A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kevin McKeehan on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. Those members present were Bob Blackburn, Richard Keebler, Mike Smith, Kate Rousmaniere and Steve Snyder. Edna Southard 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; Mr. Sam Perry, Planner; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor McKeehan requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PRESENTATION
OXFORD VISITORS BUREAU &
FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Jessica Greene, Oxford Visitors Bureau, noted she was in attendance this evening with representatives from Frontier Communications, Bethany Yost and Pat Ryan. Ms. Greene advised early in 2015 Oxford applied for the 'America's Best Communities' competition and while Oxford did not win, Oxford was selected to receive some funds to work toward the goals put forth in the grant application. Ms. Greene noted the goal of the grant was 'Why is your community great' and 'Why should your community be America's Best Community'. Ms. Greene advised the next step was "Dream Big' and 'What would you do if you had the funds necessary to implement some big dreams'. Ms. Greene noted the committee came up with the concept of an 'Oxford Connected' by connecting digitally (Wi-Fi and technology), connecting via transportation (US 27 improvements, bike lanes, Oxford Area Trails network and Amtrak initiatives) and connecting with residents (Town/Gown relationship with students, connection with residents and encouraging those who work here to live here). Ms. Greene presented the video submitted with the grant application entitled 'Proud Moments in Oxford, Ohio' which depicted recent accomplishments within the City.

Ms. Bethany Yost, Frontier Communications, advised she knew before the America's Best Communities' competition that Oxford was a special place. Ms. Yost noted she came to Ohio with Frontier 4 years ago and she's had the pleasure of getting to know her communities and some of the business leaders. Ms. Yost advised Frontier had made a lot of changes over the last 5 years and they still had a ways to go. Ms. Yost noted the CEO of Frontier developed the idea for America's Best Communities and she had been delighted with what she had seen in the communities and pleased with what Ms. Greene shared with her about Oxford. Ms. Yost advised she felt the contest brought people together and opened conversations that found ideas lurking below the surface. Ms. Yost noted she was disappointed Oxford was not a finalist in the competition but she was glad Frontier came through with some funds to help perpetuate Oxford's plan.

Ms. Greene invited the committee for America's Best Communities to gather for the check presentation and photo. Ms. Greene noted some of the initiatives mentioned in the grant application were moving forward and she was recently asked by Miami University to help develop messaging about Oxford to relay to perspective employees. Ms. Greene advised she was excited to receive that phone call and would continue working on the goals of the grant application.

Mayor McKeehan thanked Ms. Greene, the Frontier representatives and the America's Best Communities committee and noted Council appreciated their efforts.

PRESENTATION
OXFORD VILLAGE NETWORK

Ms. Ann Whelpton, Oxford VillAGE Network, noted **Ms. Jessie Leek** was with her this evening and they would update Council on Oxford VillAGE Network's (OVN) activities since they were last at City Council in December of 2013 and let Council know what they hoped to do in the next year or so. Ms. Whelpton advised OVN was not an organized non-profit, they were a network of people and information dedicated to enhancing the Oxford area as an age-friendly livable community for all, but especially for older adults. Ms. Whelpton discussed the groups mission which was to advocate for the needs of older adults, generate information and encourage collaboration and practical problem solving. Ms. Leek advised OVN started with the idea they would form something called a village, not a bricks and mortar village but something in keeping with the national village movement noting there were 300-400 open villages across the nation. Ms. Leek advised OVN quickly realized there were so many resources and opportunities in the community so they redefined their niche to that of making people aware of what already existed and encouraging them to utilize what already existed. Ms. Leek discussed OVN's Vision noting they hoped their work would end up with community leaders having a better understanding of the needs of older adults and be able to plan proactively. Ms. Leek noted the aging population occupied 13% of the population nationwide and would grow to 20% in the next 15 years and those needs would drive change. Ms. Leek advised the needs of the aging population would eclipse what the agencies and communities were presently ready to provide noting this was local, regional and national data and some variables were difficult to predict. Ms. Leek advised OVN was trying to learn and help others learn. Ms. Whelpton noted OVN gained a lot of energy two years ago when they hosted an aging forum called 'Growing Older in Oxford'. Ms. Whelpton advised 140 people attended the forum and spent the day talking about what it meant to be growing older in Oxford, what was going on presently and what the future might hold. Ms. Whelpton noted OVN created subcommittees who were focusing primarily on housing issues which from the forum was the largest area of concern. Ms. Whelpton advised the sub-committees were also focusing on transportation, community connectivity and healthcare. Ms. Whelpton discussed the group's work on housing issues and the next steps, the groups work on transportation and mobility and the next steps, the groups work on community and connectivity and the next steps, and the groups work on health care and the next steps. Ms. Whelpton encouraged Council and the public to promote a culture of respect for older adults and highlighted several publications on aging that were recommended reading by the OVN. Ms. Whelpton advised a list of the recommended reading was available at the Clerk's desk.
Ms. Whelpton thanked Council for the opportunity to make a presentation on behalf of OVN.

