

A virtual meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. The members participating were Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, William Snavelly and Edna Southard.

Staff members participating were: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Chris Conard, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Snavelly moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION

“WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY”

Mayor Smith advised this evening on the historic anniversary of the Women’s Right to Vote passage we have a Proclamation, which Council Southard will assist with reading as a member of the League of Women Voters.

Ms. Southard advised today, August 18 is the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment noting it was certified August 26 by the Secretary of State and is noted as Women’s Equality Day.

Councilor Southard and Mayor Smith read the Proclamation as presented on page 5 of Council’s packet.

PRESENTATION
MIAMI UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS
COVID-19 RESPONSE & UPDATES

Dr. Jayne Brownell and Dr. Kimberly Moore, provided an extensive overview of the many efforts taking place across the university as they prepare for the fall of 2020, following the outbreak of Covid-19 that required the closing of most on-campus operations during the spring term. Some of the topics discussed were class options for students, Covid-19 testing policies, physical distancing policies, quarantining, isolation and the consequences for failing to comply with the policies as well as Miami's Code of Conduct. Dr. Brownell and Dr. Moore addressed comments and questions from Council. Councilors thanked Dr. Brownell and Dr. Moore for making the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Brandon Humphrey, 609 Ogden Court, read a letter signed by the Diversity Interest Group in support of the policing reforms proposed by Black Lives Matter- Oxford as follows:
"Dear Mayor Smith, Vice Mayor Snively and other members of the Oxford City Council,
We are the Diversity Interest Group, a group composed of graduate students from the department of Psychology at Miami University. One of our fundamental values and missions is to help foster a healthy and inclusive environment for students, faculty and staff of all backgrounds. Although most of our work has been intradepartmental, we recognize that the health and well being of our students, faculty and staff are affected not only by what happens within the Psychology building but also what happens outside our doors in the broader Oxford community. With this understanding in mind, we express our support for the reform proposals presented to you by Black Lives Matter – Oxford, Ohio. As scientists, we recognize the importance of thorough data collection and evidence based solutions. As members of the Oxford community, we recognize the importance of a Police Department that is accountable to the community it is meant to serve. As Psychologists, we recognize the importance of assessable mental health and substance misuse treatment. We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter – Oxford in urging you to enact these reforms to protect not only the marginalized members of our community but indeed all members of our community. Together we can make Oxford a better place for all.
Sincerely,
The Diversity Interest Group"

Ms. Debbie Anderson, 3903 Harris Road, advised she wanted to speak in support of the Oxford Police Department and specifically address some of the concerns from the Black Lives Matter letter that was read at the last meeting. Ms. Anderson noted in our court of law we are innocent until proven guilty and advised she did not want the City to respond to things that have happened in other cities or to accuse OPD of wrongdoing and advised she would rather see questions like how do they feel they are doing with this. Ms. Anderson noted if OPD felt there was any profiling going on they should come up with the solutions and determine what they should do as a first step before things are imposed on them. Mr. Anderson advised in the most healthy work environment people self correct noting she would like to see that opportunity for OPD.

Ms. Anderson advised rather than applying something that worked in another city to Oxford she felt it was important to look at the number of social work calls OPD receives. Ms. Anderson noted if it was 20 out of 2,000 per year then adding a social worker element is probably not the best solution. Ms. Anderson advised if it was 1,000 out of 2,000 calls she felt it was time for collaboration. Ms. Anderson referred to the Black Lives Matter point regarding Comprehensive Reporting and inquired if it was the best use of time and money to do things in detail and inquired if it showed trust in the department. Ms. Anderson advised it was tedious and it was doable if OPD feels it is the best way for them to be most transparent to the community. Ms. Anderson referred to the Black Lives Matter point regarding the Removal of Barriers to Reporting Police Misconduct and the suggestion of offering a business card with every encounter. Ms. Anderson noted we live in an age of customer surveys and advised she felt there was a positive element to that suggestion although she strongly dislikes that people only offer negative feedback. Ms. Anderson referred to the Black Lives Matter point regarding Researching Alternative Funds to Traditional Policing noting she is the mother of a former police officer in a major city and advised people do not call 911 for a counseling session. Ms. Anderson advised they call 911 because they feel threatened by a situation that is too big for them to handle. Ms. Anderson noted we do need a police officer to deescalate a situation and advised social services, counseling, homeless shelters, etc. might be the next step. Ms. Anderson advised she has friends who are social workers noting they call for a police escort before entering into a potentially volatile situation. Ms. Anderson thanked Council for their time.

