A virtual meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The members participating were Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, William Snavely 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. Ben Mazer, Assistant Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Snavely moved to adjourn to Executive Session immediately in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1) and (4) for the purpose of discussing appointments to Boards and Commissions and collective bargaining matters. 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)

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Snavely moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

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

ABS: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Southard moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Snavely seconded. The motion passed 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)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

CLIMATE ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Snavely moved to appoint Sandra Woy-Hazelton, Mark Boardman, David Gorchov and Joan Potter-Sommer to the Climate Action Steering Committee as well as Andor Kiss as the Environmental Commission representative, Jason Bracken as the Planning Commission representative and David Prytherch as the Oxford Parking and Transportation Advisory Board representative. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 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)

MCCULLOUGH-HYDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Southard moved to appoint Karen Baker to the McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for a 5-year term ending June 30, 2025. Mr. Snavely seconded. The motion passed 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)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the May 5, 2020 City Council Virtual Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Report regarding the May 14, 2020 Recreation Board Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Mr. Snavely moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 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)

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION
REINSTATE PARKING
METER FEES**

A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to reinstate parking meter fees on High Street, East Park Place, West Park Place, Poplar Street, Main Street and Beech Street between Walnut Street and Church Street, and in Lot 52 effective Wednesday, May 20, 2020. (Doug Elliott City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised at the March 17, 2020 Council meeting, Council adopted a Resolution to support the Uptown businesses and waive parking meter fees on certain streets. Mr. Elliott noted he was asking Council to consider reinstating those fees since as part of the Governor's "Restart Ohio" initiative retail businesses are now open, restaurants are open for outdoor seating and soon they will be open for indoor seating. Mr. Elliott advised the goal was to have parking turnover for customers and without parking enforcement there is very little turnover in the parking spaces. Mr. Elliott noted the City's revenues were down drastically although the expenditures remain the same. Mr. Elliott recommended reinstating the meter fees effective May 20, 2020 noting enforcement could be delayed for several days to make sure the message was out to the businesses owners and employees who were parking on the street.

Mr. Mike Rudolph, 200 Morgan Circle, noted he appreciated a moment to comment on this issue.

Mr. Rudolph thanked Council and staff for the recent stimulus efforts to date along with the CIC in supporting the vital business community. Mr. Rudolph advised the combined efforts with the gift card program and the generous amount of financial support that was provided has been very helpful to many small businesses. Mr. Rudolph noted the combined efforts also with the emergency small business loan program that made vital funds available at zero interest with longer payback periods was another very valuable tool for business survival. Mr. Rudolph complimented Enjoy Oxford for their "Yes We Are Open" posters, which were distributed to many businesses and provide steps to keep everyone safe during businesses hours.

Mr. Rudolph thanked Council for their early effort to set-aside the parking meter fees in select areas in and around the Uptown Business District.

Mr. Rudolph noted even though many traditional businesses were closed at the time this was instituted the no parking fee option provided one more reason for local community members to stop in for carry-out at the establishments that chose to go that direction and that were located within the areas of Council's actions. Mr. Rudolph strongly suggested it was too early to reinstate the parking meter fees in the affected areas noting this program assisted those businesses that were open at the beginning of this crisis and the same helpful opportunity should be provided for other businesses that now have the chance to open under modified circumstances (retail stores, salons & barber shops, and restaurants that were not open for carry-out earlier). Mr. Rudolph advised it would also provide the opportunity for those restaurants that were open for carry-out to continue to give their customers easy access as they now re-tool their operations to serve outdoors and indoors. Mr. Rudolph noted he felt the loss in parking revenue is more than offset by giving the Uptown Business District all the support it needs to get reopened and revenue generating again. Mr. Rudolph suggested Council consider extending the parking meter holiday for an additional two months. Mr. Rudolph also suggested the parking meters be bagged either by the City or through a partnership with the local businesses to use their own bags as advertisement. Mr. Rudolph advised many people commented they were unaware the parking fees were waived. Mr. Rudolph suggested a caveat to include compliance on the part of the business community to operate under all necessary state and local mandated safety measures. Mr. Rudolph noted if Council was willing to offset a fee such as the parking meter fee to get more business in the community then the community businesses must be compliant with the rules of operation. Mr. Rudolph advised there were bad actors in others cities in Ohio threatening the livelihood of all by not being compliant. Mr. Rudolph noted if this occurs in Oxford with any regularity, the elimination of the parking fee holiday should be one of the costs for bad behavior.

