A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kevin McKeehan on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Those members present were Bob Blackburn, Richard Keebler, Kate Rousmaniere, Mike Smith, Steve Snyder and Edna Southard.

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. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Blackburn moved to adjourn to Executive Session immediately in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G) 2 and 3 for the purpose of discussing property acquisition and pending litigation. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Smith, Mr. Snyder, Ms. Southard, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Keebler, Ms. Rousmaniere Mayor McKeehan (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Snyder moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:33 p.m. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor McKeehan requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Smith moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Snyder seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PRESENTATION
SHARE FEST 2014

Dr. Carol Michael, provided a PowerPoint presentation with assistance from Andrew Wilson and advised ShareFest 2014 marked the 10th year for the annual donation drive and it was a record year for donations. Dr. Michael read the ShareFest Mission Statement as follows:

'ShareFest is a service and environmental nonprofit corporation dedicated to the collection and redistribution of items donated by Miami University students and the Oxford community at the end of the academic year. Collected items benefit residents in need and social service agencies throughout the region.'

Dr. Michael noted ShareFest had 4 purposes which were to help individuals in need by providing them with access to furniture, household goods, clothing and food donated by Miami University students or by other community members at the end of each academic year, to teach sharing and environmental ethics and an awareness of diverse backgrounds to the young people who are students at Miami University, to protect and preserve the environment by preventing usable items from going into the landfill and to help the City of Oxford dispose of unwanted items and help clean the City quickly.

Dr. Michael provided the history of ShareFest noting in 2005 65 families were served, followed by 270 in 2006, and over 300 in 2007 and 2008. Dr. Michael advised in 2009, ShareFest served over 600 families. Dr. Michael advised organizations such as the Family Resource Center, Butler County Children Services and Lighthouse Food Pantry distribute items collected from ShareFest and in some years up to seven organizations were involved with ShareFest. Dr. Michael noted in 2010, the ShareFest Committee began allowing groups to sell the collected items with the condition that proceeds would benefit their clients. Dr. Michael advised in 2013 ShareFest was established as an official nonprofit corporation to manage event finances and donation collection as a separate entity from groups that receive ShareFest donations.

Dr. Michael shared the names of persons on the ShareFest Board and the ShareFest Planning Committee as well as information regarding the recipient groups.

Dr. Michael discussed the number of scheduled pick-ups both on campus and off campus and described the types of items that were collected. Dr. Michael noted while donations of furniture increased in 2014, donations of food, clothing, and televisions decreased significantly.

Dr. Michael advised the ShareFest Board required the recipient agencies to provide impact statements after ShareFest 2014 which included real or estimated numbers of persons that will benefit from ShareFest donations, and the number of volunteers and total number of volunteer hours. Dr. Michael noted an agency that sells ShareFest donations will report the real or estimated dollar amount of sales and the intended use of funds in the impact statement. Dr. Michael discussed the results from the Family Resource Center, Butler County Children Services and the Lighthouse Food Pantry.

Dr. Michael discussed the ShareFest marketing initiatives, financials and future goals which included:

Increase donations and community support
Improve donation inventory and volunteer hour tracking
Improve process for picking up donations from High Street addresses
Improve communication with donors
Improve volunteer check-in and preparation
Pick up all donations on time
Increase the number of heavy lifter and driver volunteers

Improve the collaboration and cooperation among recipient groups focusing on the ShareFest mission and purpose

Dr. Michael thanked all of the donors from the university and the greater Oxford community, and all of the volunteers. Dr. Michael thanked Miami University for donating the former Talawanda High School building to ShareFest 2014 and thanked the various offices at Miami that participated in planning and executing the event. Dr. Michael thanked (individually) all of the companies and organizations that provided financial support, staff to help with planning, volunteers, and other assistance. Dr. Michael thanked the City's Community Development Department, specifically Jung-Han Chen and Andrew Wilson and noted an event of this size could not be successful without their assistance. Dr. Michael advised ShareFest was the longest lasting collection event involving a university in the country based on Andrew Wilson's research, and the only one organized with the close cooperation of a city, university and community working together. Dr. Michael noted Oxford should be proud that ShareFest had become an institution and much of that was due to the support of the City.