Ms. Heidi Schran, 319 W. Withrow Street, advised she lives in the Mile Square and felt the citizens of Oxford were pretty decent about social distancing and wearing masks. Ms. Schran noted that all changed midweek last week and she feels like she is on house arrest in her yard. Ms. Schran advised to get to the bike trail from her house she has to cross hoards of people walking Uptown with no masks on and inquired how to report that. Ms. Schran noted she could wear herself out trying to report this and the City could wear themselves out trying to enforce it. Ms. Schran advised she would love to find an answer to how we can change the social pressure for Miami students to wear masks and to social distance. Ms. Schran noted the parents were not taking it seriously and the students were not taking it seriously and think it is a joke. Ms. Schran advised students think it is funny to breath on people wearing masks, which happened to her and her husband the other night. Ms. Schran noted she felt we need to find a way to change the culture in this town. Ms. Schran referred to mass gathering of no more than 10 people and inquired who is processed if they are breaking their pledge and breaking the rules, the people that attend a party or the people that host it.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the August 4, 2020 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Report regarding the July 8, 2020 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the July 15, 2020 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the August 5, 2020 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Report regarding the August 6, 2020 Recreation Board Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Mr. Snavelly moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
PURCHASE OF
MESSAGE BOARDS

A Resolution No. 7205 authorizing the purchase of two trailer mounted, solar powered, mobile message boards from All Traffic Solutions, Inc. utilizing current government pricing at a cost not to exceed \$29,259.76. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised the City has had the need for this type of device for some time and has borrowed them from Miami University or the Emergency Management Agency in the past. Mr. Dreisbach noted as part of the education campaign to make residents and visitors aware of the City Ordinance requiring facial coverings staff would like to post these types of devices on all of the state and federal routes coming into town. Mr. Dreisbach advised currently there are no devices available to borrow and noted the City is able to use CARES Act money to purchase two of the devices. Mr. Dreisbach noted the signs are identical to signs owned by Miami and can be controlled using the same system. Mr. Dreisbach advised in addition to mobile messaging, the signs may also be used for construction projects, during public emergencies, and are radar equipped to remind drivers of their speed. Mr. Dreisbach offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Raghu inquired how using CARES Act money was a justifiable use of the funds for this purchase. Ms. Raghu noted she had a problem with that when there were people facing evictions and people who needed rental assistance, food and schools had true problems related to Covid. Mr. Dreisbach advised this was an allowable expense for educating the public about Covid and City requirements for masking. Mr. Elliott advised staff has been in contact with the local social service agencies. Mr. Elliott noted after \$5,000 was transferred to the Family Resource Center Mr. Perry has communicated with them about their needs for further dollars and advised when they express that need staff will make a recommendation to Council.

Mr. Elliott advised the City has to meet certain requirements before providing funding to a sub-recipient. Mr. Elliott noted the City's goal was to meet the community needs and not return any dollars to the federal government. Mr. Elliott advised he understood this might look like a frivolous expenditure although he felt messaging and education of the City's facial covering requirement was important. Ms. Raghu noted she felt \$30,000 for messaging was a lot when she thinks about how much the school system is struggling, funding for pop-up Covid testing, funds for contact tracers and things that actually relate to helping with an infectious disease. Ms. Raghu reiterated she felt \$30,000 was a lot of money for messaging when it does not directly relate to someone's economic health or their physical health noting a lot of small businesses were also struggling.

Mr. Prytherch suggested Council set priorities for this pool of money so they could weigh different things against each other rather than having incremental asks. Mr. Prytherch noted he understood where Ms. Raghu was coming from noting it was hard for him to weigh against how it could be spent in other ways because he does not know what the criteria are.

Mr. Newlin advised any un-used funds must be returned to the County Treasurer by October 15.

