A Regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Richard Keebler on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Those members present were Ken Bogard, Bob Blackburn, John Harman, Kevin McKeehan, Kate Rousmaniere and Steve Snyder

Staff members present: Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. Bob Holzworth, Interim Police Chief; Mr. Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. Alan Kyger, Economic Development Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Ms. Gail Brahier, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Steve McHugh, Law Director and Ms. Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

Mayor Keebler welcomed the two new Council members, Ms. Kate Rousmaniere, and Mr. Steve Snyder, and noted tonight was their first regular Council meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Keebler called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RECOGNITION
FORMER COUNCILORS

Mayor Keebler read and presented Resolution No. 4648 to Kate Currie, commending her for her service to the City of Oxford and its residents. Mayor Keebler also presented Ms. Currie with a token of appreciation on behalf of Council and City staff.

Ms. Kate Currie, thanked all of her fellow Councilors and prior Councilors as well as City staff for making her four years on Council delightful from start to finish. Ms. Currie noted she appreciated everyone's assistance.

Mayor Keebler read and presented Resolution No. 4649 to Greig Rutherford, commending him for his service to the City of Oxford and its residents. Mayor Keebler also presented Mr. Rutherford with a token of appreciation on behalf of Council and City staff.

Mr. Greig Rutherford, thanked Council, staff and the citizens for allowing him to serve them and noted he prayed Council served them well. Mr. Rutherford noted Council had many challenges before them and he knew they were up to the task. Mr. Rutherford advised it had been an honor for him to serve the City of Oxford.

SWEARING-IN
POLICE OFFICER/POLICE SERGEANT

Chief Holzworth thanked Council for allowing time on their agenda for the swearing-in of a new Police Officer and for participating in the promotion of a Police Officer to a Police Sergeant. Chief Holzworth noted it had been a pivotal year in the Oxford Police Department with five retirements.

Chief Holzworth introduced Mr. Mark Ledermeier and noted he was the third new hire this year. Chief Holzworth noted Mr. Ledermeier graduated from Northern Kentucky University with a degree in sociology and attended Great Oaks Police Academy. Chief Holzworth advised after graduation Mr. Ledermeier took a position as a Police Officer at the College of Mount Saint Joseph. Chief Holzworth advised Mr. Ledermeier's hire date for the City of Oxford was yesterday. Chief Holzworth noted Mr. Ledermeier wanted Council to know he was a reliable, hard working individual who was excited to be working in the City of Oxford as a police officer. Chief Holzworth advised he felt Mr. Ledermeier would serve the City well.

Chief Holzworth advised Mr. Geoff Robinson had been employed as a patrol officer since 2006 and was assigned to the criminal investigation unit in 2009. Chief Holzworth noted Mr. Robinson excelled in that capacity and it was a pleasure to present him to Council as he came extremely well qualified to fill the Police Sergeant position. Chief Holzworth noted this had been a very competitive process and he felt Mr. Robinson would serve the City well.

Mr. McHugh performed the swearing-in of Mark Ledermeier, Police Officer and Geoff Robinson, Police Sergeant.

After Council congratulated Mr. Ledermeier and Mr. Robinson, Chief Holzworth presented them with their new badges.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kate Currie, 420 W. Vine Street, invited Ms. Valerie Elliott to join her at the podium. Ms. Currie noted as part of Oxford's Bicentennial celebration in 2010, Ms. Elliott coordinated with historians and local contributors to submit 24 different articles to be printed in the Oxford Press throughout that year. Ms. Currie advised the articles had been compiled into a book which she provided Council and staff a copy of and noted complimentary copies would also be given to former Council members and the contributors. Ms. Currie advised copies would be for sale at the Smith Library and at the Oxford Visitors and Convention Bureau.

Ms. Valerie Elliott, acknowledged the contributors who were in attendance, Terry Beck, for her article on the history of "Ox-Act", Marjorie Bowers for her article on Caroline Scott Harrison and Terriel Byrd (Karen Byrd) for his article on four historically black churches in Oxford. Ms. Elliott thanked Ms. Currie for all of her efforts in converting 24 articles into a book and Mr. Ellison for his editorial assistance. Ms. Currie thanked her husband (Brian) for designing the cover.