Mr. Snyder referred to the future goal of improving the collaboration and cooperation among recipient groups and inquired if Dr. Michael foresaw any changes in the way ShareFest 2015 would operate. Dr. Michael advised a Board Meeting would take place this fall and there were issues that needed to be discussed. Dr. Michael advised more cooperation was needed between groups and the Board would work to achieve that cooperation as there had been some challenges this year. Mr. Snyder noted his hope that would happen for the good of the community. Mayor McKeehan thanked Dr. Michael, Ms. Ruther-Vierling and everyone involved for their hard work, cooperation and collaboration and noted his hope the event would move forward and grow larger and larger.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jessica Greene, Oxford Visitors Bureau, announced the Visitors Bureau was awarded the Clean Ohio Grant through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources in the amount of $500,000. Ms. Greene noted this award was only possible because of the partnership and support from the City of Oxford, Doug Elliott and staff, Miami University, Butler County Metro Parks and Oxford Township and because of the hard work of a small committee. Ms. Greene noted special thanks to Marty Creech and Doug Hamilton for all of their past knowledge of the Oxford Area Trails System and the work they had done for a decade. Ms. Greene thanked David Prytherch who drafted the language for the grant and Sam Perry who did the mapping. Ms. Greene advised these grants were difficult to obtain and she was excited for the City of Oxford. Ms. Greene thanked Council for their support and encouragement along the way.

Mayor McKeehan thanked Ms. Greene, Mr. Creech, Mr. Perry, Mr. Prytherch and everyone involved for their hard work and congratulated them for obtaining the grant. Mayor McKeehan inquired what the next steps were. Ms. Greene advised a formal hearing would take place at the state level and then a contract would be signed with the State of Ohio. Ms. Greene noted matching funds needed to be raised and to date $35,000 of approximately $135,000 had been raised. Ms. Greene noted her hope that with the momentum of this grant award the additional funds could be raised. Ms. Rousmaniere inquired what the grant award would be used for. Ms. Greene advised it would be used for the 'Black Bridge Connector' from the historic Black Bridge to the Leonard Howell Park and then from Bonham Road to the DeWitt log house.

Ms. Greene noted that would be phase I and the goal was with additional grant writing to build Phase II and III and slowly connect the Oxford Area Trails System (which was in the Comprehensive Plan) to circumnavigate the City of Oxford. Mr. Keebler noted it was the enthusiasm that Ms. Greene brought to the Oxford Visitors Bureau that got this project off the ground again. Mr. Keebler advised Ms. Greene had a great committee but it was her enthusiasm for the Visitors Bureau and for this project that got it back off the ground.

Mr. Kevin Krumpak, 307 N. Bishop, advised he was the new Secretary for Off Campus Affairs, Associated Student Government, taking over the role Ari Frum had served in for the last two years. Mr. Krumpak noted he would be happy to work with Council on any issue. Mr. Krumpak advised he had been working closely with Mr. Chen on the Student Community Relations Commission this year and on Miami University's Alcohol Task Force. Mr. Krumpak advised the Alcohol Task Force was looking at ways to make this a better community for everyone living in Oxford. Mr. Krumpak encouraged Council members to reach out to him with any concerns and noted he looked forward to working with them.

Mr. James Lee, 180 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, Ohio Public Utilities Commission, advised Council was familiar with the idea of being able to choose an electric supplier different from the utility since Oxford had an electric aggregation issue on the November ballot. Mr. Lee noted he wanted to make sure Council and the residents of Oxford were familiar with the new website launched by the PUCO called energychoice.ohio.gov. Mr. Lee advised the website served as a one-stop shop for all things related to choice in the State of Ohio in addition to a revamped interactive Apples to Apples Chart that showed dozens of offers from dozens of suppliers. Mr. Lee noted most relevant to Oxford residents was a link on the energychoice.ohio.gov website where a map could be found that showed where aggregations existed throughout the state and what rates individuals were paying through aggregation deals where they had been approved. Mr. Lee encouraged citizens to call the PUCO at 800-686-PUCO if they had general questions about choice or any issues regulated by PUCO as they had staff available and eager to answer questions. Mr. Lee noted the PUCO also had staff eager to speak to community groups if they were interested in learning about energy choice and how it applied to government aggregation programs. Mr. Lee advised approximately 50% of all utility customers in Ohio received their electric or natural gas from a supplier different than their utility. Mr. Lee encouraged everyone to visit the PUCO website for additional information.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted 50% of all utility customers in Ohio obtained energy from a choice program and not necessarily through aggregation. Mr. Lee advised aggregation represented part of the choice opportunities for Ohioans. Mr. Lee noted voters had the opportunity to choose to combine their buying power as a community not just as it related to price. Mr. Lee advised many communities were interested in choosing suppliers that supported green energy.

