

A Work Session of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor, Mike Smith on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, Bill Snavelly and Edna Southard.

Staff members present were Doug Elliott, City Manager, John Jones, Police Chief; John Detherage, Fire Chief; Zachary Moore, Planner; Chris Conard, Law Director and Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Snavelly moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Work Session was for Council to hear concerns regarding harassment within the community.

DISCUSSION

Priyana Kalita, Miami University graduate, provided a list of Sources and Statistics and provided a video of herself discussing various racial issues. Priyana also spoke in person about incidents of harassment she experienced during her time at Miami University. Priyana urged Council to come up with anti-harassment laws to include harassment of LGBTQ persons. Priyana advised she felt Council needed to take steps to keep everyone in Oxford safe.

Kyle Larson, Graduate Student, spoke about local racist and sexist harassment. Mr. Larson also spoke about the work he has done via the Racial Consciousness 101 program that he and students of color worked on together. Mr. Larson advised he felt Oxford needed a multi-pronged approach to these issues.

Collin Baer, Associate Director, Department of Equity and Equal Opportunity, spoke briefly from the audience.

Law Director Conard addressed questions from Council and spoke to issues related to the Ohio Fairness Act and Ethic Intimidation Laws.

After discussion, Council directed staff to look into Ordinances on file to see what can be done to strengthen them.

Councilor Ellerbe suggested these matters could be something for the Student Community Relations Commission to address.

Mr. Elliott invited the speakers to attend the next Civil Rights Commission Meeting.

Megan from Women Helping Women provided informational pamphlets for distribution to Council and to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Snively moved to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.