



# City of Oxford OHIO

HOME OF MIAMI UNIVERSITY

## OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

**A virtual meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 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. Mike Dreisbach, Service 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. Ellerbe, Mr. Prytherch, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavelly, Ms. Southard, Mr. Bracken, Mayor Smith (7).**

**NAY: None (0).**

**ABS: None (0).**

### **Public Participation.**

Proclamation – “Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day”

Mayor Smith read the Proclamation and noted the celebration would be virtual this year and a link to join would be provided on Miami University's webpage.

### **Proclamation**

Notice to Legislative Authority – Transfer permit from Oxford Den Inc. DBA The Den 117 E. High Street 1st Floor and Basement Oxford, Ohio 45056 to DenOxford LLC DBA The Den 117 E. High Street 1st Floor and Basement Oxford, Ohio 45056. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised the transfer was the result of a change in the organizational structure of the Oxford Den from a corporation to a limited liability company. Mr. Elliott recommended approval of the transfer.

**Mr. Snavelly moved to accept the notice without comment. Mr. Prytherch 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)

### Notice

Public Comments.

**Mr. Joshua Smith**, read his comments into the record as follows:

Comments submitted on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 - 7:54pm:

- **Name:** Joshua Smith
- **Address:** 302 N Main St.
- **Email Address:** joshua@joshuasmithconsulting.com
- **Meeting Date:** Tue, 01/05/2021
- **Agenda Item:** Public Participation Comment
- **Comments:** My name is Joshua Smith, a 2004 Miami alum and seasonal Oxford resident who over the past 6 years has been a catalyst in over \$2.5M of real estate sales in Oxford through family and friends. I'm not from Ohio, have no family here, but I have the quintessential college experience of going to Miami and living in Oxford, one that thousands of people desire. I'll tell you what I love about Oxford: The people. The students come and go, but it's Lisa, Carole, Becky, Andrew, Zach and Sam who will take the time to help me figure things out with utilities, zoning and permits and ultimately find a resolution. It's Sarah, Auggie, Matt, Jareth, Gracie and Shelly at Gilman's who address me by name after not having seen them since the previous summer. It's Gary at Bagel & Deli, Shay at Opub, it's Jeff, Kyle, Mike, Tony, Caleb, Ted, Coy, all of whom have helped with maintenance on my houses. It's my Oxford community.

I love this town. In fact, last summer I had to get bloodwork done and the nurse asked why I was doing it here when I lived in California. I shared that I come to Oxford every summer for a couple months as it's a vacation for me, from the chaos of traveling the globe for work and the craziness of LA. While thousands of people come to Hermosa Beach, my home as their vacation, I come to Oxford for mine.

You want investors like me, who care about the community, not for my personal financial gain, but who crave the nostalgic environment that I was blessed to have as a student twenty year ago. Unfortunately, times are changing in Oxford and not for the better, especially with the crime. According to Neighborhood Scout, Oxford has a crime rate that is higher than 87% of the state's cities and towns of all sizes. Additionally, the national median of crimes per square mile last year was 28.3; Ohio overall was 27. Oxford was 93! And according to College Factual, out of 1,916 universities, only 40 had higher off-campus crime and safety incidences. While these are only statistics, I've personally been a victim. Last Thursday, I was informed that another one of my properties had been burglarized, which makes 4 burglaries in 9 months and I only have 6 properties. It had been 0 in prior 5 years.

This is becoming known amongst Miami students as this past summer, half of my rentals (well, their parents) requested secondary external deadbolt locks and two wanted a security system. This is a concern amongst students and it's no secret that if Miami University fails, Oxford fails.

Specifically, these burglaries seem to be occurring on the North side of town and only during Winter & Spring breaks, which was further supported when speaking with an Oxford policer officer. I'm not sure what can be done, but something needs to be done. Perhaps conducting a crime impact analysis report to determine ramifications of this scary trend; drastically increased patrolling during breaks, beyond the resident request form on the website; or harsher sentencing; but likely it's more about community outreach and supporting those who are struggling and making poor decisions.

I understand the challenge at stake as a few years ago, I worked for the South African government and was responsible for the country's tourism relations in the Western half of the United States. The destination was and is stricken with its own safety and security concerns, on a much larger stage than Oxford, Ohio. However, I can tell you if this is not addressed soon, it will be too difficult to overcome.

