A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, July 2, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Bob Blackburn, John Harman, Kevin McKeehan and Kate Rousmaniere. Steve Snyder was excused.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. Bob Holzworth, Police Chief; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Ms. Gail Brahier, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director, and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keebler requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McKeehan moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Bogard seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NOTICE TO LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

New permit for Dakotas of Oxford LLC DBA Dakotas of Oxford 325 S. College Avenue Oxford, Ohio 45056.

Mr. Kyger advised the owners of Dakotas of Oxford were requesting a D5I liquor permit which was for a restaurant meeting certain criteria. Mr. Kyger noted only 25% of their sales could be for alcohol. Mr. Kyger advised a D5I permit was not transferable.

Mr. Bogard moved to receive the notice without comment. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. David Brown, Butler County Auditor's Office, advised the forfeited land sale would take place July 24th at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Services Center in Hamilton and there were 96 properties to be sold located in Hamilton and Middletown. Mr. Brown noted the Butler County Fair would take place July 21st through July 26th and the Auditor's Office would be represented there from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mr. Brown advised tax bills were coming out and due on August 2nd. Mr. Brown noted the county financial reports were completed and posted on the Auditor's website @ www.butlercountyauditor.org.

Ms. Ashley Hampton, Miami University Hamilton, Center for Civic Engagement, advised she was the Administrative Director for Study of the United States Institute Program for student leaders. Ms. Hampton noted there were 20 students with her this evening from 4 African countries including Kenya, Botswana, Uganda and Zambia. Ms. Hampton advised the students were visiting for a 5 week program to learn and study at Miami and within the community about civic engagement and creating and implementing civic action plans. Ms. Hampton noted the students were excited to be here to see how the community and government came together to make a difference and she wanted to introduce them to City Council.

Mayor Keebler thanked Ms. Hampton for the introduction and noted his hope the students would take lessons home with them.

Ms. Prue Dana, 6314 Fairfield Road, thanked and complemented the City and the contractor for the rehabilitation work done on S. College Avenue over the spring and summer. Ms. Dana noted she felt the brick street connected the historic Uptown with the rest of the town and it was a special attribute that Oxford offered with regard to a scenic town. Ms. Dana advised she felt the street looked fabulous and it opened to traffic yesterday.

Mayor Keebler noted he felt the project looked wonderful and it was a beautiful streetscape. Mayor Keebler advised he liked the raised and different colored brick in the intersections.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the June 18, 2013 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the June 5, 2013 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the June 11, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the June 19, 2013 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the June 26, 2013 Civil Service Commission Meeting. (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

Mr. Bogard moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION PRE-ANNEXATION AGREEMENT

A Resolution No. 4753 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a pre-annexation agreement with Merion Realty, Inc. for land in the Township of Oxford, Butler County, Ohio, to be annexed into the City of Oxford, Butler County, Ohio, subject to the conditions stipulated in the pre-annexation agreement. (Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director)

Mr. Kyger advised Council had before them a map of the parcel located at the corner of Todd Road and College Corner Pike. Mr. Kyger noted the owner acquired the property from a bankruptcy situation and it was currently listed for sale. Mr. Kyger advised the owner wished to have the property annexed into the City in order to market it as having access to City water and sanitary services. Mr. Kyger noted with this request for annexation, the City decided to include adjacent properties whose owners had signed annexation agreements and had already acquired City water and sanitary services. Mr. Kyger advised this annexation process was taking longer than expected and the pre-annexation agreement would allow the property owner to proceed in marketing the site as having access to City water and sanitary services.

Mayor Keebler noted there was a specific process for annexation which had not taken place yet and inquired if there was anything in the agreement that would supersede the normal annexation process and Mr. McHugh advised no. Mr. McHugh noted once the annexation petition was filed with the Butler County Commissioners the City had 20 days to adopt a Statement of Services Resolution.

Mr. Bogard moved to adopt Resolution No. 4753. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 4752

A Resolution No. 4754 amending Resolution 4752 and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Greve Chrysler Jeep Dodge for the purchase of three (3) Dodge Charger vehicles and specified options at state contract pricing at an amended cost not to exceed $65,466.00. (Bob Holzworth, Police Chief)

Chief Holzworth noted at a previous meeting Council approved a Resolution for the purchase of three vehicles and it came to his attention subsequent to the approval that 3 options were omitted from the pricing package. Chief Holzworth advised he was requesting an increase in the purchase price of $289.00 per vehicle.

Mr. Bogard moved to adopt Resolution No. 4754. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
CONDITIONAL USE

