A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Kate Currie, Bob Blackburn, John Harman and Kevin McKeehan. Greig Rutherford was absent.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. Steve Schwein, Police Chief; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Donna Heck, Human Resources Director; Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr Steve McHugh, 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. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Mr. Harman, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Keebler (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Blackburn moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keebler called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Currie moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RECOGNITION
OPD K-9 TEAMS

Mayor Keebler read a Certificate of Recognition for the accomplishments of K-9 Sgt. David King and his partner Dover, and Officer Ryan Sikora and his partner, Cole.

Chief Schwein presented the certificates to Sgt. King and Officer Sikora who were in attendance with their partners Dover and Cole. Chief Schwein advised he appreciated the K-9 teams and noted when officers accepted this assignment it became a way of life for them and their families for the next 8 to 9 years.

APPOINTMENTS TO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mayor Keebler advised at the last meeting Council appointed Robert Benson to the Planning Commission for a term succeeding Susan Kay who resigned. Mayor Keebler noted it came to Council's attention that the resignation which created the vacancy occurred after all vacancies were advertised. Mayor Keebler advised it was the desire of Council to correct this oversight by rescinding this appointment and posting the vacancy on the City's website for 30 days and make an appointment at the August 16, 2011 meeting. Mayor Keebler noted this action was no reflection on Mr. Benson and Council hoped he would be a candidate considered for the appointment. Mayor Keebler advised this action was simply to correct an oversight and insure that anyone who wished to serve on the Planning Commission was able to be considered for the opportunity.

Mr. Bogard moved to rescind the appointment of Mr. Benson to the Planning Commission. Ms. Currie seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. McKeehan moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Bogard seconded.

Mr. Bogard requested removal of item A. Minutes.

MINUTES

Minutes of the June 21, 2011 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Mr. Bogard referred to page 10 of the agenda and requested that additional discussion regarding the proposed alley vacation be added to the minutes. Ms. Currie noted it would be beneficial to add some of the other points made during the discussion of the proposed alley vacation.

Mr. McKeehan moved to withdraw his motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Currie withdrew her second.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

ORDINANCES FIRST READING

ORDINANCE NEW SECTION 931.02

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 931.02, Entitled Container Requirements, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 931.02, Entitled Container Requirements And Declaring An Emergency. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised on June 21, 2011 Council asked staff to prepare legislation to require the use of waste wheeler totes to try to abate litter and problems with nuisance animals in the mile square. Mr. Dreisbach noted the Housing Advisory Commission made a recommendation to proceed with this program and felt the rental fee of $3.00 per tote per month was a small price to pay for the gains that would be made in terms of litter control and trying to curb the nuisance animal problems in the Uptown area. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff was presenting legislation for Council's review for the first reading tonight which included emergency language so that after the second reading it would become effective immediately and the program could be implemented for Miami's fall semester. Mr. Dreisbach presented a map which depicted the area that would be affected by the proposed Ordinance and noted owner occupied residences would not be required to use the waste wheeler totes because those residents were good about recycling and generating less solid waste. Mr. Dreisbach advised after discussion with the solid waste contractor and reviewing statistics from the Solid Waste Association of North America, one waste wheeler tote would be required for every 4 residents and that number could be tied to the rental permit. Mr. Dreisbach noted when people signed up for their City utilities staff could educate them about the proposed Ordinance and what their responsibilities would entail.

Ms. Currie advised she was excited about the proposed Ordinance and noted the Housing Advisory Commission and others had worked for years to improve the quality of life in the mile square. Ms. Currie advised she felt reducing litter was a good start although she would have included owner occupied residences for the sake of consistency. Ms. Currie noted she understood the reasons for not including owner occupied residences at this time. Ms. Currie advised she didn't like to adopt legislation as an emergency but noted if the proposed Ordinance wasn't adopted as an emergency it would be delayed another year.

Mr. Blackburn advised some landlords already purchased waste wheeler totes and the person signing up for City utilities shouldn't have to obtain another one. Mr. Dreisbach advised the Utility Department could tell whether or not a waste wheeler tote was being utilized at a given residence.

Mr. Bogard inquired what the time-frame was for delivery of the waste wheeler tote and Mr. Dreisbach advised after Council voted on the proposed Ordinance it would take 4 weeks to have the containers delivered to Oxford. Mr. Bogard noted this was a good topic to discuss with students during the walk-abouts.

Mayor Keebler advised based on the positive discussion of Council this evening Mr. Dreisbach should let the solid waste contractor know to get the containers on order. Mayor Keebler noted the proposed Ordinance included the major points Council discussed at their last meeting and modifications may be needed as the program moved forward.

Mr. McHugh referred to page 17 of the agenda suggested adding verbiage to section (a) to be consistent with section (b).

Ms. Currie moved to add (gross weight limit of 250 pounds) to section (a). Mr. Harman seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCE
REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 3133
AND ADOPTING A NEW SALARY ORDINANCE

An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance No. 3133 And Adopting A New Ordinance Amending Section 3 Of The Salary Ordinance. Part-Time Positions Increasing Certain Pay Bands On Attachment "A" Pf Ordinance No. 3133 By Two Percent (2%) And Adding The Position Of Senior Program Coordinator. (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

Ms. Heck advised the proposed Ordinance would address an increase for the Firefighters, would increase the pay bands by 2% and the position of Senior Program Coordinator would be added to the Salary Ordinance. Ms. Heck noted the position of Senior Program Coordinator was originally a contract position and it had never been included in the Salary Ordinance.