As someone who loves this town, I'm struggling. The investor in me wants to mitigate risk and get out. But when Doug does his walk-throughs for rental permits and comments on how I've improved upon the exterior of 3 houses which had previously received citations, I know that what I'm doing is helping the community. I'm just asking for the community to help itself so I can continue to be a part of this quintessential town, one that I truly love and support.

Thank you.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Smith for his comments.

### **Consent Agenda.**

Minutes of the December 15, 2020 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

#### **Minutes**

Report regarding the December 8, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

#### **Report**

Report regarding the December 9, 2020 Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

#### **Report**

Report regarding the December 10, 2020 Recreation Board Meeting. (Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director)

#### **Report**

Report regarding the December 16, 2020 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

#### **Report**

Ms. Southard moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Snavelly seconded. The motion passed 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)

### **Resolutions.**

A Resolution establishing Acorn Circle as a Residential Permitted Parking Zone, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones shared his screen and advised the residents of Acorn Circle petitioned the City to establish a residential parking permitted area for their street at the dead-end of Arrowhead Drive

noting there were 16 houses on the double cul-de-sac. Chief Jones advised there had been several parking complaints of non-residents parking on the street making it difficult for the residents. Chief Jones noted occupancy studies were performed as required by Ordinance and discussed the outcome of those studies. Chief Jones advised a Public Hearing was held on December 7 by the Oxford Parking and Transportation Advisory Board (OPTAB) noting one resident spoke in favor of the petition and another resident requested some clarification. Chief Jones noted the OPTAB voted 7-0 to recommend City Council approval of making this a RPP area. Chief Jones advised in a RPP area signs are posted indicating it is not a street for public parking and noted a permit is needed to park there. Chief Jones advised if residents wish to park on the street they can purchase a permit for \$15.00 annually, which comes with a guest permit. Chief Jones noted this was a resident driven program not something staff seeks out although staff recommends this become a RPP area at the request of the residents. There were no comments from the petitioners. The following e-comment was received prior to the meeting: Comments submitted on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 - 2:57pm:

- **Name:** Shana Rosenberg
- **Address:** 1036 Arrowhead Drive
- **Email Address:** shanarosenberg@gmail.com
- **Meeting Date:** Tue, 01/05/2021
- **Agenda Item:** Resolution establishing Acorn Circle as a Residential Permitted Parking Zone, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week
- **Comments:**

I have lived at the end of Arrowhead Drive near Acorn Circle since 1998. When Miami is in session, there has always been an increase of cars using street parking in front of our house. At times, we have to park our cars on Acorn Circle in order to accommodate guests in our driveway. We have the same parking issues that residents of Acorn Circle have with street parking being used by non-residents. We did notice that since Chestnut Place and The Verge were built that the student parking has encroached upon Acorn Circle as well. I am not opposed to Acorn Circle becoming residential parking only, but I would like to see that Arrowhead residents in a single family or two family dwelling also be allowed to get the permit. Mr. Snavelly inquired if a minimum number of units in a zone were required for a RPP to be established. Chief Jones advised no, although over 50% of the residents in the zone must sign the petition. Mr. Snavelly inquired if someone who does not live on that street can apply for and get a permit to park there. Chief Jones referred to the e-comment submitted by Ms. Rosenberg and advised she would have to petition with her neighbors to make Arrowhead Drive a RPP area or possibly borrow someone's guest permit for Acorn Circle.

**Ms. Sandra Mohr**, 3849 Oxford Millville Road, inquired if the apartment complexes in this area did not provide enough parking for the residents and their guests making them park on the street. Mr. Prytherch advised the zoning code requires a certain amount of off-street parking per land uses. Mr. Prytherch noted it is not assumed that apartment complexes can absorb every single guest. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt parking on the street was healthier than having parking lots everywhere. Mr. Prytherch noted creating a Residential Permitted Parking zone was a resident driven process and advised the spirit of what it is supposed to do is protect residents in high density areas through a methodical process.