An Ordinance Approving A Conditional Use Permit To Allow For The Expansion Of A Place Of Worship In A RO (Residential Office) District at 25 E. Walnut Street, Oxford, Ohio With Conditions. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised this proposal was to demolish the existing two-story house and expand the green space along the Walnut Street frontage. Mr. Chen noted the building expansion plan was to continue the single-story west wing further beyond the elevator tower to create office and meeting spaces attached to the main building. Mr. Chen advised the Planning Commission recommended approval of the project subject to 4 conditions with regard to lot coverage, off street parking, a landscaping plan and lot consolidation. Mr. Chen noted the applicant (Susan Kay) was in attendance. Mr. Chen offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Keebler noted there was a lot of discussion at the Planning Commission Meeting regarding the 4 conditions. Mayor Keebler advised the lot coverage would not be much different from what it was now but it would exceed the new norm. Mayor Keebler noted the difference in additional lot coverage would be mitigated through storm-water best management practices. Mayor Keebler advised the parking area was gravel now and would be brought up to City standards and no additional parking spaces would be approved. Mayor Keebler noted the landscaping buffer would soften the view of the parking area. Mayor Keebler advised the lot consolidation would force the existing house to be demolished since 2 buildings on one lot was not permitted.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted the proposed project's lot coverage was 10% over the allowable lot coverage and the applicant did not want to decrease the size of the building. Ms. Rousmaniere advised the excess storm-water would be mitigated by such things as permeable pavement, rain gardens, a variety of best practices. Ms. Rousmaniere noted Ms. Kay informed her that a board member was very interested in this topic and would develop some storm-water strategies for the site.

Mr. Bogard and Mayor Keebler noted they felt this was a nice looking project and it would enhance the property at the corner of Walnut and Poplar Streets.

ORDINANCE
CODE UPDATE

An Ordinance To Approve Current Replacement Pages Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Ms. Eaton advised this was the City's annual code update which contained 200 changed pages. Ms. Eaton offered to update Council's code books if they wished her to. Ms. Eaton noted the online version of the code was already updated.

ORDINANCE
SECOND READING
CHARTER AMENDMENT

An Ordinance No. 3222 Providing For The Submission To The Electorate Of An Amendment To Article Nine, Nominations And Elections, Section 9.03, Nomination, Amending Section 9.03 Of The Charter Of The City Of Oxford, Ohio, To Comply With The Current Laws Of The State Of Ohio, And To Place The Same On The Ballot At The General Election, November 5, 2013. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised the City's Charter required nominating petitions for City Council candidates to be filed with the Butler County Board of Elections at least 75 days prior to the General Election. Mr. Elliott advised the proposed Charter Amendment would comply with the current state law of filing nominating petitions at least 90 days prior to the General Election. Mr. Elliott encouraged the electorate to vote in favor of the Charter Amendment.

Mr. McKeehan moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3222. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised the City contracted with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) who administered the income tax of 190 Ohio municipalities. Mr. Elliott noted this service had proven to be very effective and efficient in the collection of the City's income tax. Mr. Elliott advised in 2012 RITA collected $7,843,635 with an administrative cost of $107,509 or 1.37% of the City's collection total.

Mr. Elliott advised the General Assembly would continue discussion with regard to HB5 which dealt with municipal income tax reform. Mr. Elliott noted his hope the final bill would be revenue neutral.

Mr. Elliott advised he, Mayor Keebler and Chief Holzworth met today with Dr. Mike Curme, Interim Associate Vice President & Dean of Students and Miami University Police Chief, John McCandless. Mr. Elliott noted the topic of discussion was student drinking and the dangerous drinking practices of some students. Mr. Elliott advised it was a good meeting and they planned to meet again to continue this dialogue.

Mr. Dreisbach thanked the residents of S. College Avenue for their patience while the road was closed for rehabilitation. Mr. Dreisbach thanked Ms. Dana for her comments regarding the project.

Mr. Dreisbach noted this was a group effort with the Engineering Division designing the project, obtaining a $400,000 grant towards the project and inspecting the project as it progressed. Mr. Dreisbach advised the Waste Water Collection Division replaced the sanitary sewer and the Water Distribution Division relocated critical water mains. Mr. Dreisbach noted the Streets and Maintenance Division installed storm sewers where there were none and Engineering removed several hazardous trees. Mr. Dreisbach advised this project was done while several other major projects were being done and thanked all of the employees involved. Mr. Dreisbach updated Council on various other projects being completed this summer.

Mayor Keebler noted the work on Chestnut Street was very good as well and he had received a lot of positive comments about how it was done and how fast it was done.

Chief Holzworth advised Respect for Law Camp was hosted in Oxford this past weekend and it was phenomenally successful. Chief Holzworth noted 120 young people from Butler County participated in the camp which offered many exciting events. Chief Holzworth advised he attended their church service on Sunday morning and then their graduation. Chief Holzworth noted he would provide more information, links and pictures of the event later in the week.

Mayor Keebler noted Respect for Law Camp was a great event and a county-wide effort although the OPD was responsible for most of the organizing.

Ms. Brahier invited everyone including the visiting international students to the City's July 3rd event at the Community Park from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ms. Brahier noted this was a free event which included fireworks, concessions and games. Ms. Brahier advised the Police and Fire Departments provided wonderful assistance with parking and Mr. Blomquist did a wonderful job getting the park ready for the event.

Mr. Blackburn wished everyone a happy 4th of July.

Mr. Harman noted he would see everyone at the Community Park.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted she would see everyone at the park.

Mr. Bogard advised thoughts and prayers should go to the families of the 19 firefighters who lost their lives in Arizona. Mr. Bogard noted this was a tremendous loss.

Mr. Bogard noted Chestnut Street and Locust Street looked great and thanked Mr. Dreisbach and his staff for their efforts.

Mr. Bogard wished everyone a happy 4th of July.

Mr. McKeehan wished everyone a happy 4th of July.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bogard moved to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.