

A virtual Joint Work Session of the Oxford City Council and the Housing Advisory Commission was called to order by Mayor, Mike Smith on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. Council members participating were Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, Bill Snavely and Edna Southard.

Housing Advisory Commission members participating were Sherry Lind, Shana Rosenberg, Steve Schnabl, Scott Straker, Nicola Rodrigues, Glenn Ellerbe and Jason Bracken.

Staff members participating were Doug Elliott, City Manager, Sam Perry, Community Development Director, Ben Mazer, Assistant Law Director and Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Snavely moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Ellerbe 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)

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Work Session was for Council to review proposed amendments to Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 137 entitled Housing Advisory Commission.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Elliott welcomed members of the Housing Advisory Commission. Mr. Elliott referred to the edited version of Chapter 137 and noted concerns with increasing the number of members from 7 to 9 since at times it is difficult to fill board and commission positions. Mr. Elliott also noted concerns with appointing non-Oxford residents to the commission. Mr. Elliott advised Council would also discuss the role of HAC and their top 5 goals for 2020.

Sherry Lind, Chair of the Housing Advisory Commission, provided a PowerPoint and discussed the rationale for the proposed changes. Ms. Lind discussed the rationale for the Housing Advisory Commission's request to transfer the remaining funds in the Housing Trust Fund (approximately \$5,825) to the Family Resource Center. Ms. Lind addressed the HAC's top five goals for 2020.

After discussion, Mayor Smith summarized that Council was in favor adding additional members to the HAC with specific expertise although they would limit the voting powers to the members that reside in the City of Oxford or in Oxford Township. Mayor Smith noted Council was also in favor of transferring funds from the Housing Trust Fund to the Family Resource Center.

Mr. Ellerbe advised the HAC's goal was to move the money from the Housing Trust Fund to the Family Resource Center so it can be applied to disaster relief and then create a new special assessment fund to have more flexibility in how the account is funded and have more control over where the funds can go.

Ms. Rosenberg advised she was excited about the goals the HAC set for this year and addressed several funding sources.

Council and HAC members discussed the Family Resource Center's process for determining who is eligible for rental assistance. Mr. Bracken advised rental assistance and temporary housing was something the Family Resource Center has done for a long time and they have the process down well.

Mr. Snaveley inquired if the existing Housing Trust Fund would be eliminated which Mr. Elliott addressed noting the fund can be left open as Council discusses the creation of a new dedicated source of revenue, which could include grant money. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the trust fund should be maintained as an active fund.

Ms. Southard reminded everyone there are organizations in addition to the Family Resource Center such as SELF through Butler County that provide financial and housing assistance.

Council further discussed a dedicated fund, funding sources and the role HAC could play in helping Council decide how to disperse the funds.

Mayor Smith inquired if Council had any questions or comments about the goals set by the HAC and there were none. Mayor Smith encouraged HAC members to proceed with their goals as presented.

Ms. Rodrigues advised the Family Resource Center works closely with the SELF organization and noted SELF mainly assists people with utility needs. Ms. Rodrigues advised the Family Resource Center was a one of a kind organization that provides rental assistance in Butler County.

Mayor Smith thanked HAC members for all of their efforts noting he felt they were doing a great job and moving in the right direction.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Snavely moved to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Mr. Prytherch 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)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)