Ms. Greene read a comment submitted by email through the public comment forum as follows:

Comments submitted on Sunday, May 17, 2020 - 7:33pm:

- **Name**: Jack D McCune
- **Address**: 240 Hunter Woods Drive
- **Email Address**: actionjaxion@gmail.com
- **Meeting Date**: Tue, 05/19/2020
- **Agenda Item**: parking fees
- **Comments**:

  please DO NOT REINSTATE parking fees--the uptown businesses are struggling as it is any & all help will be greatly appreciated by this community thank you

Mr. Snavely advised he was pretty much in agreement with Mr. Rudolph noting he knew the fees would need to be reinstated at some point. Mr. Snavely advised he did not know if we needed to wait two months. Mr. Snavely noted he felt it could wait until the next Council meeting. Mr. Snavely advised businesses were just now starting to reopen and he felt it might be too soon to reinstate the meter fees. Mr. Snavely suggested it could be monitored and if no parking spaces are available then meter fees need to be reinstated for parking turnover. Mr. Snavely noted he did not feel the decision should be driven by the budget as much as by the goal of the meters which is turnover enabling the businesses Uptown to have customers.

Mr. Ellerbe echoed the sentiments of Mr. Rudolph and Mr. Snavely with a minor modification noting he felt at a minimum the fees should be reinstated in early June and enforced beginning in July.

Mr. Bracken asked Mr. Elliott to speak to the issue of employment for the parking unit. Mr. Elliott advised without the COVID-19 crisis the City was going to have an operating deficit of $320,636 this year. Mr. Elliott noted if parking meter enforcement is not reinstated and there is no employee furloughs that could jump to well over $500,000. Mr. Elliott advised revenues are declining to almost nothing and expenditures remain the same so he felt at the very least he would have to furlough the 4 part-time employees or considerably reduce their hours. Mr. Elliott noted the City budgeted $321,000 for the purchase of smart meters which could be postponed although the revenue estimate was increased based on the usage of the smart meters. Mr. Elliott noted he would respect Council's decision although he felt expenditures would need to be reduced soon.

Mr. Prytherch asked Chief Jones to address parking enforcement challenges. Chief Jones noted he understands the business community's situation although the City relies on the parking fund revenue to pay several employees. Chief Jones advised when COVID-19 hit and parking fees were waived all of the rules went out the window. Chief Jones noted with the BMV's being closed people were driving with expired license plates and advised throughout Ohio he felt all agencies have pulled back from proactive policing. Chief Jones noted in the parking world the real generator of turnover was the parking meters and advised the difficulty with enforcing the two-hour time limit comes with the technology noting while it works to some extent it is not foolproof and it is tedious to go through. Chief Jones advised a better method is chalking tires although now the courts have ruled that it is unconstitutional. Chief Jones noted the best method is to write down the information. Chief Jones advised he liked the idea of having a set date to reinstate parking meter fees so people know ahead of time noting the information can be placed on the City's website and on social media. Chief Jones discussed the possible implementation of a "Contactless Payment Solution" called Park Mobile noting people can use an app on their phone to pay for parking. Chief Jones advised he and his staff do see the businesses community abusing the free parking spaces at times, which is difficult to control. Chief Jones noted he felt summer was a good time to transition back to paying $0.50 at the meters to park Uptown and advised he did not think it was coming out of the businesses pocket. Chief Jones noted he felt $0.50 was inexpensive for parking and advised he did not know how much that would deter people from coming Uptown.

Mr. Prytherch noted his long-term concern was he did not want to jeopardize the smart meter program the City had been moving toward for more than a decade. Mr. Prytherch inquired how long the City could waive meter fees without jeopardizing the smart meter transition. Mr. Elliott advised the budget for this year shows a deficit of $428,000 and $322,000 was budgeted for the meters. Mr. Elliott noted if the smart meters were eliminated the deficit would be a little less than $100,000. Mr. Elliott advised he felt the smart meters would have to be postponed until the end of this year. Mr. Elliott noted staff projected to end the year with a fund balance of $313,000 and advised if we get down to a $100,000 fund balance assuming we purchase the smart meters this year that is a precarious situation for the parking fund which should be avoided. Mr. Elliott noted he was fine with beginning to enforce parking on June 1.

