

A Work Session of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Council members present were Steve Dana, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu and Mike Smith. Edna Southard was excused.

Staff members present: Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Sam Perry, Community Development Director; David Treleaven, Environmental Specialist, Amy Blankenship, Assistant Law Director and Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dana moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Work Session was for Council to discuss the proposed “Tree Ordinance”.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Elliott referred to the documents he provided to Council in advance of the Work Session to discuss Tree Preservation and Protection and provided the background for this proposed initiative. Mr. Elliott noted after several revisions and input from the former Community Development Director, the Environmental Commission recommended to the Planning Commission in January of 2018 that new Chapter 1111 Tree Preservation and Protection be adopted. Mr. Elliott advised in April of 2018, the Planning Commission reviewed and recommended to Council amendments to Chapter 1145 Planned Developments, Chapter 1159 Definitions, and Section 1101.4 of the Subdivision Regulations entitled Design Standards and Construction Standards. Mr. Elliott noted the Environmental Commission wanted the proposed regulations to apply to any lot of one acre or more to avoid clear cutting and to provide greater protection of trees. Mr. Elliott advised the former Community Development Director preferred to limit the provisions only to one acre or more sites slated for development through the Subdivision or Planned Development process due to having a limited staff to oversee the new provisions. Mr. Elliott recommended that Council consider adopting the Environmental Commission’s recommendation as he felt it was less confusing and easier to identify a property owner’s responsibility as a separate chapter rather than included throughout several chapters of the zoning code. Mr. Elliott advised he also felt the Environmental Commission’s recommendation was less repetitive and saves paper when printing agendas (7 verses 66 pages). Mr. Elliott noted he felt Council should consider whether or not they want the provisions of this proposal to apply to individual property owners of one or more acres of land who do not plan to develop the land and advised there were currently 312 parcels which are over one acre. Mr. Elliott noted he also felt Council should consider the impact the proposed regulations will have on future single family non student residential development including affordable housing projects.

Mr. Elliott recommended replacing the reference to tree caliper with 4.5 feet which is referenced to as Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) which is found in Chapter 935 of the Oxford Codified Ordinances. Mr. Elliott advised the replacement fee for each tree which can not be replaced must be determined by Council and a Tree Fund will need to be established as well.

Council discussed several issues including whether or not to include private property owners, how the Environmental Commission came up with the designation of one acre, whether prohibiting clear cutting would solve a lot of the problem, whether the provisions would apply to new and existing land and how to determine tree replacement quantities. After discussion it was determined that Mr. Elliott and Mr. Treleaven would work on the language for 1111.03 entitled Definitions and Section 1111.13 entitled Tree Preservation on Private Property and bring revised language back to Council.

ADJOURN

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion carried 6-0-0.