Mr. Bracken echoed Mr. Prytherch's suggestion noting Council needed to help prioritize and direct as opposed to getting incremental asks along the way especially if there is a time limit and especially during a pandemic and things needed to be acted on sooner rather than later. Mr. Bracken noted the signs make sense and prevention makes sense because it can do the most good. Mr. Bracken inquired if it was possible to purchase signs that direct that message and still have thousands of dollars left over for something else. Mr. Bracken noted he felt Council should not be considering one thing now they should be directing it to go ahead. Mr. Bracken advised he was interested in looking at the different options.

Mr. Ellerbe noted he agreed with the expenditure and with the use of CARES Act funds as it was a communication investment in the City, which has been sorely lacking in the City over the years. Mr. Ellerbe advised any kind of expenditure which improves communication with Oxford was a big win in his book. Mr. Ellerbe noted right now we have a large population of individuals that have not been keeping track of all of the efforts done in Oxford over the summer to try to prevent a lot of this spread. Mr. Ellerbe advised one of the biggest arguments he has heard by individuals is that they did not know this or that noting he was all for any efforts Council can use to prevent those kinds of defenses and behavior. Mr. Ellerbe noted the signs will persist after the pandemic is over and will be used in a variety of ways which he feels is a tremendous benefit as an investment in dollars the City is being provided.

Mr. Snavelly noted he understands Ms. Raghu's concerns although he agrees with Councilor Ellerbe because he feels communication is essential and we have to find some way to get the message across. Mr. Snavelly advised the banner across High Street helps. Mr. Snavelly noted he would like to look at other options that have more social impact.

Ms. Southard noted she felt communicating to the public is essential.

Ms. Southard advised citizens are asking how the facial covering Ordinance will be enforced and noted if we educate people that this is an Ordinance it will save time and resources. Ms. Southard noted she felt this was a good use of the funds.

Ms. Raghu proposed scheduling a Work Session including town members and students to figure out how the City should spend the CARES Act money noting Council needs to prioritize the people who are suffering the most from the effects of the virus, which is what the money is intended for.

Mr. Dreisbach advised the proposed expenditure is approximately 7-8 percent of the available CARES Act funds. Mr. Dreisbach noted Ms. Greene is working with Miami University and with Butler County on additional educational projects and advised the proposed signs are one aspect of getting the message out about the facial covering requirement.

Ms. Raghu reiterated her proposal for a Work Session noting \$30,000 was a lot of money for individual families, multiple families or a small business noting of upmost importance is not only what Council thinks should happen with the CARES money but what the people who are actually struggling have to say. Ms. Raghu advised she felt Council should include the people who elected them and allows salaries to be paid to make decisions on this money.

Mayor Smith advised he traveled last week and this type of signage was prevalent everywhere he went, every town he went to and every state he traveled through so there was no doubt that there was a mask Ordinance in place. Mayor Smith noted he did not want the City to return any of the money either and advised Council would discuss the issue further and figure out how the funds will be spent.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7205. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Mayor Smith (6)

NAY: Ms. Raghu (1)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
OXFORD SENIORS DONATION

A Resolution No. 7206 authorizing the donation of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to Oxford Seniors as a sub-recipient of Federal CARES Act funds to assist with the purchase of a new phone system for the senior center facility. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised in May, Mr. Schnabl contacted City Manager Elliott concerning the City's portion of CARES funding possibly being available to assist with the unexpected purchase of a new phone system for the Senior Center.

Mr. Newlin noted by July 23, it was determined that this request could be funded by granting CARES funds the City received on July 16 to the Senior Center. Mr. Newlin advised he asked Mr. Schnabl to send a letter stating why he believed his request was related to COVID-19 and Mr. Schnabl responded by pointing out the Governor's orders issued in March required Oxford Seniors to remain open as an essential service to provide Meals on Wheels and senior transportation. Mr. Newlin noted the phone system began to fail in May and was replaced in June noting the phone system was an unbudgeted item and was essential to provide the services. Mr. Newlin recommended Council's approval of the proposed Resolution and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Southard advised she felt this was a good use of the money noting the Meals on Wheels program is essential to keep a lot of elderly people in their own homes and Oxford Seniors needs a working phone system to provide that service.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7206. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
FIRST READING
PROHIBITING MASS GATHERINGS

An Ordinance No. 3579 Prohibiting Mass Gatherings Of More Than Ten (10) Non-Household Members Within The City Of Oxford, Ohio, To Limit The Spread Of Covid-19, And Declaring An Emergency. (David Prytherch, Councilor)

Mr. Elliott advised Councilors requested the proposed Ordinance and staff worked with Mr. Mazer to draft the legislation. Mr. Elliott noted Kim Peterka and LeAnn Shoker submitted an e-comment as owners of an Uptown bar indicating they felt bars and restaurants needed to be included in the exclusion section of the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Mazer felt other exemptions such as sporting events should also be included as an exemption. Mr. Elliott advised staff sent a replacement Ordinance to Council for consideration, which included the additional exemptions.

