

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Kate Rousmaniere on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 7:15 p.m. Those members present were Steve Dana, Glenn Ellerbe, Kevin McKeehan, Mike Smith and Edna Southard. Bob Blackburn was excused.

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation 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

Ms. Southard moved to adjourn to Executive Session immediately in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22 (G)(1) for the purpose of discussing Appointments to Boards and Commissions. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ADJOURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Dana moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rousmaniere requested the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Dana moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Mr. Dana moved to declare vacant the seat of Rebekah Bolser on the Civil Rights Commission effective immediately. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PRESENTATION
OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT

Captain Jay Fields provided a demonstration of a new state of the art cardiac monitor and advised 4 of them were donated to the City by McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital/TriHealth. Captain Fields noted due to the donation the City was able to use funds allocated for a cardiac monitor to purchase a Lucas chest compression device to perform CPR. Captain Fields demonstrated that device as well noting it was impossible to provide effective chest compressions manually after 6 or 7 minutes and sometimes it was impossible to do in a moving ambulance.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if the CPR device could fit various body sizes and Captain Fields advised yes, including children as young as 10 years of age and people weighing up to 400 pounds.

Mr. McKeehan inquired if the device had been used by OFD yet and Captain Fields advised no and noted the last incident it could have been used for occurred 2 days before the device was in service.

Council members applauded and thanked Captain Fields for the demonstration.

PROCLAMATION
MCCULLOUGH HYDE MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL/TRIHEALTH

Mayor Rousmaniere read the Proclamation for 'McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital/TriHealth Week' and presented it to Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick.

PRESENTATION
MCCULLOUGH HYDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
TRIHEALTH

Mr. Brett Kirkpatrick, Hospital Administrator, noted Ms. Pam Collins, Chief Patient Services Officer was in attendance as well. Mr. Kirkpatrick thanked the City for everything it does for the community and for the partnership with the Oxford Police Division and Fire Department. Mr. Kirkpatrick thanked the community at large noting a lot of changes have occurred at the hospital over the last two years with the new construction and detours within the hospital. Mr. Kirkpatrick advised 5 key projects had taken place over the past two years including the expansion of the Emergency Department, 4 new state of the art OR Suites, 2 new Endoscopy Suites, a new Specialty Suite with 6 exam rooms and an overall facelift of the first floor. Mr. Kirkpatrick noted new 3D mammography equipment was also purchased to provide the clearest picture in the industry while reducing radiation exposure to the patients. Mr. Kirkpatrick advised he felt what makes the hospital a special place is the team members that work there and discussed recent initiatives the leadership team undertook to improve team member engagement. Mr. Kirkpatrick noted Oxford Internal Medicine was now part of the McCullough Hyde TriHealth family and provides 6 additional primary care physicians taking new patients for the Oxford community.

Mr. Kirkpatrick advised new ENT, Dr. Raymond Rock started in July 2017 and the hospital collaborated with Oxford Pediatrics to recruit and hire a new Pediatrician who will begin in Oxford in February. Mr. Kirkpatrick noted Dr. Larry Hufford, a Surgical Podiatrist, joined McCullough Hyde/TriHealth in August of 2017 and the Oncology program was expanded with two exceptional physicians being available 2 to 4 days per week. Mr. Kirkpatrick discussed Employer and Community Relations noting Sharon Klein was a huge advocate for the community and a great addition to the hospital's team. Mr. Kirkpatrick discussed the McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital's Trust and the work they've accomplished in 2016 and 2017. Mr. Kirkpatrick highlighted the recent work of the hospital volunteers and Auxiliary noting there were currently 246 volunteers consisting of adults, Miami University students and area teens. Mr. Kirkpatrick offered to answer any questions.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if there was an update on geriatric specialty care. Mr. Kirkpatrick advised it was something the hospital continually looked at but they had no promising leads at this point. Mr. Kirkpatrick noted there was a wide gambit of high quality primary care physicians that provide services to the geriatric population and there was a high level of commitment from them to continue to do that.

Mayor Rousmaniere thanked Mr. Kirkpatrick for his report and for all the great work he does.