Ms. Greene read a public comment from Mr. Kevin McKeehan who was having technical difficulties into the record as follows:
"I fully support the extension of the free parking. While I fully understand the City budget issues I feel given the current environment we need to bite the bullet on the parking meter income."

Ms. Raghu advised she understood the intent as far as helping small businesses out as much as possible noting she was not sure if we would really know if it has helped them or not had an effect especially if people are using parking spaces for long periods of time. Ms. Raghu advised she struggles with this because she does not have any evidence it truly helps small businesses. Ms. Raghu noted Oxford's parking was the cheapest she has ever seen in any City. Ms. Raghu advised she tended to agree with what Chief Jones and Mr. Elliott have said unless someone can show her how this has really helped their business.

Ms. Southard noted the goal of having a parking fee moratorium was to encourage people to go Uptown to pick-up take out orders from restaurants quickly without paying a fee. Ms. Southard advised since the businesses are now open the goal becomes a little different. Ms. Southard noted she did not think the public in general would be surprised that the moratorium would end. Ms. Southard advised she felt now was the time to reinstate parking meter fees for the various reasons mentioned including the budget, jobs being jeopardized and the goal of encouraging turnover of parking Uptown.

Mr. Snavely suggested finding some middle ground noting the City Manager indicated it would not hurt too badly if we waited until June to reinstate parking meter fees. Mr. Snavely suggested making the effective date June 3 and noted on June 2 Council at their regular meeting could assess whether there is any reason to make a different decision based on the experience. Mr. Snavely advised if employees are parking in front of businesses all day and others cannot find a place to park the reinstatement of fees would be obvious.

Chief Jones noted he felt June 3 would give the Police Division time to advertise on social media and send a Nixle message out to inform the public of the reinstatement. Chief Jones advised he would like his staff to start walking Uptown again and talk to business owners to inform them of the planned reinstatement of parking fees. Chief Jones explained what extra duties the Public Safety Assistants have taken on since parking enforcement ceased which included sanitation of the Police Station and police cruisers.

Mr. Prytherch noted he felt giving people some time and giving people a chance to get back on their feet is a great gesture. Mr. Prytherch said to the business community he felt in was in everyone's long-term interest to have a successful smart meter program that will enable people to access the businesses using a credit card. Mr. Prytherch advised if Council reinstates parking meter fees it is because they need to think long-term about parking Uptown noting he felt June 1, June 3 or June 15 would give people enough time to adjust.

<u>Mr. Ellerbe moved to amend the Resolution to say the effective date is June 3, 2020. Mr. Snavely seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:</u>

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Mr. Bracken inquired if this action would prevent the furlough of employees going forward and Mr. Elliott advised yes.

Mayor Smith advised Council would vote on the Resolution with the effective of June 3, 2020 for reinstating parking meter fees.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 7184. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
SERGEANTS & LIEUTENANTS CONTRACT

A Resolution No. 7185 approving the contract between the City of Oxford, Ohio, and the Oxford Police Sergeants and Lieutenants Bargaining Unit and authorizing the City Manager to sign the contract on behalf of the City. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised he was happy to announce the City reached an agreement with the Oxford Police Sergeants and Lieutenants for a new 3-year contract for fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Mr. Elliott noted the proposed agreement includes a pay increase of 3% for 2020 which is identical to what was provided for the non-union employees. Mr. Elliott advised it also included a 2.5% pay increase for 2021 and 2022. Mr. Elliott recommended Council approve the proposed agreement between the City of Oxford and the Oxford Police Sergeants and Lieutenants bargaining unit.

Mayor Smith advised there were no public comments on the proposed Resolution.

Mayor Smith advised Council reviewed the proposed agreement in detail in their Executive Session earlier this evening.

Mr. Prytherch noted Council congratulated the negotiators on both sides for achieving an agreement that satisfies all parties.

