

The October 19, 2021 Oxford City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor, Mike Smith at 7:30 p.m. Members present were: Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, William Snavelly and Edna Southard.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PROCLAMATION

"GREATER OXFORD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DAY"

Mayor Smith read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Betsy Hope.

Ms. Betsy Hope, Director, Oxford Community Foundation, thanked Mayor Smith and Council members for the Proclamation noting it was very much appreciated. Ms. Hope advised she did not feel the foundation would be where it was without the City's support and assistance. Ms. Hope noted she looked forward to the coming years.

Mr. Bob Carmean, Board President, thanked Council for the Proclamation noting many of them were contributors to the Oxford community Foundation and thanked them for their support as the foundation was celebrating its 25th anniversary. Mr. Carmean noted the foundation looked forward to the next 125 years.

PROCLAMATION

"OXFORD COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER DAY"

Mayor Smith read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Kim Peterka.

Ms. Kim Peterka, Board President, Oxford, Community Arts Center, thanked Council for the Proclamation on behalf of the board, past board members and volunteers that make the arts center possible. Ms. Peterka advised the Oxford Community Arts Center looked forward to a very strong future noting they were excited to celebrate 20 years in Oxford.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Perry, Community Development Director, introduced Laura Borso noting Ms. Borso was Oxford's new Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Perry advised earlier this year a modification was made to the National Inspection contract and the City now had in-house code enforcement.

Mr. Perry noted Ms. Borso comes with a lot of experience and invited Ms. Borso to the podium.

Ms. Borso advised she was happy to be in Oxford noting she comes with 30-35 years of experience in code enforcement. Ms. Borso noted Oxford was tiny compared to what she is used to although she felt there was a lot to do and she looked forward to tackling those issues to make Oxford a safer and better place to live.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the October 5, 2021 City Council Meeting (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Report regarding the September 28, 2021 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the October 6, 2021 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

A Resolution No. 7341 authorizing the Police Chief and the Finance Director or their designees to dispose of contraband no longer needed as evidence. (John Jones, Police Chief)

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

RESOLUTION **TRI LEASE**

Resolution No. 7342 granting Talawanda Recreation, Inc. (TRI) a five (5) year lease and authorizing the City Manager to execute the new lease. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Mr. Wooddell advised an agreement has been signed for many decades between the City of Oxford and Talawanda Recreation, Inc. (TRI). Mr. Wooddell noted the TRI property and building are not owned by the City, they are owned by the TRI which is a non-profit organization that began over 50 years ago. Mr. Wooddell advised the lease payments are utilized by the TRI for maintenance, repairs and renovations of the facilities and grounds of the TRI building and property. Mr. Wooddell noted this agreement has served both the City and the TRI well for many years by providing facilities for recreational programs and office space for the Parks and Recreation staff to operate those programs as well as host community events, sports leagues, preschool classes, teen events and much more.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Prytherch noted this was an evolving recreational site and inquired if the lease anticipates the need for the City to expand or change facilities. Mr. Wooddell referred to the last paragraph of the lease which indicates the City and the TRI will work together to discuss future partnership and expansion of the TRI and facilities.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7342. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES

FIRST READING – NONE.

SECOND READING

ORDINANCE

EASEMENT AGREEMENT

An Ordinance No. 3641 Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement As Set Forth In Exhibit “A” Attached Hereto With The Talawanda City School District Board Of Education And Accepting Said Permanent And Construction Easements As Set Forth In Exhibits “B”, “C”, “D”, and “E” Attached Hereto To Allow The Construction Of A Segment Of The Oxford Area Trail System From The Talawanda Middle School To The Oxford Community Park. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Greene advised there were no changes from the first reading of the proposed Ordinance and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Prytherch noted his support for the trail, which would ensure the safety of students going back and forth to the middle school on foot or bicycle. Mr. Prytherch referred to the easement agreement and advised he appreciated the partnership between the City and the school district.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3641. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted 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)

ORDINANCE

SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3642 Amending Ordinance No. 3600. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 7 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2021. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised there were no changes since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Smith advised Council always relied on Mr. Newlin's incredible bookkeeping efforts and the efforts of his staff.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3642. Mr. Snavelly 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 reminded Council of the Work Session on Thursday to review the City Manager's proposed budget for 2022.

Mr. Elliott referred to the community solar project and advised the Option to Lease agreement has been signed by the City and by BQ Energy Development noting the project was moving forward.

Mr. Elliott advised he planned to place a Resolution on the November 2 agenda to reopen the DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) this winter as was done last year.

Mr. Elliott noted Glenwood Energy sent a letter to the City to alert everyone the winter heating prices would likely increase since natural gas prices have increased.