Mayor Keebler thanked Ms. Currie, Ms. Elliott and the Bicentennial Committee for all of their efforts.

Ms. Amy Macechko, 37 Jeffrey Drive, advised she was the Health and Wellness Coordinator for the Talawanda School District. Ms. Macechko noted her position was a partnership with the local Coalition for a Health Community whose purpose was to engage all sectors of the community using multiple strategies to promote a healthy and safe community for everyone to work and play in. Ms. Macechko thanked the community for their support of this year's Red Ribbon Week celebration which was a national campaign designed to increase awareness about the dangers of substance use and the benefits of living a drug-free, healthy lifestyle. Ms. Macechko noted in connection with Red Ribbon Week, Talawanda and Miami students as well as community members participated in the "Plant the Promise" project by planting nearly 3,000 red tulip bulbs throughout the community to serve as a visual reminder to everyone of the commitment that the youth in the community had made to live a healthy lifestyle. Ms. Macechko advised she planned to return to address Council in the spring to remind everyone of what the red tulips stood for and she was excited to see the beauty of Oxford come spring.

Mayor Keebler thanked Ms. Macechko for addressing Council on this initiative.

Ms. Kelly Quinn and Ms. Christina Miller, addressed Council on behalf of the Farmer's Market. Ms. Miller noted she was a new member of the Farmer's Market Council. Ms. Miller thanked Council for the use of Lot 52 for the 2011 Farmer's Market season. Ms. Miller advised the market had been successful in 2011 with between 600 and 700 people in attendance each week. Ms. Miller noted the market held its annual meeting in November in conjunction with the Cultivating Community Festival held at the Oxford Community Arts Center which was well attended. Ms. Miller advised people could support the market over the winter every third Saturday of the month beginning at 9:30 a.m. Ms. Miller noted the 2012 Farmer's Market would be held in the same location in Uptown Oxford. Ms. Miller presented the City with a check in the amount of $250.00 on behalf of the Farmer's Market to acknowledge the City's support for the event.

Mayor Keebler advised legislation was on the consent agenda for Council to consider approving the use of Lot 52 for the 2012 Farmer's Market season.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 15, 2011 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Minutes of the November 29, 2011 City Council Organizational Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

REPORTS

Report regarding the November 14, 2011 Civil Service Commission Meeting. (Donna Heck, Human Resources Director)

Report regarding the November 16, 2011 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Jung-Han Chen, Community Development Director)

Report regarding the November 17, 2011 Recreation Board Meeting. (Gail Brahier, Parks and Recreation Director)

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION
FARMER'S MARKET

A Resolution No. 4650 authorizing the City Manager to close Lot 52 on Saturdays, from 5:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., from May 5, 2012 through November 24, 2012 to permit the operation of the Farmer's Market within Lot 52 during said time. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

RESOLUTION
WINTER MARKET

A Resolution No. 4651 authorizing the City Manager to close Lot 52 on Saturday, January 21, 2012, Saturday, February 18, 2012, Saturday, March 17, 2012, Saturday, April 21, 2012 and Saturday, December 15, 2012 from 5:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., to permit the operation of the Winter Farmer's Market within Lot 52 during said time. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

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

RESOLUTION
AGREEMENT WITH
MILFORD TOWNSHIP

A Resolution No. 4652 authorizing the City Manager to enter into a new agreement with Milford Township, Butler County, Ohio and authorizing the City of Oxford to provide Emergency Medical Services to the western portion of Milford Township pursuant to the agreement. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott addressed his staff report as presented on page 31 of the agenda. Mr. Elliott noted after negotiations with the Milford Township Trustees, he was recommending that Council authorize him to enter into a new one year agreement with Milford Township authorizing the City of Oxford to provide Emergency Medical Services to the western portion of Milford Township. Mr. Elliott advised the contract amount would be $8,200 which was a 32% increase over the current contract.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted the price for the City of Oxford to provide emergency medical services to Milford Township had been $400 and asked Mr. Elliott to provide the background on the matter.