Ms. Southard moved to adopt Resolution No. 7246. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Resolution 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)

Staff Report/Resolution

A Resolution of Council authorizing the suspension of Revolving Loan Fund payments for the duration of the Ohio State of Emergency. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Greene advised she met with the Community Improvement Corporation to discuss how to handle the Revolving Loan fund payments during the continued pandemic. Ms. Greene noted the

payments were suspended earlier in the year as a short term solution and advised now that it is a longstanding pandemic the CIC would like to align it with the Executive Order in the State of Ohio and suspend the payments during the state of emergency and reinstate them once that has been lifted. Ms. Greene advised there were two larger revolving loan fund loans, one with MoonCo-op and one with Books and Brews. Ms. Greene noted there were three smaller rapid emergency loans with Red Ox, Books and Brews and Village West Framing. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Smith noted he felt all of Council supported this recommendation.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7247. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Resolution was adopted 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)

#### Staff Report/Resolution

A Resolution of Council authorizing the creation of a new position within the City of Oxford entitled Sustainability Coordinator. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Greene advised the proposed Resolution was in response to City Council's goal of climate sustainability. Ms. Greene noted with the work involved with the Global Covenant of Mayors, doing the greenhouse gas inventory and having both the Environmental Commission and the Climate Action Steering Committee staff felt it was time to establish a part-time Climate Sustainability Coordinator position to help move the goals along. Ms. Greene advised the primary role of this position would be to support the public boards and commissions, help the boards and commissions develop the Climate Action Plan and to help educate residents and the public about the actions the City is taking and keeping the public informed. Ms. Greene advised she based the job description on similar jobs in other southwest Ohio cities including the City of Hamilton, Ohio. There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Prytherch noted his support for the creation of this position noting he felt it would be money well spent.

Ms. Southard advised she felt this was a good step noting she was pleased that education was so much a part of it. Ms. Southard advised she felt it was good planning for the future noting this Council is much in favor of sustainability, which may not be the case in the future.

Mayor Smith noted he felt it was a good plan and commended staff for the amount of work they have gotten done so far without extra people.

Mr. Snavelly agreed with the other comments noting he was glad this person would assist the Environmental Commission because they have often talked about the fact that having more staff would be helpful.

Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Resolution No. 7248. Mr. Snavelly seconded. The Resolution was adopted 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)

### Staff Report/Resolution

A Resolution authorizing the release of a public improvement bond in the form of a letter of credit in the amount of \$1,049,981.27 for the Gaslight Avenue at Stewart Square Planned Development. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised the City currently holds the full amount of the public improvement bond. Mr. Dreisbach noted all of the work has been completed and the developer is requesting full release of the bond. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff recommends approval of the Resolution.

There were no comments from the petitioner or from the public.

Mayor Smith noted he has seen that all of the site improvements are complete including the pavilion with the built-in grills and landscaping and advised it looks very nice.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adopt Resolution No. 7249. Ms. Southard 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)

### Staff Report/Resolution

#### **Ordinances.**

First Reading.

An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement Between The City Of Oxford And Veer Investment, LLC For A Permanent Easement Over Portions Of Real Property As Set Forth In Exhibit "A" Attached Hereto And Labeled Easement #1 To Allow The Construction And Maintenance Of A New Sanitary Sewer System To Serve Said Property. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised the first three Ordinances for first reading are all related. Mr. Dreisbach shared his screen and displayed a map of the easements in question noting there were three Ordinances because three parcels were involved for utility easements. Mr. Dreisbach advised the proposed easements were along US27 S. at Southpointe Boulevard where construction is underway for a new gas station/convenience store. Mr. Dreisbach noted the utility easements would provide access to utilities for the three parcels. Mr. Dreisbach advised the first Ordinance was for Veer Investment, LLC and the other two were for the benefit of Hotel Development Services, LLC.

There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Smith clarified that the sanitary sewer has to go across three properties which was why there were three different Ordinances, one for each section.

There were no comments or questions from Council and Mayor Smith advised Council would consider the Ordinance in two weeks.

### Staff Report/Ordinance

An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement Between The City Of Oxford And Hotel Development Services, LLC For A Permanent Easement Over Portions Of Real Property As Set Forth In Exhibit "A" Attached Hereto And Labeled Easement #2 To Allow The Construction And

Maintenance Of A New Sanitary Sewer System To Serve Said Property. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Ms. Southard noted part of the property in question was located in Oxford Township and inquired if that affected this in any way. Mr. Elliott advised it was an agreement with the property owner and advised the City did not need permission from the township to move forward with the easement.

