A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 7:02 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Kate Currie, Greig Rutherford, Bob Blackburn, John Harman and Kevin McKeehan.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Ms. Donna Heck, Human Resources Director; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Ms. Gail Brahier, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Ms. Amy Blankenship, Acting Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Blackburn moved to adjourn to Executive Session immediately in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) (1) for the purpose of discussing Appointments to Boards and Commissions and (4) for the purpose of discussing Collective Bargaining strategies. Mr. Harman seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Mr. Harman, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Rutherford Mr. Keebler (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McKeehan moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Rutherford seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keebler called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Rutherford moved to amend the agenda by removing Item 3.D. Appointments to Boards and Commissions. Mr. Bogard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Mr. McKeehan moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PRESENTATION
MCCULLOUGH-HYDE
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Bryan Hehemann, noted he was glad to address Council a third time as CEO of the hospital representing the board, medical staff and the rest of the team. Mr. Hehemann advised he provided Council with an annual report which contained information regarding accomplishments, results of improvement plans, quality care, facilities, equipment and key financial indicators. Mr. Hehemann offered to answer any questions or expand upon the topics included in the report. Mayor Keebler inquired how the hospital was doing financially which Mr. Hehemann addressed. Mr. Hehemann also discussed the hospital's conversion to a new computer system.

Mr. Bogard referred to page 1 of the Annual Report and inquired which area hospitals were used as comparables. Mr. Hehemann advised all 25 hospitals in the Greater Cincinnati Hospital Council.

Mr. Blackburn commended Mr. Hehemann for his management style at the hospital noting it was impressive to see him interacting with the staff.

Mayor Keebler noted on behalf of Council that McCullough-Hyde was a major asset to the community and Oxford had been fortunate to have a community hospital all of these years. Mayor Keebler wished Mr. Hehemann continued success.

PRESENTATION
SHARE FEST

Mr. Rob Abowitz, provided a PowerPoint presentation and advised Share Fest was an opportunity to divert materials Miami University students were getting rid of at the end of each academic year from the landfill and putting it to good use. Mr. Abowitz noted Share Fest served a number of community agencies in Oxford and Butler County. Mr. Abowitz advised this was the 7th year for Share Fest which had grown from an event in 2 rooms to a huge event offering a wide range of materials at the former Big Lots space at 550 S. Locust Street. Mr. Abowitz noted Core Resources generously donated the space for a limited period of time and it was turned into a receiving and processing center and a thrift store. Mr. Abowitz advised there were 174 volunteers this year that worked 1600 hours and those hours did not include the countless hours put in by the planning committee. Mr. Abowitz noted donations were up this year partly due to a new program created by Andrew Wilson which allowed students to schedule a pick-up online and the Share Fest volunteers would pick up the donated items. Mr. Abowitz advised materials could also be dropped off by students or residents at 550 S. Locust Street and the timeline for the event was Wednesday through Tuesday of graduation weekend. Mr. Abowitz noted the donations this year consisted of over 600 bags of groceries, over 650 pieces of furniture, appliances, house wares, toiletries, school supplies, clothing and countless other materials. Mr. Abowitz noted on campus efforts were very effective and signs placed in residence halls encouraged students to arrange for the pickup of various smaller items.

Mr. Abowitz advised the impact of Share Fest was far and wide noting partnerships were formed with the beneficiaries including Bunker Hill Haven for Boys, Butler County Children Services, The Family Resource Center, The Junction, the Lighthouse Food Pantry and Thrift Store and Serve City in Hamilton who provided volunteers to pick up and deliver the materials. Mr. Abowitz discussed the marketing strategies including emails to students from Associated Student Government, word of mouth, the High Street Banner and notification to students from property managers. Mr. Abowitz recognized many sponsors including Duke Energy, various offices from Miami University, Oxford West Apartments, Suds and Penske, McDonalds, Taco Bell, Starbucks, Little Caesars, Dominos, Bagel and Deli, the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church, St Mary, Joann's Tax Service, Johnston Extinguishers, the City of Oxford and Oxford Seniors. Mr. Abowitz recognized special volunteers including Kevin Bush, Bill Clark, Brandon Combs, Sam Combs, Virgil Cummings, Zach Davis, Marilyn Elzey, Sandy Mack, Marty Miller, Ruth Miller, Tom Schaber, Missy Thompson, and Andrew Wilson. Mr. Abowitz noted Share Fest was a huge collaborative effort but there was more that could be done.