NOTICE TO LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Notice to Legislative Authority – Transfer permit from Miami King., DBA Wild Bistro 1st Floor and Basement 37 E. High Street Oxford, Ohio 45056 to American Sushine Holdings LTD DBA Wild Bistro 1st Floor and Basement 37 E. High Street Oxford, Ohio 45056. (Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director)

Mr. Kyger advised this was a transfer of a D5 liquor permit for Wild Bistro's new owners.

Ms. Southard moved to accept the notice without comment. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jessie Leek, 4151 Oxford Reily Road, **Ms. Ann Whelpton**, 6500 Fairfield Road, and **Mr. Steve Schnabl**, 44 Autumn Drive, introduced themselves. Ms. Whelpton advised she and Ms. Leek were representing Oxford VillAGE Network and Mr. Schnabl was representing Oxford Seniors. Ms. Whelpton recognized Catherine Hollins and Kathy McMahon Klosterman who were also in attendance and part of the Oxford VillAGE Network.

Ms. Leek noted she would read a letter dated November 3, 2017 and read the following into the record: "Dear Mayor Kate Rousmaniere, Congratulations to the City of Oxford, Ohio for becoming the 191st community to enroll in the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities. AARP's age-friendly network encourages states, counties, cities, towns and rural areas to prepare for the rapid aging of the U.S. population. The network encourages communities to take action and pay increased attention to the environmental, economic and social features

encourage greater age integration and diversity and create a community that supports residents from the cradle through retirement.

Launched in April 2012, the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities is an independent affiliate of the World Health Organization's Age Friendly Cities and Communities Program, an international effort launched in 2006 to help cities prepare for the growth of the older adult population.

With the age-friendly program, AARP helps participating communities become great places for people of all ages by adopting such features as walkable streets, better housing and transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities. While many communities are adopting these policies without joining the AARP Network of Age Friendly communities, the network provides a structured process to guide community change and helps serve as a catalyst to educate, encourage, promote and recognize improvements that make communities supportive for residents of all ages. Importantly, enrollment in the network provides member communities with the resources to become more age-friendly by tapping into national and global research, planning models and best practices.

We look forward to working with you and welcome you to the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities.”

Ms. Leek advised the letter was signed by Nancy LeaMond, AARP, Executive Vice President of Community, State & National Affairs.

Mr. Schnabl displayed and read the certificate that accompanied the letter from AARP and congratulated the City for becoming a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

Ms. Whelpton on behalf of citizens of all ages thanked City staff, City Council and the commissions who provided advice going forward with this initiative. Ms. Whelpton assured Council that the work going forward would be well supported, productive and impactful. Ms. Whelpton noted in December the group would shore up the Task Force and the needs assessment which is already under draft by the Scripps Gerontology Research Center. Ms. Whelpton advised a forum would take place in January to obtain community input and the target date to launch the assessment is the 1st of February. Ms. Whelpton again thanked Council for their support and action on behalf of the community.

Mr. Dana advised he knew as a member of the Steering Team that the group has a mentor from AARP and asked Ms. Whelpton to discuss her role so far. Ms. Whelpton noted the consultant's name was Nicole Ware and she has been very involved in community development in the Cincinnati area. Ms. Whelpton advised Ms. Ware was Associate Director of AARP for Ohio and has attended several events in Oxford including the Town Gown Conference last summer. Ms. Whelpton noted Ms. Ware was prepared to be involved in the age friendly work in Oxford.

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired if there was anything the City could do to help out. Ms. Whelpton noted it was highly recommended that an elected or hired official be a member of the Task Force and input would be needed from Council and staff on the questions for the needs assessment survey.

Ms. Southard advised becoming a member of the AARP Network of Age Friendly Communities shows great collaboration of many parts of the community and reflects many concerns people have had in recent months regarding transportation, affordable housing and other issues.