Mr. Lee Fisher, 88 White Tail Run, noted concern with how the proposed Ordinance is suspended so it is not imposed upon people when there is no crises.

Mr. Elliott referred to Section 5 of the proposed Ordinance which states “it shall remain in effect during the pendency of the State of Ohio Executive Order 2020-01D”.

Ms. Amy Shaiman, 11 Heather Ridge Court, spoke in favor of the proposed Ordinance on behalf of herself and her husband noting she felt there was a lot of need in the community to be able to have the community function and the university in session avoiding layoffs and furloughs and protecting everyone’s health and safety. Ms. Shaiman suggested using students to help spread this message through social media.

The following e-comment was received prior to the meeting:

Comments submitted on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 - 2:37pm:

- **Name:** Kim Peterka
- **Address:** 1217 Albert Circle Oxford Ohio 45056
- **Email Address:** kkpeterka@hotmail.com
- **Meeting Date:** Tue, 08/18/2020
- **Agenda Item:** proposed mass gathering ordinance
- **Comments:**

Comments Re: Proposed Mass Gatherings Ordinance

The City has been incredibly pro-active in partnership with the University, land lords, retail stores and regulated businesses such as those in the food/beverage or beauty industry in preparation of the student populations return to campus this month. The ‘Face Covering’ ordinance is an example of specific and detailed action taken to help ensure the safety of our community. The ‘Mass Gatherings’ ordinance is in that same spirit, but lacks the specificity in language in regards to restaurants and bars that the ‘face coverings’ ordinance includes increasing the likelihood of misinterpretation by patrons, operators, enforcement agencies and the general public. Oxford is not alone in facing the challenges of being a “college town” and appears to be on par with others in promulgating regulations to help keep our community safe. While other communities have adopted mask ordinances, mass gathering regulations have not come to the forefront yet as classes have not resumed at many colleges or universities to date. Keeping an eye on what other communities and institutions have found to be effective is another way to help ensure Oxford is bringing best practices to its COVID-19 response.

Under the current guidance from the governing state and local authorities, bars and restaurants are permitted to seat guests in groups of 10 or less, socially distanced at a minimum of six (6) feet between guest seating or with physical barriers between seating areas. The establishments are responsible for ensuring guests do not gather in spaces, do not go table to table, wear a face covering while not seated and that they do not eat or drink unless seated. These regulations are to be self-enforced, through community complaints, the local health district, the City, OFD, OPD and the investigative unit of the Ohio Liquor Commission.

While in Section 3 of the 'Face Covering' it explicitly lists exemptions for bars and restaurants when patrons are actively eating or drinking, no such exemptions exists in the Section 2 of the proposed 'Mass Gatherings' ordinance. It goes to great lengths to describe multiple types of public spaces and it is unclear where bars and restaurants fall. When seeking guidance or interpretation from the City Managers office it was stated they would fall under "e. Retail or grocery stores where large numbers of people are present, but it is unusual for them to be within arm's length of one another."

Based upon the eagerness of our community and its members to keep us all safe from increased infection rates, it is understandable that many citizens report perceived and actual violations of City Ordinances regularly. Without specific language permitting bars and restaurants to operate with more than ten (10) people within in a given space at a given time, provided that all guidelines are being followed, could lead to confusion to it being a mass gathering that is reported to multiple agencies putting the business in further financial peril. This is further compounded by managing guests awaiting seating outside of a bar or restaurant who most likely are arriving in their groups of ten (10) or less and may be in que with other such groups giving the appearance of mass gathering in a public space where the bar or restaurant may not have any authority to mark social distancing or place spacing tools as it would impede the sidewalks or other public spaces.