Mayor Keebler noted he felt Share Fest was one of Oxford's greatest community events due to the amount of volunteers and the number of people who were helped by the initiative. Mayor Keebler advised this was recycling at its best because usable items were going to people who really needed them. Mayor Keebler noted the amount of organization was impressive and Mr. Abowitz and all of the volunteers should be very proud of the event and he hoped it continued.

NOTICE TO LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

New Permit for MJ Restaurants LLC DBA LaRosa's 21 Lynn Avenue Suite 101 Oxford, Ohio 45056.

Mr. Kyger advised LaRosa's recently had the opportunity to expand the restaurant which allowed them to apply for the D5I permit. Mr. Kyger noted LaRosa's currently had a D3 permit which was for liquor only and they had been operating with that permit with no problems.

Mr. Bogard moved to accept the notice without comment. Ms. Currie seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Alan Kyger, Co-Chair, Oxford Wine and Art Affair, thanked Council for their support of the event noting it was very successful and it was the major fund raiser for the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kyger thanked the Service Department employees for their assistance during the event noting they were all very helpful and courteous.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 17, 2011 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

RESOLUTION
RETAIN PROPERTY

A Resolution No. 4608 authorizing the Oxford Division of Police to retain for use by the municipality certain unclaimed property in its possession. (Steve Schwein, Police Chief)

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
POLICE CONTRACT

A Resolution No. 4609 approving the contract between the City of Oxford, Ohio and the Oxford Police Officers, Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 38 and authorizing the City Manager and City Law Director to sign the contract on behalf of the City. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mayor Keebler asked Mr. Elliott to speak to all three of the proposed Resolutions.

Mr. Elliott advised the proposed Police Patrol contract settlement affected 14 current full-time Officers and called for a 0% increase in 2011, a 2% increase in 2012 and a 2% increase in 2013. Mr. Elliott noted the last time this group received an increase was on 1/1/10 for 2.436% due to a provision in the contract that called for the City to do a six community salary comparison and if the average salary of those six communities was more than what Oxford officers were being paid they were entitled to an increase. Mr. Elliott noted that provision was eliminated in the proposed contract. Mr. Elliott advised the cost increase in 2012 for this group was approximately $38,000 including overtime and benefits.

Mr. Elliott advised the non-commissioned police department employees' contract had a wage reopener for years 2011 and 2012. Mr. Elliott noted this group did not receive a pay increase in 2010 and the last pay increase they received was on 1/1/09. Mr. Elliott advised if Council approved the wage reopener, this group would receive a pay increase effective 5/1/11 for 2% and a 2% increase on 1/1/12. Mr. Elliott noted the cost increase in 2011 for this group was approximately $10,000.

Mr. Elliott advised the next group was the non-union employees which included 76 positions. Mr. Elliott noted this group last received a pay increase on 1/1/09 and the proposed pay increase was 2% effective 5/1/11. Mr. Elliott advised the cost increase for this group in 2011 including fringe benefits and overtime was approximately $53,000 with about 50% coming from the General Fund.

Mr. Elliott advised at the beginning of the fiscal year the City made significant and needed changes to the health insurance benefits provided to all full-time City employees. Mr. Elliott advised the health insurance benefit changes would off-set the proposed pay increases.

Mr. Bogard complimented Mr. Elliott on the negotiations between the Patrol Officers and the City noting he appreciated the time and effort spent on them. Mayor Keebler thanked Mr. McHugh, Ms. Heck and Chief Schwein noting they actually conducted the negotiations. Mayor Keebler noted he felt the contract was good for the City and was a fair contract.

Mr. Blackburn moved to adopt Resolution No. 4609. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**RESOLUTION
AGREEMENT WITH
NON-COMMISSIONED POLICE EMPLOYEES**

A Resolution No. 4610 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement to initiate a two percent (2%) pay increase for all full-time non-commissioned Police Department employees effective May 1, 2011 and a two percent (2%) pay increase effective January 1, 2012. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Blackburn moved to adopt Resolution No. 4610. Mr. Harman seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**RESOLUTION
PAY INCREASE**

A Resolution No. 4611 authorizing the City Manager to initiate a two percent (2%) pay increase for all full-time City employees not covered by a bargaining agreement effective May 1, 2011. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Ms. Currie noted she was delighted that Council could extend an increase to non-union employees in coordination with the union employees. Mayor Keebler noted Council appreciated the good work of the employees and he was happy Council was able to help at this point in time. Mayor Keebler noted Council appreciated that the employees accepted the pay freeze that occurred previously.