Mayor McKeehan thanked Mr. Lee for coming from Columbus to provide information to Council and to the residents of Oxford.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the October 7, 2014 City Council Work Session. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Minutes of the October 7, 2014 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Minutes of the October 9, 2014 City Council Work Session. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the October 1, 2014 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Blackburn moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
OVERLAY DISTRICT

A Resolution No. 4867 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 Country Club Drive, Olde Farm Road, and part of Contreras Road as set forth on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and referring the petition to the Oxford Planning Commission for recommendations to City Council. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Smith recused himself from the vote.

Mayor McKeehan advised there were three petitions to establish Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Districts on the agenda and Mr. Chen would address all three together. Mayor McKeehan noted public comments were welcome on any of the three petitions.

Mr. Chen advised the first petition encompassed the neighborhood of Country Club Drive and Olde Farm Road and included 91 parcels with 71 signatures being obtained from property owners which exceeded the 2/3 requirement of the zoning code. Mr. Chen noted the second petition encompassed the neighborhood of Fieldcrest Avenue, Timothy Lane, Devonshire Drive and Contreras Road and included 56 parcels with 44 signatures being obtained from property owners which exceeded the 2/3 requirement of the zoning code. Mr. Chen advised the third petition encompassed the neighborhood of Emerald Woods Drive, Glos Drive, Brigid Circle, Stone Hedge Circle and French Drive and included 57 parcels with 47 signatures being obtained from property owners which exceeded the 2/3 requirement of the zoning code. Mr. Chen noted all three petitions met the boundary requirements of the zoning code. Mr. Chen asked Council to accept the petitions and forward them to the Planning Commission for recommendations to City Council.

Mayor McKeehan inquired if members of the public wished to comment on any of the three petitions. There were no public comments.

Ms. Rousmaniere advised this was the first step in the process of establishing the neighborhood conservation overlay district and Council was only accepting the petition and referring it to the Planning Commission for recommendations. Ms. Rousmaniere noted the recommendations would then come to City Council.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4867. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION
OVERLAY DISTRICT

A Resolution No. 4868 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 Fieldcrest Avenue, Devonshire Drive, Patrick Drive, Timothy Lane and Contreras Road as set forth on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and referring the petition to the Oxford Planning Commission for recommendations to City Council. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4868. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
OVERLAY DISTRICT

A Resolution No. 4869 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 Emerald Woods Drive, Glos Drive, Brigid Circle, Stone Hedge Circle and French Drive as set forth on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and referring the petition to the Oxford Planning Commission for recommendations to City Council. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Resolution No. 4869. Ms. Rousmaniere seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH
BELGRAY, INC.

A Resolution No. 4870 accepting the bid submitted by Belgray, Inc. and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Belgray, Inc. for the reconstruction of High Street between Poplar Street and Campus Avenue and the intersection of High Street and Tallawanda Road at a cost of $553,232,14 plus a contingency amount of ten percent (10%) of the contract price or $55,323.00 for a total cost not to exceed $608,555.14. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised over the past several years three blocks of High Street had been reconstructed (from College Avenue to Poplar Street) and College Avenue had been reconstructed from Spring Street to High Street. Mr. Dreisbach noted the City Manager asked staff to look into restoring the brick surface of High Street from Poplar Street to Campus Avenue. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff did the design work for that and applied to the Ohio Public Works Commission for a grant to help fund the project and the City was successful in obtaining the grant. Mr. Dreisbach noted the City advertised for bids and 6 qualified firms submitted bids with Belgray, Inc. being the lowest and best bidder. Mr. Dreisbach advised the City had no experience with Belgray, Inc. and conducted extensive reference checks with ODOT, Clermont County Engineer's Office and the City of Kettering among others who gave Belgray, Inc. very high marks for their quality and timeliness. Mr. Dreisbach noted the project must be under contract by the end of the year and the work would be performed next summer between Miami University's graduation and July 31, 2015. Mr. Dreisbach advised the project also included the reconstruction of the intersection of High Street and Tallawanda Road. Mr. Dreisbach noted the original bricks were reused for the previous projects but the bricks under this section of High Street were not reusable due to them being covered with asphalt and tar. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff specified a new brick paver to match the color of the existing brick and over time it should blend in with the existing brick. Mr. Dreisbach noted the grant reimbursement would be approximately $523,000 and the local match would be approximately $85,000 for the project. Mr. Dreisbach advised another project to replace water main on Campus Avenue from Spring Street to High Street was being looked at in conjunction with Miami University. Mr. Dreisbach advised it would be another very busy construction season for the City.

