

A virtual meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. 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. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; 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. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu
Mayor Smith (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following e-comment was received prior to the Council Meeting:

Comments submitted on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 - 4:31pm:

- **Name:** Kate Kuvalanka
- **Address:** 18 JEFFREY DRIVE
- **Email Address:** kuvalaka@miamioh.edu
- **Meeting Date:** Tue, 11/17/2020
- **Agenda Item:** Proposal from BLM Oxford and the PCRRRC
- **Comments:**

Hello,

My name is Kate Kuvalanka, and I am an Oxford resident and the Interim Chair of the Department of Family Science and Social Work at Miami University. Members of my faculty have been in conversation with members of BLM Oxford since this summer to discuss their ideas for making changes to policing in Oxford, namely increasing the involvement of mental health care professionals in response to 911 calls. Sharon Custer, our Social Work Field Director, attended a PCRRRC meeting earlier this semester to share her knowledge about current programs already happening in Oxford that aim to bring more trauma-responsive services to our community, and also to share our department's willingness to help with any related research efforts that the City deems necessary.

The FSW Department is more than willing to help out with a community needs and strengths assessment, in addition to providing a review of similar programs (e.g., Cahoots) happening around the country where mental health providers are being utilized to address mental health- and substance use-related calls that come to police departments. The President's DEI Task Force recommended that our department pursue collaborative efforts with local police departments to explore ways to increase the presence of mental health professionals where their skills may be more appropriate for the emergencies at hand. We are more than willing to come to the table to have these conversations and to offer our services where they make the most sense. As social workers, our values compel us to first ask community stakeholders (including residents of Oxford) what they need before we make recommendations.

Thank you for your service to our community.

Best,
Kate Kuvalanka (kuvalanka@MiamiOH.edu)

- **Position:** Neutral

Mr. Brandon Humphrey, 609 Ogden Court, advised he was speaking this evening as a concerned community member. Mr. Humphrey noted he was concerned because he read in the Miami Student newspaper that OPD has issued zero Mask Ordinance citations even as Corona virus cases skyrocket in Butler County, across Ohio and across the nation. Mr. Humphrey discussed the article and inquired when OPD was going to start taking this threat to public safety seriously.

Mr. Snavelly inquired if Council could discuss this topic before moving on from Public Comments and Mayor Smith advised yes.

Ms. Amy Shaiman, 11 Heather Ridge Court, thanked Mr. Humphrey for speaking to the Miami Student newspaper article. Ms. Shaiman noted she was one of the members of the community who spoke last summer about the importance of having a Mask Ordinance and having mask rules. Ms. Shaiman advised the ordinance needed to be enforced as it is a matter of life and death for so many people.

Ms. Shaiman spoke in favor of the work City Council, the PCRRC and the local Black Lives Matter chapter have been doing on the recommendation for an independent task force to look at crisis response. Ms. Shaiman spoke in favor of the PCRRC recommendation.

Mr. Snavelly advised he was disgusted and outraged noting he sent the article Mr. Humphrey referenced to fellow Councilors. Mr. Snavelly advised he has seen large groups of students gathering at the door of local drinking establishments, the door staff standing right there making no effort to have them use the lines on the pavement for social distancing and almost no one wearing a mask. Mr. Snavelly noted he has called it in a number of times. Mr. Snavelly inquired if there were not foot patrols or police to be able to at minimum remind people to distance and wear a mask. Mr. Snavelly advised at some point there has to be enforcement. Mr. Snavelly advised he would like to see the DORA area designated an area where masks are mandatory. Mr. Snavelly noted if we want the businesses to be open we can not have the spread of disease.

Mr. Snavelly advised he and his wife canceled their Thanksgiving celebration because they do not know if they are safe and not spreading the virus to their children and grandchildren and he was not sure they were safe not spreading it to him and his wife. Mr. Snavelly noted masks were not a political issue it was a health issue and everyone needed to take it seriously.

Mr. Elliott read his prepared comments into the record as follows:

Corona Virus Cases surging in Ohio

John Hopkins University total cases and weekly trends by state shows Ohio increasing from an average of 2,372 new cases per day 3 weeks ago to 7,190 average new cases per day this week. This is a total of 305,364 total cases since January. Ohio is 7th in the nation in population and 10th in total COVID cases.

This clearly explains the Governor's recent orders and pronouncements including today's 10 PM curfew.