Mr. Elliott advised Oxford residents will receive a letter soon from Harbor Energy regarding the City's Electric Aggregation program noting if residents want to join or remain in the program no action was necessary. Mr. Elliott advised the pricing is very competitive at 0.0471 per kWh.

Mr. Elliott advised the Railroad crossing on Spring Street and on College Avenue will close this Wednesday for repairs noting they will be closed for approximately one week.

Chief Jones noted Director Wooddell would provide information regarding the upcoming Halloween events. Chief Jones asked motorists to use caution this fall as it gets dark earlier and deer are prevalent in the area.

Mr. Wooddell advised the Oxford Community Arts Center was hosting a Halloween event tomorrow evening entitled "Howl at the Moon" at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Wooddell noted next Thursday, October 28 the Oxford Parks and Recreation Department was hosting the Uptown Trick or Treat event at 4:30 p.m. in partnership with the Lions Club noting a parade would begin at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Wooddell advised the official Trick or Treat" night in Oxford was October 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Mr. Wooddell noted a "Trunk or Treat" event would take place on October 26 at the Oxford Bible Fellowship church.

Mr. Perry advised no public input sessions regarding the Comprehensive Plan update were scheduled at this time noting sessions were originally scheduled for this week and next week and they have been delayed for approximately a month.

Ms. Greene noted Department Heads were compiling their 3rd quarter goal tracking results and advised the information would be shared with Council soon.

Ms. Greene advised staff continues to work on the Amtrak project noting a meeting took place today with Talawanda representatives to discuss the Nelson Morrow building site.

Ms. Raghu advised she met with Matthew Dutkevich of the Butler County Regional Transit Authority (BCRTA) about improved accessibility especially in the summer months and during off-peak hours. Ms. Raghu noted Miami has partnered with BCRTA for the bus service which is why it seems they cater more to students. Ms. Raghu suggested this might be a topic for the Oxford Parking and Transportation Advisory Board. Ms. Raghu noted the low hanging fruit at this point was trying to get more people to drive mini vans. Ms. Raghu advised the starting pay was \$15 per hour plus benefits and a CDL was not necessary. Ms. Raghu noted the mini van service would be helpful for people with disabilities.

Mr. Ellerbe wished everyone a safe and Happy Halloween.

Mr. Snively advised he attended the OKI meeting this month noting Oxford's grant application was approved for the OATS trail. Ms. Greene advised this section of the trail would connect Phases III and IV, the gap between Peffer Park and the Talawanda Middle School. Ms. Greene noted the planning would begin in 2022 and construction was several years out.

Ms. Southard advised the Kiwanis Club's annual Holiday Food Drive began October 1st and will run until November 1st noting gift cards will be distributed by the Talawanda Oxford Pantry and Social Services (TOPSS). Ms. Southard noted donations could be made to TOPSS at PO Box 391 Oxford, Ohio or by going to www.topss.org. Ms. Southard advised in 2020 gift cards were provided to 350 households for the holidays.

Ms. Southard noted she serves on the SELF (Supports to Encourage Low Income Families) Board and advised several million dollars were received that will assist with rent, mortgage and utility expenses. Ms. Southard encouraged people to get in touch with SELF or the Family Resource Center for more information.

Ms. Southard wished everyone a safe Halloween noting it was great to be a kid in Oxford because a lot was going on.

Ms. Southard referred to an article in the Learning for Justice Magazine entitled the "Curb Cut Effect" noting when curb cuts are provided as they are in Oxford it enables various types of transportation modes and provides accessibility for those who need it. Ms. Southard advised the curb cuts affect a larger population and benefits the community in many ways.

Mr. Bracken implored those who are not vaccinated to do so and asked those who are eligible to consider getting a booster. Ms. Bracken asked everyone to wear a mask in public buildings.

Mr. Prytherch referred to the Halloween and Holiday events that take place in Oxford every year and noted they seem like little things although they sometimes clinch the deal for people as far as moving to or staying in Oxford.

Mr. Prytherch noted he hoped to be present for part of the budget meeting and advised we need to think about how to make sure Council's commitments are met. Mr. Prytherch noted the Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC) is in an outreach phase right now and advised the City made a commitment to neutrality although it can not be done through municipal means alone. Mr. Prytherch noted the CASC has been going to boards and commissions to discuss how to partner including organization. Mr. Prytherch advised there will be a public meeting jointly hosted by the League of Women Voters and Oxford Seniors which will be held at Oxford Seniors on November 18 from 6-8 p.m. Mr. Prytherch noted the theme will be "What Can You Do?" since the City has made a commitment to do an inventory and develop a plan to get to neutral.

Mayor Smith noted he looked forward to the Halloween festivities.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Snavelly moved to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.