Ms. Whelpton noted Mr. Keebler's and Mr. Snyder's terms on Council were ending soon and thanked them for all they had done for the Oxford community.

Mayor McKeehan thanked Ms. Whelpton and Ms. Leek for the presentation and for their efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Amy Macechko, Project Coordinator, Coalition for a Healthy Community, advised the Coalition was a volunteer based, grant funded organization that seeks to take action by raising awareness, supporting initiatives, influencing policies and developing strategies to make the Oxford area a healthier and safer place for everyone. Ms. Macechko noted the Coalition's three priority areas were issues of mental health, active living and healthy eating, and alcohol and drug use. Ms. Macechko advised the Coalition was excited to launch their website this semester and invited everyone to visit www.healthyoxfordarea.org. Ms. Macechko also invited the community to attend Saturday's Walk, Plant, Play event Uptown from 10:00 a.m. to noon noting there would be activities for all ages and the Plant the Promise campaign would commence with red tulips being planted as a symbol of the communities promise to do what it could to make the Oxford area a safe and healthy community for all.

Ms. Janae Arno, Chair, Alcohol and Other Drug Work Group, noted she would share the group's efforts for marijuana education. Ms. Arno advised on October 6th the group launched a 4 week educational series in which weekly messages were sent to key stakeholders and leaders in a variety of sectors of the community. Ms. Arno asked community members to continue the messaging efforts through their own contacts. Ms. Arno noted the messages were taken directly from the Drug Free Action Alliance which was the state leader in prevention initiatives. Ms. Arno advised the topics the group chose for the series were Marijuana: Public Safety and Law Enforcement, Impact on Mental Health and Learning, Business Concerns, Youth and Marijuana Use Impacts on Brain Development and Public Safety. Ms. Arno noted for the last week of the educational series daily messages would be sent related to the final topic. Ms. Arno asked Council to use these resources to educate themselves and invite conservations about marijuana.

Ms. Macechko encouraged anyone who would like to be added to the list serve to contact her or Ms. Arno.

Mayor McKeehan thanked Ms. Macechko and Ms. Arno for their efforts.

Mr. Patrick Meade, Lantern Ridge Drive, advised he would address Council with regard to a proposed Police Oversight Commission and let Council know how long the Community Relations Commission (CRC) had been working on it. Mr. Mead advised in October of 2013 a meeting was held with members of the NAACP, the Miami University's Police Chief and Lt. Horvath. Mr. Mead noted an allegation was made by a young man that a racial slur was used by an Oxford Police Officer in Uptown Oxford. Mr. Meade advised nothing came of the allegation because the person did not want to formalize the complaint to the Police Chief. Mr. Mead noted at that meeting a number of Oxford citizens talked about their perception of how they were treated in interactions with the Oxford Police Department. Mr. Meade advised a few of the citizens were middle aged, middle class, black women and the stories they told did not reflect the Oxford Police Department that he knew.

Mr. Meade noted he was a member of the CRC and he took the issue up there and advised the first time he saw the issue mentioned in the CRC minutes was in April of 2014 and now it was October of 2015. Mr. Meade noted this was before many things happened in our country to make this an even more 'dicey' issue for everyone involved. Mr. Meade advised the CRC talked about this before there was a Presidential Commission that called on cities and localities to have Police Oversight Commissions. Mr. Meade noted the CRC talked about this before Governor Kasich's commission said cities and localities should have Police Oversight Commissions and it was done in over 200 cities across the country. Mr. Meade advised the CRC started with an ordinance Lt. Jones brought to a meeting as the CRC wanted to work on implementing it in conjunction with the Police Department as a way to improve Oxford, improve the Police force and improve the perception that different communities have of Oxford's Police force. Mr. Meade noted a lot of work had been done on this initiative and it had been through many hurdles and just yesterday the CRC found out Police Officers wanted some input when the CRC thought that had been done all along. Mr. Meade discussed the goals of the proposed Ordinance in detail which included having a place where citizens could bring complaints other than to the Police Chief, having the ability for the commission to audit investigations and having the commission look at police procedures, training, hiring, etc., and offer suggestions to improve the police force. Mr. Meade reiterated the CRC had worked on this initiative for a year and a half, he felt it was doable and needed to be pushed forward to make it a reality in Oxford as it was in many cities.