I think it is useful to look beyond Ohio's increasing numbers and focus on what is happening here in Oxford and at Miami University. First, let's examine Miami University's COVID cases utilizing their dashboard. We are all familiar with the surge in student cases when off campus students returned in August and on campus students (about 5,000 students or 60% capacity) returned in mid September. The cumulative cases since August 17th are 2,330 with 33,921 tests performed. The current seven day moving average of new positive cases is 10 demonstrating the effectiveness of Miami's testing and other policies to control the virus.

What about the rest of the population? How are we doing? If we utilize the Butler County Board of Health's recent report for the 45056 ZIP Code (which includes the city of Oxford plus Milford and Riley Townships), it gives a total of 238 cases or 2.1% of the total Butler County cases (excluding Miami University students). Eight other ZIP Codes in the county have a higher percentage of confirmed cases than our ZIP Code. For many reasons, I believe this demonstrates that Oxford is having greater success than these other areas in containing this disease. Also, if we further narrow our focus of concern and look at our local hospital, the situation was recently described by Mike Everett as stable. They currently have enough staff and equipment and have refined their surge plan if needed. As of Monday, five patients tested positive for COVID with one Oxford resident among those five. Also MHMH is utilizing internal transfers of these patients with the other Tri- Health hospitals in the system (6). So my purpose for providing this information is to provide some local perspective to the concern for the surge in COVID cases in the nation as a whole and the state of Ohio. It is not to suggest that we are out of the woods or should rest on our laurels-by no means! All of us must remain vigilante and stay the course. That means wearing face coverings, frequent hand washing, avoiding crowds, and family gatherings. There is help on the way with the prospect of a couple of promising vaccines by Moderna and Pfizer after the first of the year. This is welcome news for all of us suffering from COVID fatigue and lack of social interaction. Lastly, I want to comment on the recent Miami Student article regarding the "lack of enforcement" of the City's face covering ordinance which was adopted by Council 4 months ago. As I have stated several times- this is a new responsibility and requirement that we are imposing on businesses and residents. It required some time to learn of the requirement and to adjust. COVID concerns received on our website are reviewed with businesses receiving telephone calls and several notice of violations/order to comply letters mailed to repeat offenders. I still feel strongly that education and encouragement is the better way to go than issuing citations by OPD especially in this environment of consideration of excess policing and related police budgets. Let's face it -health literacy or the ability to read and understand healthcare information to make appropriate health decisions is still a formidable problem especially as it relates to face coverings. I would encourage the Miami student to print a series of CDC articles on the benefits of face coverings especially given the misinformation on social media and confusing messages from many of our national political leaders. I am reminded of President Nixon's War on Drugs where violators were cited, arrested, and imprisoned.

I think it is fair to say that it did not solve the drug problem but resulted in mass incarceration and destroyed lives and families. Like the War on Drugs, the City cannot cite its way out of this lack of compliance with our face covering requirement. But further education and information may make a big difference.

Mr. Elliott advised he knew council may not agree with him noting he feels very uncomfortable having OPD cite students by the hundreds. Mr. Elliott advised the citations may not necessarily hold up in court. Mr. Elliott noted 5 of 6 people cited for having mass gatherings were found not guilty.

After a lengthy discussion with all Council members concurring that the Mask Ordinance should be enforced Mr. Elliott advised he would meet with staff tomorrow to make a plan for issuing citations.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Snavelly requested the removal of item A. Minutes of the November 3, 2020 City Council Meeting.

Report regarding the November 4, 2020 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Report regarding the November 5, 2020 Recreation Board Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

A Resolution No. 7234 authorizing the City Manager to request advanced payment of property taxes to the City in 2021 from Butler County. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Prytherch moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item A. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 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)

Minutes of the November 3, 2020 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Mr. Snavelly referred to page 10 of the minutes regarding the Resolution for a Safe, Healthy and Equitable Oxford and advised what is not reflected in the minutes is a second for the motion to table the proposed Resolution. Mayor Smith advised his notes reflect Ms. Southard made the motion and Mr. Snavelly requested that the minutes be corrected.

