavely advised Mr. Bracken could move to substitute the original Ordinance for the repealing Ordinance and the substitution would keep it in place with the elimination of item D. which has to do with outdoor spaces.

Chief Jones noted he was a citizen of Oxford and does not try to offer public comment because of his role although his public comment would be that it is time to get rid of the mask mandate. Chief Jones referred to practical concerns raised by Mr. Elliott and advised by June 2 technically by law, by Ordinance that is still in effect because he does not know if that executive order is ending. Chief Jones referred to public comments and noted he felt staff is the one who actually receives the public comments. Chief Jones advised businesses owners were asking him what the City is doing because they want their vaccinated employees not to have to wear a mask. Chief Jones noted it is very confusing to business owners and very confusing for the Police Division and advised he felt OPD bears the brunt of the public rampage more than Council does. Chief Jones noted it was hard when everyone else is following a certain set of rules but in Oxford there is a totally different set.

Mr. Prytherch noted if he votes in favor of repealing the face covering Ordinance he would like to see the use of CARES or other money to work with Enjoy Oxford to continue to communicate that un-vaccinated people need to wear masks and work with businesses owners to shift to another gear.

Mr. Snavely agreed with Mr. Prytherch and noted he appreciated the comments by Chief Jones. Mr. Snavely advised even if the Ordinance was substituted he probably would not support it.

Ms. Greene advised she could do another campaign of signage and education about the CDC guidelines. Ms. Greene noted staff took phone calls all day today from businesses about what is going on as it is very confusing. Ms. Greene advised she hoped Oxford could follow what the state and the CDC is doing.

Mr. Elliott advised the state has an order in place now that says individuals in the State of Ohio shall wear facial coverings at all times when in any indoor location that is not a residence, outdoors when unable to consistently maintain a distance of 6 feet or more from individuals who are not members of a family or household. Mr. Elliott reiterated he felt Oxford should follow the lead of the state.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3621. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: Ms. Raghu (1)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3600. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 4 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2021. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director) pg129

Mr. Newlin addressed his staff report as presented on pages 130-131 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Snavelly noted a typo on page 130 of the staff report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised the County Commissioners adopted a Resolution granting the annexation of 22 acres off Brookville Road noting in 60 days an Ordinance would be considered by Council to accept the annexation.

Mr. Elliott noted a Work Session would be scheduled prior to the regular meeting on June 1, 2021 to discuss the American Rescue Act funding. Mr. Elliott advised Ms. Greene did an excellent job of collecting ideas for sustainable projects from the non-profits in Oxford as well as from staff and the public.

Mr. Dreisbach provided details of the current pedestrian safety improvement project on High Street noting the project will be complete in August prior to Miami's fall semester.

Chief Jones advised a Police Community Relations and Review Commission would be held on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Chief Jones noted the PCRRC Work Group study would be presented that evening as well as 2020 data.

Mr. Wooddell advised the Aquatic Center will open Saturday, May 29th and Mayor Smith will kick-off the event.

Mr. Wooddell noted the Freedom Festival will be back in Oxford this summer and advised it will look a little different although there will be fireworks and the Aquatic Center will be open.

Ms. Greene advised four Red Friday events are planned for the summer noting the first one is this Friday. Ms. Greene advised restaurants would be encouraged to come outside and have tables on the street.

Ms. Greene noted she researched hybrid meetings so when meetings are held in person people could also participate virtually. Ms. Greene advised it will require a technology upgrade and a lot of those vendors are very behind. Ms. Greene noted we also have to wait for the state to let us know if we are allowed to do it. Ms. Greene advised people can attend in person and submit e-comments noting we may wait until we receive a thumbs-up from the state regarding hybrid meetings before investing in additional microphones and cameras.

Ms. Raghu advised she received a phone call from a Miami student who is part of the LGBTQ community and did not know where to go to report things happening to them and their friends. Ms. Raghu noted there is a lot of mis-genderings and hate speech happening in Oxford. Ms. Raghu advised she thought about what is the best way to help change a culture of intolerance in the community regarding groups such as LGBTQ. Ms. Raghu noted she was not surprised to see what the Polco survey said about who feels safe in Oxford. Ms. Raghu advised she felt Council should be aware of this situation and it was something Council should discuss in the near future.

Mr. Snavely noted he was disturbed about what Ms. Raghu just shared and advised he felt Council needed to support all of those who feel threatened.

Ms. Southard encouraged everyone to be cautious and not assume the person you are speaking to is safe. Ms. Southard noted it is clear many people even though vaccinated are still vulnerable because of certain health conditions. Ms. Southard encouraged everyone to wear a mask and be kind to others.

Mr. Bracken encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Mr. Prytherch noted it was a long night because Council has been working on some of the hardest and trickiest issues of the past year. Mr. Prytherch advised Council started out by talking about policing and community relations and then climate change and Covid-19. Mr. Prytherch noted he was proud of the work being done on Council and with the boards and commissions, staff and community members. Mr. Prytherch advised we were not stepping away from the hardest challenges of our time. Mr. Prytherch noted the Polco survey showed a high level of satisfaction with the Police Division although we have some work to do and we have made progress on climate but the work is just beginning. Mr. Prytherch advised we are not yet done with the challenges of Covid-19 although we should be proud of the work we have done.

Mayor Smith advised with infection rates dropping and the infection rate in Oxford being zero he would like Council meetings to return to the Council Chambers in June. Mayor Smith noted starting June 1 appropriate precautions will be taken with the use of dividers and social distancing will be practiced in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adjourn at 10:45 p.m. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 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)