Mayor Rousmaniere thanked Ms. Whelpton, Ms. Leek and others from Oxford Village Network for their hard work.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 2, 2017 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the November 1, 2017 Historical and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the November 1, 2017 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

RESOLUTION

ADVANCED PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES

A Resolution No. 6016 authorizing the City Manager to request advanced payment of property taxes to the City in 2018 from Butler County. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Dana moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION

HOLIDAY PARKING

A Resolution No. 6017 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 18, 2017 until 6:00 p.m. on December 31, 2017. The two hour restriction for meters in these locations will remain in effect. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones advised free holiday parking has been offered for a number of years and is generally well received by the community. Chief Jones reiterated the two hour restriction does remain in effect and the enforcement of that has not necessarily been effective in the past. Chief Jones noted the enforcement of the two hour restriction will be stepped up this year and he wanted to get that message out to Uptown employees and business owners. Chief Jones advised there were other all day parking options such as the 10 hour meters on Church Street and on Walnut Street.

Chief Jones advised this program was designed for visitors to come Uptown and park without paying the meter and do some holiday shopping.

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

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired how the two hour enforcement would be done and if tires would be chalked.

Chief Jones advised tires would be chalked and he hoped to encourage turnover in the metered parking spaces. Chief Jones noted next year a new license plate reader device would be utilized and would be much more effective.

Mr. McKeehan moved to adopt Resolution No. 6017. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION **TRI LEASE**

A Resolution No. 6018 granting the Talawanda Recreation , Inc. (TRI) a two (2) year lease and authorizing the City Manager to execute the new lease. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

Mr. Wooddell advised this was a renewal of a standard two year lease between the City and Talawanda Recreation Inc. Mr. Wooddell noted the lease allows the City's Parks and Recreation Department to operate out of the TRI facility which includes the building and grounds that house the skate park and basketball courts.

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

Mr. Dana inquired if Mr. Wooddell could comment on the data that shows the attendance and the use of the TRI and how its increased over the years. Mr. Wooddell advised he did not have those figures with him this evening. Mr. Wooddell noted there has been steady increases in program attendance but that also includes the Community Park facility.

Mayor Rousmaniere asked Mr. Wooddell to explain how the lease works with 9 acres owned by the TRI that includes the current pool. Mr. Wooddell advised the pool is technically owned by the City, and if the pool is relocated, the land goes back to the TRI. Mr. Wooddell noted the City would be responsible for demolishing the pool and returning the land back to a grass field. Mr. Wooddell advised the TRI was a non-profit organization that maintains the grounds and the facilities by utilizing the money that comes from the lease with the City.

Ms. Southard asked Mr. Wooddell to comment on what the lease money is used for. Mr. Wooddell provided examples from 2017 including painting the entire interior of the TRI building, new led lights in the gym, new basketball courts in the gym, upgrades to the shelter and new windows in the first floor of the building.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 6018. Ms. Southard seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

RESOLUTION
MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING

A Resolution No. 6019 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Butler Soil and Water Conservation District (BSWCD) to perform plan review services for subdivision and planned development projects in the City of Oxford. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised the proposed Resolution dealt with Council's discussion regarding sensitive environmental areas in proposed subdivisions and planned developments. Mr. Chen noted a local engineer suggested the City contract with BSWCD for their expertise in obtaining the high water table data and delineating the wetlands. Mr. Chen noted BSWCD could help the City on the front end of a project by identifying environmental resources that need to be protected.

Mr. Vincent Hand, E. Chestnut Street, spoke in support of the proposed Resolution. Mr. Hand thanked Mr. Chen and his staff for arranging the proposed memo of understanding with BSWCD.

Mr. Dana complimented Mr. Chen for making the connection with BSWCD noting it was exactly the expertise needed in reviewing subdivisions and planned developments which Councilor Southard brought to everyone's attention initially.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Resolution No. 6019. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

ORDINANCE
NEW SECTION 931.02

An Ordinance No. 3444 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 931.02, Entitled Container Requirements, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 931.02, Entitled Container Requirements. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach noted the proposed Ordinance would expand the 'Mile Square Plus' area on the south side of Chestnut Street between Oak and Maple to include Cedar Drive and Silvoor Lane. Mr. Dreisbach advised this was being proposed at the request of a property owner.

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

Mr. McKeehan referred to the map on page 42 of Council's packet and inquired if the request included the entirety of both Cedar Drive and Silvoor Lane and Mr. Dreisbach advised yes.