In the spirit of keeping our community safe, investing in the vibrant business community and collaboration with the City in this effort, we propose including language under Section 2, subsection e that lists bars and restaurants along the general language or retail and specific language of retail. Retaining the vague language creates uncertainty for bar and restaurant operators that the investments made to comply with the evolving regulations will be negated and will face increased revenue loss in this extraordinary time.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and for your continued dedication to keeping Oxford safe while allowing businesses such as bars or restaurants to continue to operate!
Respectfully submitted,
Kim Peterka, Owner CJ's Bar And Leeann Shoker executor GS Shoker Estate Bar 1868

Mr. Prytherch thanked staff for acting quickly based on an earlier conversation noting he felt the proposed Ordinance addresses many of Council's concerns. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the stakes could not be higher for Oxford and Oxford's key employer Miami University to contain Covid-19. Mr. Prytherch noted great efforts have gone into communicating through webinars and emails and advised he felt this was a time when communication needed to be crystal clear with no ambiguity about what people should and should not do. Mr. Prytherch advised the proposed legislation's primary value is communicating ahead of time what the expectation is. Mr. Prytherch noted this was about individuals hosting gatherings primarily at their home and other places.

Mr. Prytherch and Mr. Snively made a friendly amendment to include the exemptions in the proposed Ordinance as stated by Mr. Elliott.

Ms. Southard noted she wished the proposed Ordinance was not necessary but felt it is clearly necessary to have it. Ms. Southard advised she appreciated the quick action on the part of City staff and legal advisors to make this happen. Ms. Southard noted concern with the exemptions for bars, restaurants and sporting events and advised she would like to know more about the rationale for that.

Mr. Conard advised the Governor announced some changes today that staff felt had an impact. Mr. Conard noted staff felt restaurants and bars needed to have an exempt status because there was no attempt to stop patrons from going to those business establishments if proper social protocols were in place. Mr. Conard advised the Governor's order contemplates that people can participate in recreational activities without wearing a mask, which applies to rules set forth by the state and the Athletic Association for high school athletes.

Mr. Elliott advised OPD would still enforce the nuisance party regulation for gatherings exceeding ten or more than a household group. Mr. Elliott noted staff felt the proposed Ordinance was not necessary although it would be clear now that the City will enforce the issue of ten or more people. Mr. Elliott advised the proposed Ordinance was somewhat symbolic noting OPD would use existing framework and pass that information on to Miami University. Mr. Elliott advised the proposed Ordinance has a hefty fine of \$500 and \$1,000 for a second violation. Mr. Elliott noted with everything the City is doing the City hopes to educate the public and avoid having to enforce these penalties.

Mr. Bracken advised this was mostly a prevention strategy and he felt the threat of it needed to be there and it can be applied if warranted. Mr. Bracken noted he felt the fine should start at \$2,000 and \$5,000 for a second offense. Mr. Bracken cautioned if this does have the effect of not just reducing parties overall but shifting the parties indoors that would actually make it worse. Mr. Bracken noted if we are going to do this and it has an effect we have to make sure we hold people accountable for indoor parties which he knows is difficult. Mr. Bracken advised if the effect was to push the parties indoors, it would be worse. Mr. Bracken noted he felt this was a good direction and that we need to use this as a threat to get some cooperation.

Ms. Raghu referred to a website called covidactnow.org that has a simulator which plays into what type of policies are in place so people can figure out what the infectious rate would be. Ms. Raghu noted the website has data congregated regarding for example available ICU bed space. Ms. Raghu advised she would be curious if someone wanted to run the simulator to see how this policy would play a role so Council can be as objective as possible. Ms. Raghu inquired if there should be an exemption for related family members noting many people have extended families including herself. Ms. Raghu noted she understood why there were exemptions for bars and restaurants although we know infection can be traced to bars, restaurants and parties. Ms. Raghu advised she sees the hypocrisy and the holes in the proposed Ordinance because she knows this is intended for students and not necessarily community members. Ms. Raghu noted this was not perfect policy although the intention is to try to be as safe for public health as possible and advised if we can have an objective measure as to what this policy would do for the City of Oxford that would be helpful for a vote.