Mr. Snavelly moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 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)

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

SAFE, HEALTHY, EQUITABLE OXFORD

A Resolution No. 7235 supporting collaboration between the Oxford Police Division and community partners to address social issues through both targeted recommendations for enhancing police response to social and behavioral health issues and more comprehensive planning for a safe, healthy, and equitable Oxford. (David Prytherch, City Councilor) **(Tabled)**

Mr. Prytherch moved to remove the proposed Resolution from the table. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

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

NAY: Mr. Snavelly (1)

ABS: None (0)

Mr. Prytherch advised the proposed Resolution was in response to the PCRRC recommendation as well as police efforts to reform and improve its own performance. Mr. Prytherch noted the Resolution supports the continued improvement of how OPD responds to social and behavioral health issues within the framework of policing. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the most productive way to have that conversation was within the framework of the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Snavelly advised he would rather see a clean Resolution that reflects what the PCRRC recommended which was why he voted to keep the Resolution on the table. Mr. Snavelly noted he appreciated Mr. Prytherch's efforts although he did not think wrapping it up in the Comprehensive Plan was the way to go.

Ms. Raghu noted she felt proposed Resolution was well intentioned but it ignores what the PCRRC recommended. Ms. Raghu advised the PCRRC recommended creating a task force and suggested remanding the proposed Resolution to the PCRRC to get their input.

Ms. Raghu moved to open the floor for public comments. Mr. Bracken 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)

Mr. Brandon Humphrey, advised he agreed with Vice Mayor Snavelly's comments noting he appreciated Mr. Prytherch's proposed Resolution and he felt it was well intentioned. Mr. Humphrey advised when PCRRC recommended a task force be formed it seemed many Councilors agreed. Mr. Humphrey noted he did not see any harm in passing a Resolution to create a task force.

Mr. Landon Canupp, advised he was a student at Talawanda High School and President of the Diversity Club. Mr. Canupp stated he supported what the PCRRC and Black Lives Matter movement has presented.

Ms. Janis Dutton, advised she agreed with Mr. Snavelly and some of the other speakers that Council should go back to the original intent of the task force and the recommendation of the commission. Ms. Dutton noted the task force was to be made up of affected community members and she felt the members of the Strategic Plan initiative would be a different group of people, as would the Coalition for a Healthy Community initiative be a different group of people. Ms. Dutton advised she saw this as an opportunity to collect more data and experiences from people. Ms. Dutton encouraged Council to go back to the original intent and noted the founding of the Police Community Relations and Review Commission started with a task force with the NAACP.

Ms. Taylor Callahan, advised she was a student at Talawanda High School and noted she supported the Oxford Black Lives Matter resolution.

Ms. Kathie Brinkman, 404 Emerald Woods Drive, advised she felt the Comprehensive Plan idea is good although too soon. Ms. Brinkman noted the task force will have important information to provide to the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Brinkman suggested having the task force get the input through the study, identify the issues, understand what it is we are working with and then incorporate it into the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Lola Ryle, advised she was a student at Talawanda High School and noted she supported the Oxford Black Lives Matter resolution.

Ms. Isabelle Smith, advised she was a student at Talawanda High School and noted she supported the Oxford Black Lives Matter resolution.

Mr. Prytherch noted if we were talking about policing and how we best improve the way the Police Department responds to issues related to social behavior and health then the PCRRC is a good body because that is within the scope of its work.

Mr. Prytherch noted he understood they were uncomfortable looking at alternatives to policing because it is beyond the scope of their commission. Mr. Prytherch advised he supported the intent of what Black Lives Matter suggested although he felt the task force was widely defined with incredibly broad mandates. Mr. Prytherch referred to the Comprehensive Plan and noted he wanted our time to be spent in channeling it in ways that lead to an outcome like strategic goals. Mr. Prytherch noted instead of having conversations going on all over he felt the big tent of the Comprehensive Plan was a way to channel the energy in a way that is constructive.

Mr. Ellerbe advised he spoke to many people in between the last Council meeting and this one and noted he looked at both resolutions which he felt were mutually exclusive. Mr. Ellerbe advised both things can be done with a little overlap in regard to the acknowledgment that the PCRRC and OPD should work with each other regarding enforcement policies and other police related issues. Mr. Ellerbe noted the second part of the proposed Resolution is a high-level resolution that provides an acknowledgement from the City that we are going to integrate this as a major part of how the City moves forward. Mr. Ellerbe advised the task force as presented by the PCRRC is what he considers a tactical solution. Mr. Ellerbe advised a large grant was provided to the Coalition for a Healthy Community and suggested the two groups work in tandem. Mr. Ellerbe noted he would vote in favor of the proposed Resolution because they are both mutually exclusive and solve the same goal.