Mayor Keebler noted the proposed Ordinance included the 2% increase for Firefighters as was done for other employees at the last meeting and the other changes were housekeeping matters.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
ALLEY VACATION

An Ordinance No. 3152 Approving The Vacation Of The Alley Right-Of-Way Running North-South Between East Church Street And East High Street; Between Tallawanda Road And Bishop Street. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised there were no City utilities in this alley and noted Duke Energy had a utility line there. Mr. Elliott advised the alley was used by Miami University to access their parking lot. Mr. Elliott noted staff recommended the alley vacation so Miami could move forward with their building construction project.

Ms. Currie noted it sounded like a thorough discussion was held on the matter at the last meeting.

Mayor Keebler advised Council received emails from two citizens questioning the matter. Mayor Keebler noted he felt the alley vacation was very much in keeping with past practices by Council whereby if there was no use for an alley by the City or the public it was vacated if requested. Mayor Keebler advised for as long as he could remember the alley was an entrance and exit to a parking lot and the City had not maintained the alley. Mayor Keebler reiterated that overtime Council had vacated alleys when they were not being used. Mayor Keebler advised over the last two years Miami had been very good about supporting the annexation of their lands into the City so the City would receive earnings tax from Miami employees. Mayor Keebler noted he felt the request was reasonable.

Mr. Bogard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3152. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Currie, Mr. Harman, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Mr. Keebler (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
CODE UPDATE

An Ordinance No. 3153 To Approve Current Replacement Pages To The Oxford Codified Ordinances. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Ms. Eaton noted she had no new information regarding the proposed Ordinance.

Ms. Currie moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3153. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Harman, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Bogard, Ms. Currie, Mr. Keebler (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised last Friday he received information from Mr. Blackburn and Mr. Dreisbach regarding Glenwood Energy charging a new re-connection fee for gas service. Mr. Elliott noted the charge was due to a recent PUCO Pipeline Safety Audit. Mr. Elliott advised staff was reviewing the matter with the City's regulatory attorney and he would have additional information for Council as staff pursued the issue.

Mr. Elliott noted the City utilized the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) to administer the City's income tax program since 2007 and prior to that the City of Hamilton administered the City's income tax program. Mr. Elliott advised he felt utilizing RITA was a very good example of a regional approach and noted 190 Ohio municipalities contracted with RITA for the administration of their income tax collection. Mr. Elliott advised RITA's service had proven to be very effective and efficient and in 2010 they collected $6,557,644 for the City with an administrative cost of $110,489 or 1.68% of the collection total. Mr. Elliott noted the City of Hamilton's fee was approximately 2.35% or an additional $43,000. Mr. Elliott advised he wanted to share this information with the public.

Mr. Elliott advised he and Mr. Bogard attended an OKI luncheon last week in Loveland, Ohio where Congresswoman Jean Schmidt was the keynote speaker.

Chief Schwein thanked Council for publically recognizing the K-9 teams this evening.

Mr. Kyger noted at the last meeting Mr. Rutherford inquired why Oxford was not listed on the Urbanspoon website. Mr. Kyger advised Urbanspoon was a search engine that let people rate restaurants and some of Oxford's restaurants were listed. Mr. Kyger provided Council with a report which showed Urbanspoon Eateries, frequently asked questions and fun facts regarding eateries in Oxford.

Mr. Blackburn advised Law Camp was very successful this year with 176 Butler County children participating in the event.

Mr. Blackburn thanked Ms. Brahier and her staff from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Fire and Police Departments for putting on a great 4th of July celebration for the town.

Mr. Harman noted Council talked about the use of waste wheeler totes this evening and reminded citizens that recycling wheeler totes were also available for $1.00 per month. Mr. Harman noted his hope when people signed up for City utilities that staff reminded them that recycling wheeler totes were available as well as waste wheeler totes.

Ms. Currie seconded Mr. Blackburn's comments regarding the 4th of July celebration noting it was one of her favorite events in Oxford. Ms. Currie noted the Parks and Recreation Department knocked themselves out making it such a great event. Ms. Currie noted all of the services offered by the Parks and Recreation Department made summers in Oxford so much fun and Oxford was a wonderful place to raise children.

Mr. McKeehan gave staff kudos for the 4th of July celebration noting the Service Department also helped with the event.

Mr. Bogard echoed the comments regarding the 4th of July celebration noting it was a very enjoyable event. Mr. Bogard agreed with Ms. Currie that Oxford was a great community in which to raise children.

Mr. Bogard noted he had daily visits from deer in his yard and inquired if it was possible to begin an early registration for hunters to participate in the City's Deer Management Program. Mr. Elliott advised bow season opened on September 24, 2011 and the City planned to kick off the Deer Management Program. Mr. Elliott noted staff had some ideas on how to recruit more hunters this year and the City had been successful in getting the venison donated to the food pantry. Mr. Elliott advised staff would look at including larger lots within the City for this year's program. Mayor Keebler suggested looking at larger tracts in the Bull Run area. Mr. Bogard noted a citizen was willing to obtain signatures from residents giving their consent to hunt on their property in residential areas.

Mayor Keebler noted the 4th of July celebration was great and advised he received compliments on how well Ms. Brahier and her staff coordinated the event. Mayor Keebler noted it was nice to see so many young families, children, grandparents and grandchildren participating in the celebration.

ADJOURN

Ms. Currie moved to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.