Mr. Snavelly noted he understood Ms. Raghu's point regarding extended families and advised some of the largest outbreaks began at family events, reunions, weddings and funerals.

Mr. Prytherch noted he felt Council was codifying the existing expectations at the federal and state level. Mr. Prytherch advised the City would have a way to enforce what already should be the expectation. Mr. Prytherch inquired if the proposed Ordinance could be cited alongside the nuisance party citation and if so what was the offender looking at. Chief Jones advised it could be cited with the nuisance party violation. Chief Jones noted typically with a nuisance party citation the offenders are also cited for litter, noise or underage violations.

Further discussion took place regarding how the proposed Ordinance might hold up in court and what the dollar amounts should be for violations.

Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3579 as an emergency. Mr. Snavelly seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCES **SECOND READING**

ORDINANCE **NEW CHAPTER 137**

An Ordinance No. 3580 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 137 Entitled Housing Advisory Commission, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 137 Entitled Housing Advisory Commission. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised this was an effort by the Housing Advisory Commission to update the enabling legislation that had not been changed since 2003. Mr. Perry referred to page 46 of Council's packet and advised he and the Clerk would like to add "and Planning Commission" to section (6)(b). Mr. Perry noted the proposed Ordinance would add clarity to the purpose statements of the Housing Advisory Commission and better define what their role is as well as broaden the membership as discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Perry offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Ellerbe made a friendly amendment to add "and Planning Commission" to section (6)(b). Ms. Southard seconded.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3580. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3581 Amending Ordinance No. 3538. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 5 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2020. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed his staff report as presented on page 47-48 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3581. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott thanked Dr. Moore and Dr. Brownell for joining Council this evening noting he felt it demonstrates quite well the excellent working relationship the City has with the university no matter which office is involved. Mr. Elliott advised it demonstrates the university's concern for the health of the community.

Mr. Elliott advised a virtual meeting was held last week with landlords noting it was a good meeting with Dr. Moore and Dr. Brownell joining as well. Mr. Elliott noted the City was doing its very best to reach out to as many different organizations as possible with regard to Covid-19 expectations.

Mr. Elliott advised the Butler County Board of Health provided a GIS map this week of Covid-19 cases which showed from March 11 to July 15 there were 3,293 confirmed cases and 48 probable cases for a total of 3,341. Mr. Elliott encouraged everyone to remain vigilant.

Mr. Elliott noted the RFP was published for the sale of surplus land the City owns and advised there are at least 18 interested parties, developers as well as engineering firms. Mr. Elliott noted his hope to obtain good proposals to report to Council.

Mr. Elliott encouraged everyone to participate in the City's gift card program noting it helps the local businesses.

Mr. Elliott reminded everyone to participate in the 2020 Census.

Mr. Dreisbach reminded everyone the new traffic control system was installed at Chestnut Street and College Avenue noting it has pedestrian crossing signals as well.

Mr. Dreisbach noted progress was being made on Phase II of the Oxford Area Trail System and advised the project should be complete in 4-5 weeks.

Mr. Wooddell advised this Sunday was the last day for the Oxford Aquatic Center for this summer, which will conclude with "Doggie Dip Day" from 6-8 p.m. Mr. Wooddell noted staff will begin winterizing the facility on Monday. Mr. Wooddell advised it had been a different summer although he and his staff have had the ability to serve many people at the aquatic center. Mr. Wooddell noted he learned from an article by the Cincinnati Children's Hospital that the drownings they have handled this summer nearly quadrupled which they attribute to back yard pools being used rather than community pools, which are life guarded and supervised.

Mr. Perry advised staff has stayed in good communication with the Family Resource Center noting they are seeing an increase in demand and need for rental assistance some of which is attributed to job loss.

Mr. Perry advised the Community Development Department was closing in on having 100% full inspections hopefully by the end of this year. Mr. Perry noted a handful of landlords have been less interested in the City doing a full interior inspection and advised staff has been able to make that happen. Mr. Perry noted while it is not related to Covid-10 specifically it is a life safety aspect as it is important to ensure the smoke detectors are operational.