Mr. Prytherch advised he was happy there was parody between the union and non-union employees. Mr. Prytherch asked Mr. Elliott given the circumstances to address the financial sustainability of raises for employees.

Mr. Elliott advised a 3% raise was included in the Police budget noting the total cost for the Sergeants and Lieutenants salaries and benefits is slightly less than $32,000. Mr. Elliott noted going forward to the next 2 fiscal years it will have a fiscal impact although he believes the City can sustain it. Mr. Elliott advised the big unknown is how long the economic situation we are facing now will last. Mr. Elliott noted in Ohio he must negotiate a contract with the bargaining units and advised the City has 3 bargaining units within the Police Division. Mr. Elliott advised just to negotiate a contract is expensive for the City which is why he preferred the 3 year contract. Mr. Elliott noted he looked at the comparative contracts in the area and this is inline with what has been settled in other agreements such as with the Butler County Sheriff's office and other entities that have police departments.

Ms. Raghu advised she felt it was a good contract.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7185. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The Resolution was adopted 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)

RESOLUTION
GRANT AGREEMENT

A Resolution No. 7186 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 advised this was the annual grant the City of Oxford is the lead agency for noting the City has done this since 2015. Chief Jones noted Pete Reising, a retired Oxford Police Sergeant, administers the grant for the City and advised he has done a great job over the last several years. Chief Jones advised the $225,000 comes into the City coffers and is distributed among the 13 agencies in Butler County who participate in the program, which helps to fund OVI saturation patrols and checkpoints. Chief Jones noted the grant helps to add police officers in the field to deter operating a vehicle while intoxicated and to help with traffic enforcement.

Ms. Southard advised she felt this was needed more than ever noting everyone has noticed more speeding going on with the lower traffic volumes.

Mayor Smith advised he felt the program had been very successful.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7186. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution 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)

RESOLUTION
OVI TASK FORCE
COORDINATOR

A Resolution No. 7187 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Peter M. Reising to perform consulting services and to function as the Butler County OVI Taskforce Coordinator for the 2021 grant funded through the Ohio Department of Public Safety. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones advised the proposed Resolution is a continuing contract with Pete Reising to administer the OVI grant noting his funding comes directly from the grant.

Mr. Prytherch inquired how long the City has had this arrangement with Mr. Reising and Chief Jones advised Mr. Reising has been the grant coordinator since at least 2015.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7187. Mr. Prytherch 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
TRANSPORTATION PLANS

A Resolution No. 7188 confirming the adoption of Oxford Transportation Plans and directing staff to compile the plans into a single document. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised staff was asking for a Resolution to move forward with a document that brings previously approved plans into one document to make them more accessible noting many of the documents were made at a time when accessibility for sight or hearing was not as common. Mr. Perry advised additional GIS information was added to make them easier to read.

Mr. Perry noted the document would contain all of the City's long-range transportation planning information instead of having it in 4-5 different documents. Mr. Perry advised it would contain the Complete Streets policy which was adopted fairly recently and noted the ongoing OATS documents would be included as well. Mr. Perry noted the document would also provide Ms. Greene a platform for the process of applying for grant funding by having one document to reference. Mr. Perry shared screen shots of the proposed document.

Mr. Prytherch advised it was great to see the documents pulled together in one place. Mr. Prytherch inquired if there were any substantial changes to the plans and if so how would one know. Mr. Perry advised the original documents would be available although the text was not searchable. Mr. Perry noted the main difference is the way the map information is presented noting several pages were used instead of one page so people can zoom into quadrants of the City. Mr. Prytherch advised some of the documents were poised to be revised sometime in the near future and inquired if this would be the document to amend and Mr. Perry advised yes. Mr. Prytherch noted the Codified Ordinances refer to the Comprehensive Plan or to the Thoroughfare Plan in terms of subdivisions or planned developments and inquired how the new document relates to the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Perry advised this was just another way to view the Comprehensive Plan and the Thoroughfare Plan.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7188. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution 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)