Ms. Raghu noted she respected recommendations from boards and commissions and advised she supports the PCRRC's initial proposal to create a task force. Ms. Raghu noted there was nothing wrong with additional transparency. Ms. Raghu advised she was impressed by the high school students participating in the meeting and thanked them for their participation.

Mr. Snavelly thanked the Talawanda students for their participation noting Council appreciates their input. Mr. Snavelly agreed with Ms. Brinkman's comments noting it was a matter of sequential order. Mr. Snavelly advised the task force would not cost anything monetarily noting it allows discussion and input, which is done for Comprehensive Plan updates. Mr. Snavelly advised the task force can make a recommendation to the PCRRC and Council will get information to fold into the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Southard advised she felt it was a mistake to claim that voting for or against the proposed Resolution is somehow for or against Black Lives Matter. Ms. Southard noted the recommendations of Black Lives Matter and of the PCRRC have been taken very seriously. Ms. Southard advised the proposed resolution accepts those recommendations. Ms. Southard noted getting this into the Comprehensive Plan is going one-step further and advised Council can move forward with staff to actually fund this and make changes that will benefit the community. Ms. Southard noted she felt this was a logical and good plan that recognizes and honors the spirit of the recommendations of the PCRRC and of the Black Lives Matter group. Ms. Southard advised the proposed Resolution makes a lot of sense to her.

Mr. Bracken advised he would love to see this in the Comp Plan although he felt it was backwards. Mr. Bracken noted he felt it was good to get this first and incorporate it into the Comp Plan. Mr. Bracken advised he was in favor of the original proposal.

Mr. Prytherch advised this was his good faith effort to reconcile in what he feels is a logical way and a lasting way. Mr. Prytherch noted he has not expressed opposition to anything and he has tried to create a constructive path forward in conversations with PCRRC members listening to a lot of different voices. Mr. Prytherch welcomed anyone else to put the PCRRC's recommendation on the agenda to be voted on.

Mayor Smith advised all of Council wants the same thing, the best community police force we can have and Council was arguing about the path to get there. Mayor Smith noted the proposed Resolution distills the essence of what the PCRRC resolution is going to do. Mayor Smith advised he sees the task force as a huge task force and in the time of Covid it is going to have trouble getting together meeting and accomplishing anything on a deadline. Mayor Smith noted the proposed resolution channels the issues in a time when City resources are stretched thin.

After further discussion, Mr. Ellerbe called the question.

Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Resolution No. 7235. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Southard, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Mayor Smith (4)

NAY: Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavely, Mr. Bracken (3)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION **GRANT APPLICATION**

A Resolution No. 7236 authorizing the City Manager to apply for a grant in the amount of two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) through the JobsOhio Vibrant Community Program for the renovation of the vacant Elm Street building to create a Technology, Entrepreneurship, Creativity Hub (Tec Hub) in partnership with Miami University. (Jessica Greene, Assistant Manager)

Ms. Greene addressed her staff report as presented on pages 30-31 of Council's packet noting if awarded this would only be a portion of the funds needed to complete the renovations.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Smith referred to the building on Elm Street, which was the former Miami University food service building noting Miami University officials were vastly in favor of moving forward with the proposed project. Mayor Smith advised the grant would go in support of creating the Tec Hub, which would feed into the local area.

Mr. Prytherch noted he was excited that even in the midst of a pandemic Miami University and the City can move forward on something that could be transformative for Oxford for decades to come.

Mr. Prytherch inquired if there was a local match for the grant and Ms. Greene advised no.

Mr. Ellerbe thanked Council for the decision made regarding this property a couple of years ago and advised saying no is a good thing sometimes. Mr. Ellerbe noted that “no” resulted in Shademakers new location and now it is resulting in the proposed Tec Hub which will create jobs and economic opportunity in the City.

Ms. Southard noted she felt helping to make Oxford economically viable in this dangerous time is a very good thing. Ms. Southard advised staff worked hard to make this proposal possible and noted she was in favor of applying for the grant. Ms. Southard noted her hope the grant application would be successful.

Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Resolution No. 7236. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
AGREEMENT WITH REVIZE LLC

A Resolution No. 7237 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a four year agreement with Revize LLC, for redesigning the City’s website at a cost of \$14,700.00 plus \$3,900.00 for the annual hosting and maintenance fee for a total cost not to exceed \$18,600.00 for year one of the agreement and \$3,900.00 each year thereafter. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Greene addressed her staff report as presented on page 34 of Council’s packet and offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Janice Dutton, advised she was website savvy and found the City of Oxford’s website to be difficult in many ways. Ms. Dutton noted her hope it becomes more consistent in how to find minutes and meetings for boards and commissions.

Ms. Dutton made a point of order by advising according to Robert’s Rules of Order calling the question required a second and a 2/3 vote to end debate. Ms. Dutton noted she felt the vote on the previous resolution was invalid because Robert’s Rules of Order were violated.

Mr. Snively advised there were two ways to cut-off debate noting one can move the question which requires a vote and one can call the question. Mr. Snively advised if there was no objection to calling the question it can move forward because it is assumed it is a unanimous vote. Mr. Snively noted if anyone objects to calling the question it does requires a 2/3 vote.

Mayor Smith took responsibility for the motion not being made properly.

Mr. Prytherch referred to the website Resolution and advised it was an investment in the future noting communications has been a high priority of City Council.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 7237. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
AGREEMENT WITH ZOLL

A Resolution No. 7238 authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Zoll Medical Corporation for the purchase of three (3) portable ventilators and associated accessories utilizing CARES Act Funds at a cost not to exceed \$42,000.00. (John Detherage, Fire Chief)

Chief Detherage addressed his staff report as presented on page 41 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Snively inquired how a portable ventilator would be used in an ambulance, which Chief Detherage addressed noting the patients would already be intubated.

Mr. Bracken moved to adopt Resolution No. 7238. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

RESOLUTION
HOLIDAY PARKING

A Resolution No. 7239 authorizing the City Manager to waive parking meter fees on High Street, East Park Place, West Park Place, Poplar Street, Main Street and Beech Street between Walnut Street and Church Street, and in the southern (2 HR) section of Lot 52 from 9:00 a.m. on December 14, 2020 until 6:00 p.m. on December 31, 2020. The two-hour restriction for meters in these areas shall remain in effect. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones addressed his staff report as presented on page 44 of Council's packet. Chief Jones asked for a friendly amendment to strike the reference to the southern section of lot 52 which Mr. Snavelly made.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7239 as amended. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Resolution 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)

RESOLUTION
E-MEETINGS

A Resolution No. 7240 to urge Governor DeWine and the Ohio Legislature to extend the deadline for operating public meetings electronically. (Chris Conard, Law Director)

Mr. Conard advised he supported the Resolution to urge action from the legislature with regard to conducting virtual meetings noting we were getting into the 11th hour.

Mr. Snavelly inquired what the current ending date was and Mr. Conard advised December 1, 2020.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Raghu advised she strongly supported the proposed Resolution noting there is so much innovation with technology that is empowering and engaging people in ways we never would have imagined.

Mr. Bracken agreed with Ms. Raghu's comments and advised he supported the proposed Resolution.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 7240. Mr. Snavelly seconded. The Resolution 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)

RESOLUTION
SUB-GRANT AGREEMENT

A Resolution No. 7241 authorizing the City Manager to enter into the sub-grant agreement between Butler County, Ohio and the City of Oxford for reimbursement of eligible costs for administration of the Butler County Small Business Relief CARES Grant Program. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott addressed his staff report as presented on page 49 of Council's packet noting the allocation for the City of Oxford was \$106,714. Mr. Elliott offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Landon Canupp, advised he supported the proposed Resolution because he knows how important Oxford's small businesses are especially in a college town as they offer a way for students to make money and pay for their tuition and for their dorms. Mr. Canupp noted he felt it was important to make sure the small businesses have the funding they need to get through this very tough and tragic time.

Mr. Snavelly advised he felt a limit of 25 employees was arbitrary noting Oxford has small businesses with more than 25 employees. Ms. Greene advised it was fulltime equivalents not 25 employees which was set by Butler County.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7241. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
2021 APPROPRIATIONS

An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Oxford, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed his staff report as presented on pages 56-58 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Prytherch thanked staff for bringing forth a budget trying to balance different priorities and move the City forward including raises and new capital projects. Mr. Prytherch noted it was a staff generated budget that is presented to Council and the only time Council has the opportunity to interject things is during the first or second reading of the Ordinance. Mr. Prytherch advised he would like to make a motion that Council adds \$100,000 to the budget for Climate Action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or move towards renewable energy. Mr. Prytherch noted he was not proposing where exactly in the budget it goes and advised he wanted to maintain a balanced budget. Mr. Prytherch advised Climate Action was a priority stated by Council in multiple years during Council Retreats noting he felt it was a small down payment on the City's move towards neutrality.