Mr. Elliott advised the City had a volunteer fire operation for many years and when the City shifted to a part-time fire and emergency medical operation the costs went up dramatically and the City now spent over $1,000,000 per year for Fire and EMS.

Mr. Elliott advised the City approached Oxford Township and Milford Township over a year ago about the contracts, provided them with different scenarios, and looked at how to arrive at an equitable amount for sharing in the cost. Mr. Elliott noted staff looked at the number of runs in each jurisdiction and subtracted the revenue the City received from EMS billing to determine what a fair amount was to charge each jurisdiction. Mr. Elliott advised the Milford Township Trustees had already signed the new agreement.

Mr. Snyder inquired when the townships might be approached to discuss the next contract and Mr. Elliott advised on or before July 1, 2012.

Mr. Harman noted he was pleased with the negotiations with Milford Township.

Mr. Blackburn moved to adopt Resolution No. 4652. Mr. Harman seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH
PRUS CONSTRUCTION

A Resolution No. 4653 accepting the bid submitted by Prus Construction Co. and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Prus Construction Co. for the reconstruction of High Street between Main Street and Poplar Street at a cost of $488,101.00 plus a contingency amount of ten percent (10%) of the contract price or $48,810.00 for a total cost not to exceed $536,911.00. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised the Engineering Division had drawn plans and specifications for the reconstruction of High Street between Main and Poplar Streets which included the block in front of the Uptown pavilion. Mr. Dreisbach noted there were a lot of summertime activities at the pavilion and staff was very cognizant of that and the impact to businesses along High Street. Mr. Dreisbach advised the City advertised for bids which included an accelerated deadline to get the project done as soon as possible. Mr. Dreisbach noted the lowest bidder (Prus Construction) included a 10,000 surcharge to complete the project 2 weeks early. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff was recommending that Council authorize the bid for $488,101 for the accelerated deadline as submitted by Prus Construction. Mr. Dreisbach noted the Water Distribution Division would install a new water main in advance of the project starting in March 2012 and the road would be closed after Miami's graduation and reopen by July 15, 2012.

Mr. Blackburn inquired if the construction would begin at Main Street or Poplar Street and Mr. Dreisbach advised Main Street.

Mr. Snyder inquired what would happen if the July 15 deadline was not met. Mr. Dreisbach advised if the deadline was missed due to poor weather conditions there would be no penalty but if it was missed for other reasons there would be a daily penalty charged starting July 16, 2012.

Mr. Bogard inquired if the City would notify ODOT to reroute trucks during the construction. Mr. Dreisbach advised, and noted the City would maintain a detour.

Mr. McKeehan inquired if Prus Construction had done brick paving in Oxford.

Mr. Dreisbach advised the brick work would be sub-contracted to the same company who had done the other two blocks of High Street.

Mayor Keebler noted he felt it was appropriate to move forward using the accelerated deadline especially due to the impact on the Uptown businesses.

Mr. Dreisbach noted it was Mr. Kyger's idea to ask for a bid that included pricing for the accelerated deadline as he was very concerned about the impact to businesses along High Street.

Mr. Harman moved to adopt Resolution No. 4653. Mr. Bogard seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.

ORDINANCES
SECOND READING

An Ordinance No. 3164 Amending Ordinance No. 3130. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 4 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2011. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin noted he discussed the proposed Ordinance at length during the first reading and had no new information to add.

Mr. Snyder moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3164. Mr. Harman seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

AYE: Mr. Bogard, Mr. Harman, Mr. McKeehan, Ms. Rousmaniere, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Keebler (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott congratulated Ms. Currie for her efforts in coordinating events for the City's Bicentennial in 2010. Mr. Elliott noted she had a small budget and accomplished some big things from the event the beginning of the year at the Community Arts Center to the publication of the book she shared with Council this evening.

Mr. Elliott congratulated Mr. Newlin and the Finance Department staff for receiving the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. Mr. Elliott noted the award was for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the City had received this award 27 times.

Mr. Elliott provided an update on the Miami Heritage Tech Park annexation and noted the Butler County Commissioners would review the annexation petition at their meeting on Thursday.