Mr. Blackburn inquired if the intersection of Tallawanda Road and High Street would be done first to make it easier to route traffic around the construction. Mr. Dreisbach advised that had not been decided yet but staff would do their best not to have that intersection closed at the same time Campus Avenue would be closed.

Mr. Snyder noted he recalled the last project of this nature included an incentive for the contractor to finish the work by a certain date and inquired if there was an incentive for this project. Mr. Dreisbach advised no, but there were penalties if the contractor did not finish the work by July 31, 2015.

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

Mr. Keebler moved to adopt Resolution No. 4870. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 4790

A Resolution No. 4871 of Council amending Resolution No. 4790 adopted November 4, 2013 and authorizing the full payment of $143,035.00 to Bellefeuil, Szur, and Associates, Inc. for the acquisition of computer software and on site training plus $13,710.00 for the second year annual software fee for a total cost not to exceed $156,745.00. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised when the contract with BS&A was approved last year it included 27 days of training and it required 29 days. Mr. Newlin noted as a compromise, BS&A billed for 28 days so the proposed Resolution was for authorization to pay an additional $1,000 which was their rate per day for training.

Mr. Keebler noted while to Resolution looked like an expenditure of $156,745 it was really only $1,000. Mr. Newlin advised this would satisfy any questions from the auditor.

Mr. Blackburn moved to adopt Resolution No. 4871. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
ACCEPT GRANT PROCEEDS

A Resolution No. 4872 authorizing the City Manager to accept the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation Safety Grant in an amount not to exceed $23,377.50 with a 25% match by the City in an amount not to exceed $7,792.50 for the purchase of three (3) Ferno Power Traxx Stair Chairs and one (1) Rollnrack Hose Management System designed to reduce injuries to firefighters and emergency medical technicians. (John Detherage, Fire Chief)

Chief Detherage noted staff was asking Council's permission to accept the grant and make the purchase of three stair chairs to make it easier for firefighters and EMTs to move patients and a hose rolling system to make hose testing easier. Chief Detherage advised he included pictures of the equipment in Council's packet for their information. Chief Detherage noted there was a slight discrepancy in the numbers because better pricing was obtained for the stair chairs and some money would be returned to the state.

Mayor McKeehan congratulated Chief Detherage for obtaining the grant and for securing good pricing. Chief Detherage advised the credit should go to Jordan Gula as it was his project from start to finish.

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

Ms. Rousmaniere moved to adopt Resolution No. 4872. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES
FIRST READING

ORDINANCE
AMEND SECTION 521.08(B)

An Ordinance Amending Section 521.08(b) Of The Codified Ordinances Of The City Of Oxford, Ohio, Entitled Littering Or Allowing Litter To Remain Upon Property; Corrupting Or Altering A Watercourse. (Bob Holzworth, Police Chief)

Chief Holzworth referred to Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 521.08(b) and advised he was asking for the addition of the word 'tenant'. Chief Holzworth noted a court case was lost due to that word being omitted from the first sentence of that subsection.

Ms. Rousmaniere inquired if any other words needed to be added so this situation would not occur in the future. Chief Holzworth advised he did not think so.

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

Mayor McKeehan noted the proposed Ordinance would be on the next agenda for the second reading.

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3249. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 7 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2014. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised last year $2,000,000 was transferred into a fund for property acquisition and renovation of municipal buildings but none of it was appropriated for this year. Mr. Newlin noted the proposed Ordinance would appropriate the funds and if at the end of the year nothing was spent, an encumbrance purchase order would be done so the funds would be available for 2015. Mr. Newlin advised this was a bookkeeping item.

Mayor McKeehan inquired if there were any comments from the public or from Council and there were none. Mayor McKeehan noted the proposed Ordinance would be on the next agenda for the second reading.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

An Ordinance No. 3282 Approving A Conditional Use Permit To Allow For Professional Office Use In A R3 (Multi-Family Residential) District To Be Located At 10 Reagh's Way, Oxford, Ohio 45056. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised he had no new information since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance and staff was asking Council to approve the recommendation from the Planning Commission.