Mr. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3444. Mr. Dana seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeegan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
OVERLAY DISTRICT

An Ordinance No. 3445 Accepting The Planning Commission's Recommendation And Granting A Zoning Map Amendment To Establish A Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District In A R-1A (Single-Family Low Density Residential) District For 21 Parcels Located On E. Chestnut Street And On Silvoor Lane, In The City Of Oxford. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised he had no further comments since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance.

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

Mayor Rousmaniere inquired how many Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Districts had been established and Mr. Chen advised this would be the 15th.

Mr. Dana noted this action expresses the power of citizens and dove tails with the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3445. Mr. Dana seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. McKeegan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
ZONING MAP AMENDMENT

An Ordinance No. 3446 Accepting The Planning Commission's Recommendation And Granting A Zoning Map Amendment For Certain Properties In The City Of Oxford's Mile Square A Map Of Which Is Attached hereto As Exhibit "A" And Incorporated Herein, And Rezoning The Properties From R-2MS (Single And Two Family Mile Square Residential) District To R-3MS (Single Two And Three Family Mile Square Residential) District. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen referred to page 72 of Council's packet and advised the area in question was between Campus Avenue and Poplar Street. Mr. Chen noted the Planning Commission recommended approval of the proposed rezoning.

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

Mr. Dana referred to page 75 of Council's packet and noted he felt there were 4 reasons to support the proposed map amendment. Mr. Dana advised the area was close to the academic quad, the Goggin, the Rec Center and Uptown. Mr. Dana noted the increase in the number of Miami students was bound to have an impact on local housing in a City this size. Mr. Dana advised the proposed rezoning incorporates detailed newly approved architectural standards and options and it encourages higher density near the campus to encourage redevelopment.

Ms. Southard noted she felt the arguments in support of the proposed rezoning were strong and Mr. Dana summarized them well. Ms. Southard advised a large rezoning approval recently occurred and she would like to see what happens and what develops before Council approves additional rezoning from R2 to R3.

Mayor Rousmaniere noted Council recently approved a large rezoning request in the Mile Square area under the theory if density was increased near the university it would incentivize higher density student living in a certain part of town. Mayor Rousmaniere noted the area in question was omitted from the earlier rezoning review.

Mr. Smith noted a good portion of the area in question consisted of new housing although the remaining housing was among some of the oldest in Oxford. Mr. Smith advised he felt if redevelopment of the old buildings did occur the owner would do a nice job.

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3446. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Smith, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mayor Rousmaniere (5)

NAY: Ms. Southard (1)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE **ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT**

An Ordinance No. 3447 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1159.13 Entitled Definitions (Beginning With The Letter "L") And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1159.13 Entitled Definitions (Beginning With The Letter "L"). (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised the proposed text amendment would eliminate an inconsistency in the zoning code.

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

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3447. Mr. Smith seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT

An Ordinance No. 3448 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1159.20 Entitled Definitions (Beginning with the letter “S”) And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1159.20 Entitled Definitions (Beginning with the letter “S”). (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Mr. Chen advised the proposed text amendment would eliminate an inconsistency in the zoning code.

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

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3448. Mr. Dana seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
2018 BUDGET

An Ordinance No. 3449 To Make Appropriations For Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of Oxford, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2018. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised a detailed review of the proposed budget occurred at the last meeting and offered to answer any questions.

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

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3449. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
BUDGETED TRANSFERS

An Ordinance No. 3450 Outlining Budgeted Transfers For The City Of Oxford, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2018. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin noted the budgeted transfers were presented at the last meeting in detail and offered to answer any questions.

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

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3450. Mr. Ellerbe seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
BUDGETED ADVANCES

An Ordinance No. 3451 Outlining Budgeted Advances For The City Of Oxford, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2018. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin noted the budgeted advances were presented at the last meeting in detail and offered to answer any questions.

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

Mr. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3451. Mr. Dana seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
2018 FEES

An Ordinance No. 3452 Adopting Fees And Charges For Fiscal Year 2018. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin advised there were no changes to the proposed fee schedule since the first reading of the Ordinance.