Mr. Elliott provided an update regarding House Bill 50 which dealt with revisions to the expedited type II annexation procedure as it applied to political subdivisions that own land in territory proposed for annexation.

Mr. Elliott provided an update regarding an effort by the state legislature to centralize the collection of municipal income tax and look at the uniformity of the tax base. Mr. Elliott advised the municipal income tax was the basis for the City's General Fund and noted his hope the legislature would carefully review the effort and allow input from the municipalities.

Mr. Dreisbach referred to the Resolution passed earlier this evening for the reconstruction of High Street and noted the Engineering Division applied for and obtained a reimbursement grant in the amount of $340,000 for the project.

Ms. Brahier thanked all of the businesses and organizations that participated in the Holiday Festival noting it was a very successful event. Ms. Brahier thanked the Talawanda School District for providing the choruses and thanked the band boosters for their assistance. Ms. Brahier also thanked Tim McGowan and Paige Wood for their commitment to the youth in the community on Friday night and Saturday.

Ms. Brahier welcomed the new Council members and noted she looked forward to a productive 2012.

Mayor Keebler noted the Holiday Festival was a nice event and he was glad to see so many families in attendance.

Mr. Harman thanked Ms. Brahier for getting the Adidas event back in Oxford noting it was a huge economic benefit for the community.

Mayor Keebler advised the December 20, 2011 City Council meeting was cancelled as there was no pending legislation or second readings. Mayor Keebler advised the next meeting was January 3, 2012 and a Work Session was tentatively scheduled at 6:30 p.m. on January 3rd to discuss matters with the Planning Commission. Mayor Keebler advised a Work Session was also tentatively scheduled for January 17th to discuss term limits for boards and commissions.

Mayor Keebler wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays and noted he looked forward to getting back to business on January 3rd.

Mr. Bogard wished everyone happy holidays, a happy new year, and safe traveling for those leaving Oxford.

Ms. Rousmaniere wished everyone happy holidays and noted she was pleased to be a new Council member.

Ms. Rousmaniere discussed a program sponsored by the Oxford Senior Center and a Capstone Class from Miami University called 'Staying Well by Doing Good' which was a walking based volunteer program. Ms. Rousmaniere advised the program matched up people who needed assistance with people who wanted to exercise.

Ms. Rousmaniere noted some examples such as people who needed a walking buddy, people who needed assistance pushing their wheelchair, people who needed a dog walked, trash taken out or litter picked up. Ms. Rousmaniere encouraged those interested in participating to call the Oxford Senior Center.

Mr. Harman wished everyone happy holidays.

Mr. Harman advised it had been a tough year and thanked the City Department Heads and staff for doing their jobs with less money. Mr. Harman advised everyone had met the challenge and noted he felt they would continue to do so.

Mr. Snyder advised during the recent election there was a discrepancy in the filing dates for petitions between the City Charter and the State of Ohio. Mr. Snyder noted his hope the matter would be addressed during the next Charter Review. Mr. Snyder advised the Butler County Board of Elections was using an outdated nominating petition for City Council candidates that required a nominating committee and that requirement had been changed in the Charter. Mr. Snyder noted there were enough decisions to be made in deciding to run for City Council and anything that could be done to make that an easier endeavor would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Snyder wished everyone happy holidays and noted he was pleased to be back on City Council.

Mr. McKeehan advised the Oxford Lion's Club was holding its annual Christmas Tree sale Uptown to benefit vision and other projects around the City for youth and adults. Mr. McKeehan noted this year people could receive $1.00 off of their Christmas Tree for each canned or non-perishable food item they donated up to $5.00. Mr. McKeehan advised the donated food would be given to the Oxford Community Choice Pantry.

Mr. McKeehan wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

Mr. Blackburn wished everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and noted the town looked beautiful with all of the decorations.

Mr. Blackburn congratulated Mr. Newlin and the Finance Department for receiving the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. Mr. Blackburn noted the new format for City water bills looked good. Mayor Keebler noted the format was changed due to new postal regulations.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bogard moved to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Mr. Harman seconded. The motion passed 7-0-0.