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

Mr. Snyder noted Council had a good discussion about the proposed Ordinance at the last meeting.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3282. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Smith, Mr. Snyder, Ms. Southard, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Keebler, Ms. Rousmaniere Mayor McKeehan (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3283 Amending Ordinance No. 3249. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 6 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2014. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin referred to page 109 of the agenda and discussed the adjustments he made to Supplemental Budget No. 6 since the first reading.

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

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3283. Mr. Blackburn seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Snyder, Ms. Southard, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Keebler, Ms. Rousmaniere, Mr. Smith, Mayor McKeehan (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott advised two weeks from today voters in the City of Oxford would have the opportunity to vote on establishing an Electric Aggregation Program. Mr. Elliott noted if a majority of voters approved Issue 2, then the City of Oxford would move forward with establishing an electric aggregation program. Mr. Elliott advised aggregation was the process in which electric energy was sold to consumers who joined together as a group to buy electricity and it was expected that a lower rate for electric energy would be obtained by consumers through this process. Mr. Elliott noted presently electric customers in the City of Oxford who were served by Duke Energy had two choices to meet their electric generation needs one being the standard Duke Energy rate and the other was to select a supplier through the Ohio Electric Choice Program which Mr. Lee discussed earlier this evening. Mr. Elliott advised if Issue 2 was approved by the voters, consumers would have a third option. Mr. Elliott noted the Issue 2 proposal was an opt out form of governmental aggregation meaning each customer was automatically included in the aggregated pool unless they decided not to participate.

Mr. Elliott advised he had the opportunity to speak to service groups in Oxford including the Lions Club, Rotary, Kiwanis and the League of Women Voters about the program. Mr. Elliott thanked Mr. Lee for attending tonight's meeting to provide information on the Ohio Electric Choice program. Mr. Elliott noted his hope citizens would vote on this important issue.

Chief Holzworth advised he was pleased to announce the almost two week strike at Schneider Electric had been resolved and OPD officers were able to clear the scene yesterday morning. Chief Holzworth noted everyone was well behaved and cooperative during the strike.

Mayor McKeehan noted the OPD presence was paid for by Schneider Electric.

Mr. Kyger noted it was great to hear about the grant for the bike path. Mr. Kyger advised Marty Creech and his group who researched this idea for many years provided a 'leap frog' forward on the project.

Mr. Kyger noted the Stadium Bar and Grill was torn down last week and part of this week. Mr. Kyger advised Chick-Fil-A Express was coming to Stewart Square filling that development to 100% occupancy again.

Ms. Eaton reminded Council members to let her know if they would be out of town over the holidays.

Mayor McKeehan advised Susan Lipnickey, Chair of the Miami University Alcohol Task Force requested an hour long Work Session with City Council to speak to them and to get their input. Mayor McKeehan inquired if Council was amenable to scheduling a Work Session before the regular meeting on November 4, 2014. Council agreed to scheduling the Work Session.

Mayor McKeehan expressed his condolences and sadness with the passing of Dr. Bhattacharjee noting Oxford lost a fine person. Mayor McKeehan noted he met and spoke to Dr. Bhattacharjee at numerous events and he was always happy, smiling and always interested in the good of Oxford.

Ms. Rousmaniere advised tomorrow October 22nd at 5:00 p.m. a public session would take place regarding the America's Best Communities grant. Ms. Rousmaniere noted Alan Kyger, Jessica Greene, herself and others had been working on the grant with the ultimate goal being a $3,000,000 prize for the City. Ms. Rousmaniere advised the gist of the grant was to describe Oxford as the best community. Ms. Rousmaniere advised the open forum would be held at the Oxford Community Arts Center where ideas would be collected from people about what they thought was great about Oxford. Ms. Rousmaniere noted the prize would be funded by Frontier Communications and Dish Network and Ms. Greene identified the grant and had been urging community members to move it forward.

Ms. Southard advised the Institute for Learning in Retirement had begun its season and two of her classes had taken place regarding local government and how Oxford runs as a City. Ms. Southard noted she was honored to have the City Manager speak and the Mayor and Vice Mayor speak about their roles in local government.

Ms. Southard advised there was so much interest in how the City runs and lots of good questions had come forward. Ms. Southard noted Mr. Elliott gave an excellent presentation and also discussed electric aggregation which the League of Women Voters had studied and brought to Council. Ms. Southard encouraged everyone to vote for Issue 2 as it was a non-partisan issue and it would benefit everyone.

Mr. Blackburn encouraged everyone to vote on November 4th.

ADJOURN

Ms. Rousmaniere moved to adjourn at 8:39 p.m. Mr. Snyder seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.