RESOLUTION
RLF LOANS

A Resolution No. 7189 Approving A Five Thousand Dollar ($5,000) Emergency Small Business Revolving Loan Fund Loan To The Following Businesses: Animal Care Clinic; LogCon Enterprises LLC, DBA Books & Brews; Shri Mahadevi Inc., DBA Red Ox Drive Thru; and Village West Framing and Gallery. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Greene advised in April Council voted to amend the Revolving Loan Fund rules to allow it to be used for staff retention in times of emergency. Ms. Greene noted the CIC Board met and developed an emergency small business loan program within those parameters. Ms. Greene advised the loan can be $5,000 at zero interest with a 4 year repayment plan. Ms. Greene advised payments on the loan start 9 months after the loan paperwork is signed. Ms. Greene noted this is the first round of applicants from local businesses who have applied although the CIC Board will accept applications through July 15, 2020. Ms. Greene advised the CIC designated $200,000 of the Revolving Loan Fund toward this program. Ms. Greene recommended Council's approval of the loans for these businesses.

Ms. Raghu inquired if these were the only businesses that applied for this particular loan. Ms. Greene advised there were 5 applications noting one application was very incomplete. Ms. Greene noted she re-sent a new mailer to all of the businesses last week and an email to everyone. Ms. Greene advised she expected additional applications to come in over the next couple of months.

Mr. Prytherch noted it was great that the rules were changed for the Revolving Loan Fund to support job retention not just job creation. Mr. Prytherch advised he appreciated the Revolving Loan Fund Committee and the CIC for moving so quickly on this initiative. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt Council was seeing the first batch of these applications.

Ms. Southard thanked Ms. Greene for assisting with this initiative and noted almost every day she receives questions from citizens who wish to buy gift cards. Ms. Southard inquired where people should go to buy the gift cards. Ms. Greene advised staff was actively building the e-commerce website that will work well with the City's credit card processing vendor. Ms. Greene noted a link for the e-commerce site would be posted on the City's website.

<u>Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Resolution No. 7189. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:</u>

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

<u>ORDINANCES</u>
<u>FIRST READING</u>

<u>ORDINANCE</u>
<u>NEW SECTION 1137.10</u>

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1137.10 Entitled Nonconforming Signs, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1137.10 Entitled Nonconforming Signs. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Ms. Perry advised the two First Readings were recommendations from the Planning Commission for text amendments. Mr. Perry noted the amendments originated from a BZA case that made its way into an agreement that the City signed last year. Mr. Perry advised the text amendment is very narrowly focused on multi-family buildings in the Mile Square so they can have freestanding signs similar to other multi-family developments of the same size. Mr. Perry discussed the proposed amendments in two sections of the zoning code dealing with nonconforming signs and signs in the R3MS district.

There were no comments or questions from Council or from the public.

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTION 1151.05

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1151.05 Entitled Permanent Signs, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1151.05 Entitled Permanent Signs. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised the proposed Ordinance adds the R3MS district to the other two districts (R3 and R4) regarding signage.

Mr. Prytherch inquired if this amendment refers to a development site of an acre in size. Mr. Perry noted the definition of development site includes multiple parcels that are adjacent to each other. Mr. Prytherch inquired if the idea here was that this would apply to either existing or new large residential complexes. Mr. Perry advised large complexes were already allowed a freestanding sign noting this was primarily targeting existing complexes that were built before the rezoning limits on having complexes in the Mile Square.

Mayor Smith advised Council would consider the two Ordinances again at their first meeting in June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Elliott advised the Oxford Leadership group which has representatives from the City, Miami University, Talawanda School District, Chamber of Commerce, Enjoy Oxford, McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital and Oxford Township has been meeting weekly to share information about their COVID-19 responses. Mr. Elliott noted Mike Everett of TriHealth/McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital shared the following information: McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital has performed 406 COVID-19 tests since March 12 with results received from 387 and 19 pending, of those 348 have been negative and 39 positive. The positivity percentage rate continues to trend down from a high of 31% in April to 10% as of May 19. Mr. Elliott noted McCullough Hyde had a COVID-19 patient that was transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital. Total number of COVID-19 patients 36 since the pandemic started. They currently have no ICU patients and the occupancy of their in-patient medical care unit is 31%. Level 2 outpatient surgeries were resumed per the Governor's order and the hospital continues to perform inpatient surgeries to care for the community. They have a modified inpatient visitor policy allowing one visitor in the hospital setting during certain hours, only a single person may visit each day and must wear a mask. If a patient it at end of life they are allowed more than one visitor. Both parents are allowed to visit pediatric patients. Mr. Elliott noted McCullough-Hyde has played a vital role in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Elliott advised each week the Butler County Board of Health updates their figure for COVID-19 reported cases in Butler County broken down by zip code. Mr. Elliott noted the 45056 zip code extends beyond the corporate limits of the City of Oxford. Mr. Elliott advised the updated figure as of last Wednesday was 17 which was an increase of 3 from the week before. Mr. Elliott reminded everyone to continue practicing social distancing, wearing a mask and good hygiene.