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

Mr. Dana moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3452. Mr. McKeehan seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Smith, Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ORDINANCE
2018 SALARIES

An Ordinance No. 3453 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, 2018 Through December 31, 2018. (Candi Fyffe, Human Resources Director)

Mr. Elliott referred to pages 134-135 of Council's packet and outlined several changes made to the proposed Ordinance since the first reading. Mr. Elliott offered to answer any questions.

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

Mr. Smith moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3453. Mr. Dana seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Ms. Southard, Mr. Dana, Mr. Ellerbe, Mr. McKeehan, Mr. Smith, Mayor Rousmaniere (6)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott referred to the November 7, 2017 election and noted two incumbent Council members were re-elected and candidate David Prytherch and candidate Chantel Raghu were elected. Mr. Elliott advised a Council Orientation Session occurred last Friday with the newly elected Council members and staff members. Mr. Elliott advised Issue 5, the City of Oxford Charter Amendment was approved by the electorate by a vote of 67.2% to 32.8% and the amendments will become effective upon receipt of the official election results from the Butler County Board of Elections. Mr. Elliott reminded everyone of the City Council Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, November 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Dreisbach wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chief Jones reminded those leaving town for the holiday to use the Vacant House Check program through the Police Division and a COP Volunteer or Police Officer will perform periodic house checks.

Chief Jones noted OPD was participating in “No Shave November” along with other Police agencies in Butler County noting each officer paid \$15.00 per week to participate with the funds being donated to the Oxford United Way.

Mr. Wooddell advised the Oxford Holiday Festival was December 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and noted the many events and activities taking place at the Oxford Community Arts Center and in the Uptown Parks.

Mr. Kyger advised the Chamber of Commerce Holiday Walk would take place on Friday, December 1st from 5-8 p.m. Mr. Kyger encouraged everyone to come Uptown for shopping, food, music and fun.

Mr. Kyger thanked Vice Mayor Smith for making some comments during Tim Horton’s Grand Opening last Friday and noted there was a Ribbon Cutting the same day for the new Sprint Store next door to Tim Horton’s. Mr. Kyger advised First Financial Bank opened in its new location on Monday in the same Bishop Square area. Mr. Kyger noted “Shop Small, Shop Local” would occur this Saturday and encouraged everyone visit their favorite stores in the Oxford area.

Ms. Eaton congratulated Ms. Southard and Mr. Smith on their re-election to Council. Ms. Eaton advised this evening was Mr. McKeehan’s last regular Council meeting and noted it had been a pleasure working with him over the last 8 years.

Mr. McHugh echoed Ms. Eaton’s comments.

Mr. McHugh addressed House Bill 49 noting it was the Ohio legislation enacted that would allow businesses to file their tax returns at one central place with the Department of Taxation. Mr. McHugh advised Council recently adopted legislation authorizing the City to join a law suite challenging the constitutionality of HB-49 and the law suite has now been filed with the Common Pleas Court. Mr. McHugh noted at least 130 municipalities participated in the law suite representing a very large portion of the State of Ohio. Mr. McHugh advised the primary basis for the law suite had to do with violations of Home Rule which was an inherent function of a City. Mr. McHugh noted the next step would be to file an injunction to stay the bill. Mr. McHugh noted HB-49 would take away all of the cities authority to collect their own taxes.

Mr. Dana advised the single-subject rule was also violated in HB-49.

Mr. Ellerbe congratulated and thanked Mr. McKeehan and Mr. Blackburn for their years of service on Council.

Mr. Ellerbe advised net-neutrality was being discussed this week at the federal level which would allow service providers to charge for different tiers of internet service. Mr. Ellerbe noted he felt this would turn the internet into a giant cable company and he fully disagrees with it. Mr. Ellerbe encouraged everyone to contact their legislators to make them aware that citizens demand that the internet remain free and available to anyone.

Mr. Dana complimented the Service Department for the speedy pick-up of leaves from his yard today.

Mr. Dana advised he learned a lot from his colleagues, Mr. McKeehan and Mr. Blackburn and noted it was a pleasure to serve with them and he honored their commitment to Oxford.