Ms. Rousmaniere asked Mr. Elliott what the status of the proposed Ordinance was. Mr. Elliott advised the Ordinance was very close to being presented to Council for consideration.

Mayor McKeehan advised Mr. Elliott had shared numerous emails regarding this issue with Council. Mayor McKeehan thanked Mr. Meade for his efforts.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the October 6, 2015 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Minutes of the October 8, 2015 City Council Work Session. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the October 7, 2015 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the October 7, 2015 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH
ADLETA, INC.

A Resolution No.4937 accepting the bid of Adleta, Inc. and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Adleta, Inc. for the 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) alley apron, curb, gutter and sidewalk improvement project at a cost of $46,531.00 plus a contingency amount of ten percent (10%) of the contract price or $4,653.10 for a total cost not to exceed $51,184.10. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

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

RESOLUTION
OVERLAY DISTRICT PETITION

A Resolution No. 4938 of Council accepting the petition as required by Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1146.03 to establish a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District for that area of Hidden Creek Drive, Deer Trail Circle, and Fox Run Circle as set forth on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and referring the petition to the Planning Commission for recommendations to City Council. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Keebler recused himself from the discussion and the vote as he is a resident of the neighborhood in question.

Mr. Chen noted Council was very familiar with this process and advised this was the 12th petition to come before Council for a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District. Mr. Chen noted there were 45 parcels in the proposed district and 43 property owner signatures were obtained. Mr. Chen advised the proposed boundary met the criteria stipulated in the zoning code. Mr. Chen noted Council's acceptance of the petition would allow it to be forwarded to the Planning Commission for Zoning Map Amendment recommendations.

Mr. Snyder noted over 95% of the property owners signed the petition which was the highest percentage of property owner signatures of the 12 petitions Council had reviewed.

Ms. Rousmaniere asked one of the petitioners how the process worked for them.

Mr. Doug Meikle, 10 Deer Trail Circle, advised four neighbors Candace Crist, Christopher Church, David Kullman and himself took various areas of the neighborhood and talked with each property owner and asked if they were willing to sign the petition. Mr. Meikle noted over 95% of the neighbors were in agreement for the reasons outlined in the petition as presented on page 27 of the agenda.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted she was pleased to see the process working well.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4938. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The notion passed 5-0-0.

RESOLUTION
AGREEMENT WITH
BUTLER COUNTY

A Resolution No. 4939 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a service agreement with the Butler County Legal Defender Commission to provide legal counsel to indigent persons charged with violations of Municipal Ordinances for the year 2016, and thereafter under certain conditions. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. McHugh advised this was a continuation of the existing agreement with an increase of approximately $90.00.

Mr. Snyder noted this was a housekeeping issue.

Mayor McKeehan inquired if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4939. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION
OVI TASKFORCE

A Resolution No. 4940 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a $224,408.00 grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, to engage in and coordinate as Lead Agency the county-wide OVI Taskforce. (Bob Holzworth, Police Chief)

Chief Holzworth advised 2002 was the first year Butler County had a DUI Taskforce. Chief Holzworth noted the Chiefs of Police recognized Butler County was at that time the 7th highest in number of accidents and issues associated with DUI. Chief Holzworth advised the Chiefs applied for and received a grant and the Oxford Police Department was designated the lead agency that year. Chief Holzworth noted he had the opportunity to lead the Taskforce that year and several goals were set including: reduce the number of alcohol related injury crashes by 20%, reduce the number of alcohol related fatal crashes by 20%, increase the number of DUI related arrests by 15% and increase the number of citizen generated reports of people suspected of DUI by 10%. Chief Holzworth advised for a long time Oxford had been a participant of the taskforce and this year Oxford was asked to be the Lead Agency. Chief Holzworth noted Sergeant Reising would coordinate this effort at no cost to the City. Chief Holzworth encouraged Council to vote in favor of the proposed resolution.

Mayor McKeehan inquired if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

Ms. Rousmaniere inquired if the grant had to be applied for each year and Chief Holzworth advised yes.