Ms. Greene provided slides regarding funds already set-aside in for climate efforts including the food composting program, purchase of an electric vehicle, the urban forestry program, the new LED light improvements and the installation of electric charging stations for a total direct spend of \$548,500 in next year's budget. Ms. Greene advised broader scale things that impact climate would be the City's continued work on an Amtrak station, the Oxford Area Trail, the west booster station electrical efficiency improvements, the high efficiency modem improvements for the disc aeration system, the City procurement of green energy for City use and the electric aggregation program. Ms. Greene noted staff wanted to explore the solar farm concept, which will take some staff time. Ms. Greene advised staff put that at a little over \$3.2 million in climate investment. Ms. Greene noted staff has acknowledged that the work of the Climate Action Task Force, the Environmental Commission and Miami's Sustainability Commission are taking staff time. Ms. Greene advised an option for a new spend in the budget would be for a part-time Climate Sustainability staff person based on a similar position in the City of Hamilton. Ms. Greene noted another option would be to work with the Climate Action Task Force and/or the Environmental Commission to bring in an energy consultant to look at what is feasible to start decreasing emissions.

Mr. Elliott advised normally staff does not budget a non-specific item.

Ms. Raghu advised at the last Environmental Commission they voted unanimously in favor of putting a Resolution on Council's agenda for a feasibility study for City owned land and buildings at no cost to the City. Ms. Raghu inquired when that would be brought forward.

Mr. Elliott advised the Resolution would come forward for the next Council meeting.

Mr. Landon Canupp, commended Ms. Greene for her amazing presentation about all of the greenhouse emissions and green energy because he feels it is very important for the future of the world. Mr. Canupp noted there was debate that global warming was not real when it is scientifically proven to be real. Mr. Canupp advised he feels it is an important step for all of America and Oxford specifically to be as diligent as possible in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and using green energy noting it was a make or break for future generations of Americans and Oxford citizens. Mr. Canupp advised he supported the Talawanda High School Environmental and Natural Sciences Club noting he knows how important the environment is because the main goal of the club is to cleanup Oxford as a City and give back to the community in ways they can as high school students.

Mr. Snavelly advised he appreciated the information presented noting he felt Council recognizes that the City has done a lot of good things. Mr. Snavelly noted the proposed amendment would set-aside funds to have an opportunity to do some other projects.

Mr. Prytherch advised he would be happy to see increased staffing capacity to enable the City to pursue grants for example. Mr. Prytherch advised he looked forward to conversations about how to drive down emissions.

Ms. Southard inquired about the electric vehicle charging station and inquired if the electric vehicle companies were going to participate and fund part of it. Ms. Southard inquired if the City was going to charge for the charging stations noting that could offset some of the cost of installation. Ms. Southard noted she thought the cost could be offset by those two matters and the money saved could go into the climate fund. Mr. Elliott advised the City was looking to apply for grants for them for two locations, Lot 52 and the parking garage. Mr. Elliott advised fees for their use would be charged.

Mr. Prytherch moved to add \$100,000 to the 2021 budget for Climate Action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or move towards renewable energy. Mr. Snavelly seconded. The motion passed 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)

Mr. Newlin asked Council to table both the Appropriation Ordinance and the Transfer Ordinance so he could make adjustments to them. Mr. Newlin advised the \$100,000 would likely be spread across the General Fund, Water Fund and Wastewater Fund.

Mr. Snavelly moved to table the Appropriation Ordinance. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
BUDGETED TRANSFERS

An Ordinance Outlining Budgeted Transfers For The City Of Oxford, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Snavely moved to table the Transfer Ordinance. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Mr. Newlin thanked Council for entertaining his request. Mr. Prytherch thanked Mr. Newlin for trying to find room in the budget for the Climate Action matter.