Mr. Elliott noted he filed the application for the establishment of a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) with the City Clerk last week. Mr. Elliott advised the notice of the filing was published in the Journal News on May 13 and will be published again on May 20. Mr. Elliott noted he would present a Resolution to establish the DORA to City Council for approval on June 16, 2020. Mr. Elliott advised at that meeting and any time before the public can make comments on the proposed application. Mr. Elliott noted the application is posted on the City's website under the news items. Mr. Elliott advised at the June 16 meeting Council can approve the application, amend it or disapprove the proposed application. Mr. Elliott noted if the application is approved the City will notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control as well as the Public Safety Division. Mr. Elliott advised the Division of Liquor Control will issue a special designation at no cost to the qualified permit holders located within the DORA. Mr. Elliott noted the earliest the program could be implemented was July 6, 2020.

Chief Jones noted several Butler County communities experienced flooding issues today noting there was some activity through the Emergency Management Agency. Chief Jones reminded the public to stay tuned to the weather and encouraged them to sign up for the Nixle service for public safety alerts.

Ms. Greene advised Miami University initiated a Safe Return to Campus Planning Committee which she will serve on and will keep everyone posted as decisions are made.

Ms. Greene noted a map of the proposed DORA area is available on the City's website.

Ms. Greene advised staff was exploring the opening of recreation facilities including the pool noting staff will have a thorough update by the end of the month.

Mr. Perry advised as part of the COVID-19 response staff has been in contact with the community social service agencies noting updates are received from the Senior Center, the Family Resource Center and the pantry. Mr. Perry advised the food pantry recently moved to the Family Resource Center site and are taking donations there Monday-Saturday noon until 5:00 p.m. Mr. Perry thanked the community and the Kiwanis for the mini food-drive noting 2,300 pounds of food was collected.

Mr. Prytherch noted at the last meeting Council adopted a Resolution urging health authorities to do certain things and advised they responded back noting the Ohio legislature rarely does. Mr. Prytherch advised he wanted to acknowledge that they took the time in the midst of a busy time both the Butler County Board of Health and the Ohio Department of Health to respond to Council in a supportive way.

Mr. Prytherch noted last weekend was an awkward time to enforce social distancing as people were trying to celebrate although he felt the City got through it and he appreciated OPD's service in that regard.

Mr. Prytherch advised outdoor dining might be what saves businesses during this time noting the City has a sidewalk right-of-way permit process. Mr. Prytherch encouraged businesses thinking about expanding their dining into the sidewalk to contact the City.

Mr. Prytherch noted his hope the City can get creative as the DORA program comes online by possibly expanding outdoor seating for those concerned about indoor dining. Mr. Prytherch advised some restaurants are able to offer indoor dining but are choosing not to because of concerns from employees.

Mr. Bracken suggested everyone still take COVID very seriously noting it was still very much here and it could go on for a long time. Mr. Bracken noted it was crucial to continue to wash hands, try to social distance and wear a mask whenever possible. Mr. Bracken advised he felt those things would improve the situation both health wise and economically because the sooner we get a hold of this the quicker the economic portion can come back.

Ms. Southard congratulated all of the students, high school and university who have graduated including Councilor Prytherch's daughter. Ms. Southard noted everything had to be virtual although she felt it has been in many ways a very special celebration and a graduation that would not be forgotten. Ms. Southard noted her hope the graduates would take their responsibility seriously of trying to help make this world a little bit better.

Ms. Southard advised everyone was looking forward to the gift card program noting university towns have special problems. Ms. Southard advised she was pleased that the City of Oxford and City staff has done such a fine job of providing un-interrupted services and protection in all ways.