Mr. Snyder noted the term DUI had morphed into OVI and inquired what OVI stood for. Chief Holzworth advised 'Operating a Vehicle under the Influence'.

Mayor McKeehan noted it was great that Oxford could do this for Butler County and that Sergeant Reising could coordinate the effort.

Ms. Rousmaniere moved to adopt Resolution No. 4940. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION
NEW FUND

A Resolution No. 4941 approving the creation of a new fund for the 2015 operating budget to provide for OVI Taskforce activities. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised this was a follow-up to the previous Resolution and noted it needed to be approved by Council as a special revenue fund. Mr. Newlin advised once approved the Resolution would be sent to the State of Ohio. Mr. Newlin noted this was the bookkeeping procedure to record the revenues and expenditures of the OVI Taskforce.

Mayor McKeehan inquired if there were any comments from the public or from Council and there were none.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4941. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX

An Ordinance To Adopt Chapter 182 Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Oxford Regarding Municipal Income Tax Effective January 1, 2016. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised due to the passage of House Bill 5 the City of Oxford must initiate a new Income Tax Ordinance by January 1, 2016. Mr. Newlin noted the Ordinance could not conflict with the bill as passed. Mr. Newlin advised RITA who administers the City's income tax collection drafted a model Ordinance to comply with the new law. Mr. Newlin noted the City's Law Department used the draft and made appropriate changes which were then reviewed by RITA's Law Department. Mr. Newlin referred to page 49 of the agenda and summarized the changes that would cause the most impact to the City. Mr. Newlin noted the current Income Tax Ordinance would remain in place for a minimum of 6 years to allow all statutory periods to be exhausted covering any prior years income tax returns.

Mr. Keebler referred to page 56 of the agenda and advised when Exhibit "A" was inserted into the agenda packet RITA still needed to make some changes.

Mr. Keebler moved to change Exhibit "A" to the document presented to Council this evening and it be in effect for the second reading. Mr. Snyder seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted Mr. Elliott had been worried about HB5 for a long time and inquired if HB5 would hurt the City of Oxford as badly as Mr. Elliott originally thought it would. Mr. Elliott advised staff estimated the City would loose $100,000 annually.

Mr. Snyder advised if the City wanted to continue collecting payroll tax Council must adopt the proposed Ordinance.

Mayor McKeehan referred to page 49 of the agenda and inquired who or what was a 'casual entrant'. Mr. Newlin advised it was usually a contractor working in the City but not on a fulltime basis.

Mr. Snyder noted this was another example of the State of Ohio decreasing the potential revenue sources for local municipalities.

Mr. Newlin thanked Mr. McHugh and Ms. Blankenship for their hard work in reviewing the proposed Ordinance and having it ready for first reading this evening.

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3330 Amending Ordinance No. 3286. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 7 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2015. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin discussed his staff report as presented on pages 104 and 105 of the agenda which dealt with the OVI grant monies, hiring a fulltime Human Resource Director and 2 unbudgeted retirements in the Finance Department.

Mayor McKeehan inquired if there were any comments from the public or from Council and there were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised he and Mr. Kyger wanted to gauge Council's opinion of an economic development transfer of a liquor license.

Mr. Kyger noted this topic came up in his office several times in the last few years. Mr. Kyger advised Ohio issued liquor licenses based on quota of population and 1 permit was issued for every 2,000 people. Mr. Kyger advised there were ways to go outside of the quota system for certain establishments. Mr. Kyger noted Oxford was out of quotas. Mr. Kyger advised quota systems were based on typical cities and 50% of Oxford's population was between 20 and 30 years of age. Mr. Kyger noted Oxford's population base was more likely to consume certain products than a typical City and the quota system did not meet the needs of Oxford's population. Mr. Kyger advised a TREX license was a transfer for economic development purposes and allowed a community with excess permits to transfer them to another community that had no available permits. Mr. Kyger noted City Council was required to condone and authorize the transfer into Oxford of a TREX permit.

Mr. Kyger advised 'Good Neighbor Agreements' were often entered into as part of the TREX process which would allow the City to place certain restrictions/conditions on the approval of the TREX. Mr. Kyger noted two potential businesses owners recently approached him and asked if they should bother with the TREX process and Mr. Kyger asked Council if they would consider TREX licenses in Oxford.

Mr. Snyder inquired if the City's legislation had to change and Mr. Kyger advised no. Mr. Snyder inquired if Council had been approached about a TREX license and Mr. Kyger advised no, but he had been approached twice recently.