Ms. Raghu thanked Mr. Perry for his report noting it was inevitable the needs of the people of Oxford will increase as this continues to go on for a prolonged period of time. Ms. Raghu advised she felt it was something Council should be mindful of. Ms. Raghu noted there were other ways Council can look for usage of the money and advised the people closest to the pain need to be closest to the power. Ms. Raghu advised she felt the more we include people in all of our decisions the better. Ms. Raghu noted her hope the next time the City uses any type of funding from the budget or from the CARES Act it is as transparent and inclusive as possible.

Mr. Ellerbe advised Council was doing all of these things because while a great many people have varying opinions upon what is going on right now he knows from personal experience this is serious and everyone needs to make sure to take it seriously. Mr. Ellerbe noted someone might not have symptoms but it is not going to prevent someone else from having a very different experience. Mr. Ellerbe encouraged everyone to be consciences of each other. Mr. Ellerbe advised Council would not have to pass these laws if everyone was taking other people's well being into account in their behaviors. Mr. Ellerbe encouraged everyone to be excellent to each other.

Mr. Snavelly recognized Mr. Dreisbach noting he felt Mr. Dreisbach has done an excellent job during difficult times. Mr. Snavelly advised Chestnut Street was a good example and noted he felt the new light at College and Chestnut was working out really well. Mr. Snavelly advised the OATS trail was looking great noting he felt the City had a fabulous Service Department and that Mr. Dreisbach runs a good operation.

Mr. Snavelly noted it was a very difficult time for the Police Division dealing with challenges they did not expect or want. Mr. Snavelly advised he appreciates OPD and felt his colleagues do as well. Mr. Snavelly asked OPD to hang in there and know Council supports them. Mr. Snavelly thanked OPD members for their service.

Ms. Southard thanked OPD for their service noting she appreciated that Chief Jones put a notice on Facebook about the theft of signs, which upset many people. Ms. Southard referred to the Proclamation for "Women's Equality Day" which recognizes the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote in the United States. Mr. Southard noted people need to vote and advised the league of Women Voters is doing its best to educate the public. Ms. Southard advised the LOWV had a big celebration in mind that could not happen because of the pandemic noting there is a small but powerful exhibit at the Oxford Community Arts Center celebrating Women's Equality Day. Ms. Southard wished everyone a good week and a safe week.

Mr. Bracken echoed other Councilor's comments and thanked staff for working on this noting his hope we can contribute to mitigating the potential consequences of Covid going forward.

Mr. Prytherch advised he felt local government plays such an important role right now noting the stakes were high. Mr. Prytherch stated he was proud of all Council has done and advised he felt the City of Oxford was doing everything it can to try to increase the chances of success which was not easy. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt every minute matters.

Mr. Prytherch advised Mr. Newlin has been sharing some of the revenue dynamics and we do not have a clear picture of exactly what we will have going into 2021. Mr. Prytherch noted it will be difficult and in the worst case scenario that Miami is not able to open for the spring semester it is going to be very difficult in upcoming years. Mr. Prytherch advised Council will be talking about that and will receive some budget projections and Council will have to look at how to belt tighten. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt Council and staff needed to think about the cost side and the revenue side and about how we can get through this.

Mr. Prytherch advised he felt Council would have to budget cut their way through this noting his hope we can be creative on the revenue side too and look at options which will be time sensitive. Mr. Prytherch noted he hoped when the short-term rental regulations come forward that the City is prepared to collect the taxes that ought to be due already under the hotel and convention tax. Mr. Prytherch asked for a presentation in an upcoming meeting on the big picture and the things that will drive choices for the year or so.

Mayor Smith advised last weekend was not a great start to the semester in his opinion noting if people keep ignoring social distancing, we will not be able to keep the case count down which will impact Miami's plan to come back face to face which is not good for anyone. Mayor Smith advised if people have to think twice about hosting a party or attending a party, they probably should not do it. Mayor Smith noted as a Miami Alum he needed all of the students to be the men and women he knew they could be. Mayor Smith advised he was asking a lot but students needed to grow up a little bit and make some sacrifices for Miami and Oxford so we can get through this. Mayor Smith noted he needed everyone to keep up the basics like washing their hands and wearing masks. Mayor Smith asked everyone to please keep their gatherings to under ten people, as we need to slow the community spread that is going to happen otherwise.

ADJOURN

Mr. Snively moved to adjourn at 10:18 p.m. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snively, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)