Mr. McKeehan moved to adopt Resolution No. 4611. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

**ORDINANCES
FIRST READING**

NEW SECTION
1143.10

An Ordinance Repealing Zoning Code Section 1143.10 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Oxford, Ohio Entitled Uptown District, And Adopting New Section 1143.10, Entitled Uptown District. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen addressed the staff report as presented on page 25 of the agenda noting this was a 'housekeeping' matter and that hospitals needed to be included as a conditional use in the Uptown District.

ORDINANCE
TAX BUDGET

An Ordinance Authorizing The Tax Budget For The Year 2012 And Directing That The Same Be Transmitted To The Butler County Auditor. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed his staff report as presented on page 32 of the agenda noting this was the beginning of the 2012 budgeting process.

ORDINANCE
SECOND READING

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott discussed the annexation of Yager Stadium as well as another annexation that will be proposed to accomplish the County Engineer's objective of lowering the speed limit on Bonham Road for a bridge replacement. Mr. Elliott noted if the speed limit was reduced to 35 mph from 50 mph the cost for construction of a new bridge would be considerably lower.

Mr. Elliott advised he Mr. Dreisbach and Mr. Popescu attended an ODOT District 8 meeting on May 20, 2011. Mr. Elliott updated the public with regard to several local projects that were discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Elliott reminded Council that the Council/Staff Strategic Planning Retreat would take place on Monday, June 13, 2011.

Mr. Kyger noted the CIC would review a Revolving Loan Fund application on Friday and hopefully a Resolution would be before Council in two weeks.

Mayor Keebler advised he wanted to make the public aware that there were a number of expiring terms on Boards and Commissions effective June 30, 2011 and Council would be considering applications for those terms at the next meeting. Mayor Keebler noted there would be vacancies on the Civil Service Commission, BZA, HAPC, Environmental Commission, Community Relations Commission, Recreation Board, Board of Appeals (Building and Housing), Income Tax Board of Review and the Planning Commission.

Mayor Keebler noted information on the Boards and Commissions was available on the City's website and encouraged citizens to take the time to review the information and encouraged interested parties submit an application within the next two weeks. Mayor Keebler advised the work done by Boards and Commissions was very important and Council needed concerned citizens to serve on those Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Blackburn asked Mr. Dreisbach where Kehr Road would be closed for repairs. Mr. Dreisbach advised Kehr Road would close on Wednesday to have erosion repairs made in the stream and stabilize the road bed. Mr. Dreisbach noted the road would be closed from Chestnut Street to Silver Leaf Drive.

Mr. Blackburn congratulated Amy Jones on receiving the Charles Warren Scholarship and noted she would attend Kent State University.

Mr. Blackburn thanked those who helped put flags out at the community cemetery for Memorial Day.

Mr. Harman noted the summer concert series would begin on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Uptown Parks and encouraged everyone to attend the free event featuring Robin Lacy & DeZydeco.

Ms. Currie expressed her hope when it came time to make a final decision regarding the US-27 rerouting project that Council would make a formal decision for the peace of mind of the residents of Chestnut Street noting a lot of people were very anxious about that decision.

Ms. Currie noted she in partnership with colleagues and the Oxford Community Art Center applied for a grant through Pepsi to fund next year's Kinetic Festival and a project in Kinetic Art at every school in the district that would result in the design and building of a permanent sculpture for the rotunda of the new high school. Ms. Currie encouraged everyone to go online every day in June to vote for the project at refresheverything.com.

Mr. Bogard noted he was please to see the nice landscaping being done at the Oxford West Apartments and gave kudos to the new owners of that facility.

Mr. Bogard noted he was pleased to see US-27 N getting the final layer of blacktop and congratulated Mr. Kyger for 20 years of working on getting turn lanes installed there.

Mr. Bogard noted concern regarding the SR 127 and 73 intersection improvement project and noted he would meet with the City Manager to discuss those concerns.

Mr. Rutherford reiterated Mayor Keebler's comments regarding the need for concerned citizens to apply for seats on the City's Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Rutherford encouraged everyone to attend the Farmers Market and noted the Oxford Farmers Market served the regional community.

Mr. McKeehan noted even though Share Fest and the Oxford Wine and Art Festival were totally different events they were both wonderful events and did a lot of good for the community.

ADJOURN

Ms. Currie moved to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.