Mr. Smith complimented Mr. Dreisbach and the Service Department on the new sidewalk from Sycamore Street to Kelly Drive noting it looked great.

Mr. Smith thanked Mr. McKeehan and Mr. Blackburn for their service and noted if you do the math, 8 years is a minimum of 192 meetings. Mr. Smith advised it was a pleasure to serve with them.

Ms. Southard thanked Mr. McKeehan and Mr. Blackburn for their service noting she was sorry Mr. Blackburn was unable to be in attendance this evening. Ms. Southard advised she learned so much from them, they had been so collegial, and it has been a wonderful experience.

Ms. Southard advised the Oxford Police Academy begins February 5th and noted she felt it was an important experience for Council members. Ms. Southard advised she participated in the program and learned so much about Police work and what the Police do for the City.

Ms. Southard advised the Empty Bowls event at the Oxford Community Arts Center on November 11th was a huge success and all the money raised was donated to the Oxford Community Choice Pantry.

Ms. Southard wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

Mayor Rousmaniere updated everyone on an initiative of the Miami Business Alliance to promote business engagement in Oxford in the month of January noting a “Winter Warm Up” video would be filmed next week as part of the promotion.

Mr. McKeehan thanked everyone for their kind words noting the 8 years went by fairly fast and he’s enjoyed nearly every minute of it. Mr. McKeehan noted he prepared some highs, lows and advise for new candidates, future candidates and existing Councilor’s. Mr. McKeehan advised a high point was the entire City staff he has had the pleasure of working with including Doug Elliott, Mike Dreisbach, Victor Popescu, Joe Newlin, Alan Kyger, Chief Jones, the late Chief Holzworth and former Chief Schwein, Chief Detherage, Casey Wooddell, Gail Brahier, Eric Keebler, Sam Perry, Jung-Han Chen, Mary Ann Eaton, Kim Newton, Steve McHugh and all other staff. Mr. McKeehan advised staff helped to make this a great community and make his experience on Council a total pleasure. Mr. McKeehan thanked his fellow Councilors noting most of them over the last 8 years were willing to listen and work together and that has been great for Oxford. Mr. McKeehan noted another high point was being able to assist individual citizens and businesses with concerns when brought to him noting that was very rewarding. Mr. McKeehan noted another high point was his involvement with the CIC Board, and especially the revolving loan fund and helping many small businesses get started and contribute to the vibrancy of the community. Mr. McKeehan advised a low point was the entry of partisan politics in the recent elections which he felt obscured the goal of serving for the good of the community and not a group. Mr. McKeehan noted it was a great disappointment learning that some fellow Councilors don’t live by the same rules of integrity that he does. Mr. McKeehan encouraged anyone considering running for Council, the incumbents and existing Councilors to listen, listen, listen noting you can’t please everyone. Mr. McKeehan encouraged Councilors to make sure their decisions were good for Oxford and not for a certain person, group or cause. Mr. McKeehan noted Councilor’s were chosen by the community to do a job for them not just show up and encouraged them to prepare, research and ask questions when needed. Mr. McKeehan advised most of the problems in Oxford are basic economic and math problems noting Oxford has 18,000 plus students and approximately 8,000 permanent residents. Mr. McKeehan advised this was the reason the majority of businesses in town were geared towards students whether its housing, retail or restaurants and for better than 9 months of the year its geared toward the majority. Mr. McKeehan noted affordable housing was a lofty goal and wished everyone luck in the pursuit. Mr. McKeehan advised Oxford does not have affordable land because it is a small town and Oxford was a very desirable community to live, work and play in. Mr. McKeehan encouraged Councilors to be frank with community members, give them the facts, not just what might make them feel good. Mr. McKeehan noted people appreciate honesty and hearing the hard truth sometimes.

Mr. McKeehan thanked the City for sending him a planter after his recent surgery which was very successful.

Mr. McKeehan noted approximately 240 live trees were in the Uptown Park for the annual Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale and encouraged community members to visit the Christmas Tree lot.

Mr. McKeehan wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURN

Mr. McKeehan moved to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Mr. Dana seconded. The motion passed 6-0-0.