ORDINANCE
BUDGETED ADVANCES

An Ordinance No. 3596 Outlining Budgeted Advances For The City Of Oxford, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised there were no changes since the first reading of the proposed Advance Ordinance, which he addressed during the first reading.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3596. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
2021 FEES

An Ordinance No. 3597 To Adopt Fees And Charges For The Fiscal Year 2021. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised there were no changes since the first reading of the proposed Fee Ordinance.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Prytherch noted his hope in 2021 to come back to the conservation of the curb and gutter repair program and the cost passed on to residents for repairs.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3597. Ms. Southard 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)

ORDINANCE
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3598 Amending Ordinance 3538. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 8 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2020.

Mr. Newlin discussed adjustments he made to the proposed Supplemental Budget as presented on pages 89-90 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. 3598. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
2021 SALARIES

An Ordinance No. 3599 Establishing Salaries And Certain Benefits For Salaried And Hourly Full-Time And Part-Time Employees Within The Service Of The City Of Oxford, Ohio, Paid From January 1, 2021 Through December 31, 2021. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Greene advised there were no changes since the first reading of the proposed Salary Ordinance.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Prytherch noted he felt it was wonderful the City was able to provide cost of living raises to City employees and advised Miami University has not been able to do that.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3599. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance 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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Jones cautioned Council about the amount of weight being put into the recent Miami Student article. Chief Jones noted as one who talks to reporters a lot many things can be out of context. Chief Jones discussed enforcement issues regarding the City's Mask Ordinance and how several businesses have changed their business models to keep everyone safe. Chief Jones advised Council has made it clear they want citations issued for Mask Ordinance violations and noted he would work with the City Manager to come up with a way to do that.

Chief Jones addressed the Governor's recent curfew order.

Chief Jones advised the Oxford Lion's Club will begin their annual Christmas Tree sale this Saturday in the Uptown Park.

Mr. Wooddell updated everyone on the efforts to make Uptown more vibrant during the holidays as a way to encourage people to support the Uptown businesses.

Ms. Greene thanked the Street Department for their efforts with the leaf pick-up program noting they were working hard on leaf collection.

Ms. Greene thanked Mr. Newlin for dealing with the CARES Act funding noting it was a blessing and an extreme challenge to follow all of the rules.

Ms. Greene advised she continues to work on providing public Wi-Fi noting there was a lot more information to be gathered before she can provide Council with a good cost estimate and quote.

Mr. Perry referred to the Work Session this evening and thanked Council for their feedback and support of the proposed Community Strategic Plan Update.

Ms. Raghu thanked all of the people who are listening to the feedback and all of the people who contribute their voices noting she felt it was obvious who will accept feedback and adjust the way they are going. Ms. Raghu advised she knew it is a hard spot for Chief Jones to be in noting she appreciated his willingness to receive the feedback.

Ms. Raghu advised she was tested for Covid on Friday because she did not feel well and noted the process itself was very easy at the local urgent care. Ms. Raghu commended McCullough Hyde for making that possible.

Mr. Snavely thanked Chief Jones for his comments noting he was not sure how to cite every person for not wearing a mask although he felt attention needs to be placed on businesses that are not abiding by the rules.

Ms. Southard referred to the role of Miami University in enforcement of any sort. Ms. Southard noted Council cannot control anything on a national or state level they can only control their own actions and work on City Council. Ms. Southard advised everyone on Council and on staff were working very hard and thanked everyone for their efforts.

Ms. Southard wished everyone a good and safe Thanksgiving.

Ms. Southard advised Thursday was the ribbon cutting for the new headquarters of SELF (Supports for Encouraging Low-income Families) noting they are doing great work through the Covid crisis. Ms. Southard advised she was proud and happy to be on their Board noting they are doing great things in the county. Ms. Southard noted the new headquarters were located at 415 Monument in Hamilton.

Mr. Bracken suggested those going home for the holiday or having families come to Oxford get tested right before meeting with family as he felt it would help prevent spread.

Mr. Prytherch advised thanksgiving was his favorite holiday and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be part of this Council and to work with such talented staff to tackle tough issues.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Wooddell and the Parks and Recreation Department for the very successful virtual Veterans Day Celebration noting it was very well done.

Mayor Smith congratulated the Finance Department for receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Mayor Smith advised the auxiliary of the McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital TRI/Health has honored the Oxford Police and Fire Departments on their Memory and Honor Tree Program noting this award honors a person or an organization for their steadfast commitment to the Oxford Community and to the hospital. Mayor Smith noted he felt the honor was well deserved.

Mayor Smith encouraged everyone to have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURN

Mr. Snavelly moved to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed 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)