Ms. Rousmaniere inquired if Council should develop a policy for how they might want to think about TREX licenses and conditions for approval.

Mr. Keebler noted he was in favor of TREX licenses especially if they brought a business to Oxford that Oxford was lacking. Mr. Keebler noted he felt the quota system was archaic and the state should get out of the business of issuing liquor licenses and let local communities control it themselves. Mr. Keebler advised it didn't matter how many establishments with liquor licenses were in a community, it was how they were operated.

Mr. Snyder noted he felt the 'Good Neighbor' agreement was a good idea as it gave some local control which wasn't the case with the state system.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted Council needed to think about a process whereby they would approve TREX licenses in the future.

Mayor McKeehan advised he tended to support the approval of TREX licenses noting he didn't believe one more would change any of the alcohol issues the City already faced. Mayor McKeehan advised it was more about educating people and business owners and how the permit was used.

Mr. Elliott advised Butler County presently had 5 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) located at the Butler County Sherriff's Office, the cities of Middletown, Fairfield and Oxford and in West Chester Township. Mr. Elliott noted the Butler County 911 Planning Committee was required to reduce the number of PSAPs to 4 by January 1, 2016 or risk a 50% reduction in funding (approximately $500,000). Mr. Elliott advised he, Chief Holzworth and Lt. Jones had been meeting with Matt Franke of the Butler County Sheriff's Office to discuss contracting with the Sheriff's Office for the provision of safety dispatch services. Mr. Elliott noted this issue was discussed at City Council's Strategic Planning Retreat and the feeling was since Oxford's call volume was low the City should be proactive rather than reactive. Mr. Elliott advised he was pleased to say a tentative agreement had been reached with the Butler County Sherriff's Office for a multi-year contract. Mr. Elliott noted he served on the 911 Planning Committee and they discussed the transitional costs for anticipated software and hardware changes if this contract is finalized and the 911 Planning Committee approved those costs to be paid out of the 911 funding (approximately $250,000). Mr. Elliott noted his hope this matter would be an agenda item for the next Council meeting. Mr. Elliott advised his goal all along in this process had been three-fold:

1. Any new service proposal must be equal to or better than what was currently provided.
2. There must be some cost savings.
3. Keep existing employees in mind.

Mr. Elliott noted the existing employees have been apprised of the progress on this issue all along and he felt the three goals had been met. Mr. Elliott advised the cost of the agreement with the Butler County Sheriff's Office was $336,000 for the first year and would increase by the CPI-U each year thereafter. Mr. Elliott noted the proposed contract was for 6 years and the cost savings was estimated to be minimal ($50,000) but he would know more as the initiative moved forward. Mr. Elliott advised the final goal was to make the transition as seamless as possible for the public and for City employees.

Mr. Keebler advised while the initial savings was minimal there was some potential significant cost avoidance. Mr. Keebler noted if the City continued as a PSAP there would be loss of funding, potential equipment costs and the need to hire additional dispatchers to meet the new standards as a 2nd Tier 911 center. Mr. Keebler advised future cost savings could be very significant.

Mr. Elliott discussed Senate Bill 198 which would not allow cities to tax non-resident income. Mr. Elliott noted he did not feel the bill would go any further but staff would watch its progress very carefully. Mr. Elliott advised if passed, the bill would be devastating to the City of Oxford noting the loss of income tax from Miami University employees alone would be over $ 2.7 million annually. Mr. Snyder advised this was another example of the state trying to balance its budget on the shoulders of municipalities.

Mr. Elliott advised an Amended Plan of Operation and Governance for the City's Municipal Aggregation Program would be an agenda item for the next meeting. Mr. Elliott noted the amendment would allow subsequent opt-out letters to be sent to residents at various times during the term of the contract.

Ms. Eaton reminded Council of the Council Organizational Meeting which was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2015.

Ms. Rousmaniere advised she voted early today at the Board of Elections in Hamilton. Ms. Rousmaniere noted the schedule for early voting as follows: this week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., next week from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, October 31st from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, November 1st from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Monday, November 2nd from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mr. Blackburn reminded everyone the Halloween Parade was Wednesday, October 28th Uptown and Trick or Treating would take place at the businesses prior to the parade. Mr. Blackburn noted regular Halloween in Oxford was October 31st. Mr. Blackburn reminded everyone to turn their clocks back before going to bed that night.

ADJOURN

Ms. Rousmaniere moved to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.