Ms. Southard noted there has been no proper mourning for the nearly 90,000 people in this country who have lost their lives noting her hope there will be a real and appropriate national mourning for the lives lost due to the virus.

Mr. Snavely echoed Ms. Southard's congratulations to the City's graduates.

Mr. Snavely echoed the congratulations to the Kiwanis for their food drive noting he was a member and he felt the Kiwanis did a good job with the effort.

Mr. Snavely noted we made it through maybe the toughest weekend in some respects with a lot of out of town people coming in. Mr. Snavely commended the Police Division for handling this in their usual professional manner. Mr. Snavely advised he felt things were pretty good in Oxford because people have been paying attention and following the rules by and large which was why there were only 39 positive cases in the City. Mr. Snavely noted restaurants and other businesses would be opening up and encouraged people to follow the rules. Mr. Snavely advised wearing a mask is a sign of respect for other people. Mr. Snavely noted if people were not abiding by social distancing within establishments and you feel uncomfortable you should leave. Mr. Snavely advised he felt we were going to get through this noting he felt so far Oxford has done a good job and advised his hope Oxford would continue to do so.

Mr. Ellerbe noted the Councilors before him said pretty much everything he wanted to say. Mr. Ellerbe encouraged everyone to frequent the businesses that were opening back up. Mr. Ellerbe encouraged everyone to wear a mask, be excellent to each other, and try to keep a positive outlook noting there was light at the end of the tunnel although we are still in the tunnel.

Ms. Raghu shared pictures she took on her way home of the piles of trash left by students moving out of Oxford noting it was disgusting. Ms. Raghu advised her view of environmentalism is what would our grandparents and great grandparents do? Ms. Raghu noted the items left at the curbs are not single use items and advised people do not need to throw away mattresses. Ms. Raghu advised she was impressed when Sam Perry mentioned the idea of having landlords provide furnished apartments which would nip this problem at the origin. Ms. Raghu advised parents were seeing this and they were appalled noting they were appalled because ShareFest could not operate this year because of the pandemic. Ms. Raghu advised this should not be a problem and encouraged Mr. Perry and others to think creatively out of the box so this is not a problem to begin with. Ms. Raghu referred to solar panels and power purchasing agreements noting she felt there was so much we can do from the City perspective to be as environmentally friendly as possible. Ms. Raghu referred to the photo and advised this was why Rumpke was so tall and why they are running out of space. Ms. Raghu noted we need to keep pushing towards not producing the trash to begin with and encouraged everyone to compost and to recycle.

Mr. Snavely referred to the photo Ms. Raghu shared and noted it was atrocious and it was all over town. Mr. Snavely suggested Council discuss this issue before the next school year and think about some solutions like dumpsters being placed in key areas as well as ShareFest. Mr. Snavely advised the pickers go through the trash and make a mess for the garbage collection staff to deal with.

Mayor Smith noted this was a testament to how great ShareFest has been in the past and how many tons of things they collect that this year ended up on the curb and went to Rumpke.

Mayor Smith referred to the Talawanda mask donation project and advised Talawanda was trying to obtain two masks for each student so they can start classes in the fall back in their school buildings. Mayor Smith noted that equates to about 7,000 masks and advised for people who sew there was a flyer at www.talawanda.org with patterns for the masks and drop-off locations.

Mayor Smith advised the Coalition for a Healthy Community initiated a positive yard sign project noting they have 5 different yard signs with positive sayings and motivation on them. Mayor Smith advised if anyone would like a yard sign they could go to the Talawanda Middle School tomorrow between 4 and 6 p.m. to pick one up.

Mayor Smith extended Council's condolences to the family of Madison Mesler noting Madison worked for the Parks and Recreation Department in the preschool for the past 4 ½ years. Mayor Smith advised she passed away suddenly on May 5 unrelated to the virus. Mayor Smith noted she will be greatly missed and advised when people can gather a tree will be planted near the TRI play area in her memory.

Mayor Smith asked for and received Council's consensus on the possibility of renaming a street in honor of the late Mike Davis noting a naming committee would need to be appointed to go through the process.

ADJOURN

Mr. Snavely moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)