#### Staff Report/Ordinance

An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement Between The City Of Oxford And Hotel Development Services, LLC For A Permanent Easement Over Portions Of Real Property As Set Forth In Exhibit "A" Attached Hereto And Labeled Easement #3 To Allow The Construction And Maintenance Of A New Sanitary Sewer System To Serve Said Property. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

There were no comments or questions from the public.

Mr. Snavely inquired if all three properties were part of the development of a gas station/convenience store. Mr. Dreisbach advised the development only involved easement #1. Mr. Dreisbach noted he felt when Hotel Development Services, LLC is ready to develop the other two lots they will want to annex into the City to get City Council authorization for utilities.

#### Staff Report/Ordinance

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3600. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 1 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2021. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin addressed his staff report as presented on pages 61-62 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments or questions from the public or from Council. Mayor Smith noted Council would consider the proposed Ordinance in two weeks.

#### Staff Report/Ordinance

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1147 Entitled Conditional Uses And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1147 Entitled Conditional Uses. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised Ordinances Number 5-9 deal with two packages of amendments which staff presented to the Planning Commission at their November and December meetings. Mr. Perry noted the bulk of the changes are for clarification to assist staff in the day to day operation of their work and to allow enforcement to be more consistent. Mr. Perry advised in some cases the proposed amendments will affect the BZA's workload and in others it is simply a matter of clarification. Mr. Perry noted a lot of amendments were done in 2014 which dealt with parking and another set of amendments were done in 2017 as part of the changes to the eastern half of the Mile Square. Mr. Perry advised these amendments were coming on the tail-end of those much larger, more policy focused amendments. Mr. Perry discussed the proposed changes to Chapter 1147 (Conditional Uses) as presented on pages 69-83 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Snavely advised he felt the amendments were well considered by the Planning Commission and were very good changes to the Ordinance.

Ms. Southard addressed some language on pages 74-78 of Council's packet noting she felt these items should be cleaned up or clarified before the proposed Ordinance is adopted.

Mr. Prytherch commended staff and especially Mr. Moore noting he put a lot of time into the proposed amendments as well as the Planning Commissioners. Mr. Prytherch addresses some parking issues and noted language was added which makes it clear that sidewalks need to be constructed in new developments. Mr. Prytherch advised he appreciated the refresh and the clean-up.

#### Staff Report/Ordinance

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1149 Entitled Parking And Site Access And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1149 Entitled Parking And Site Access. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry referred to amendments as presented on pages 84-97 of Council's packet noting the most significant change was the sidewalk requirement. Mr. Perry noted everything else was clarification and clean-up particularly with gravel parking and easements along property lines.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

#### Staff Report/Ordinance

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1141 Entitled Accessory, Temporary, Supplemental And Environmental Regulations And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1141 Entitled Accessory, Temporary, Supplemental And Environmental Regulations. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised the proposed amendments were 100% code clean-up as presented on pages 102-117 of Council's packet. Mr. Perry noted he felt the proposed amendments provide clarity and understanding regardless of who is working in the Community Development Department and who the applicant might be.

There no comments from the public or from Council.

#### Staff Report/Ordinance

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 1143 Entitled Districts. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised some of the dimensional standards within the Chapter lacked minimums and maximums and the proposed amendments will make staff interpretations more consistent. Mr. Perry noted there was not a lot frontage requirement for some of the districts which has been remedied with the proposed amendments.

There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Prytherch suggested adding standards for sheltered bicycle parking for future amendments. Mr. Perry advised he and Mr. Moore have discussed the issue internally and believe those standards would go in the Zoning District Chapter.

#### Staff Report/Ordinance

An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1159.05 Entitled Definitions (Beginning With The Letter "D"), Section 1159.17 Entitled Definitions (Beginning With The Letter "P"), And Section 1159.20 Entitled Definitions (Beginning With The Letter "S") In Chapter 1159 Entitled Definitions, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Section 1159.05 Entitled Definitions (Beginning With The Letter "D"), Section 1159.17 Entitled Definitions (Beginning With The Letter "P"), And Section 1159.20 Entitled Definitions (Beginning With The Letter "S") In Chapter 1159 Entitled Definitions. (Sam Perry, Community

Development Director)

Mr. Perry advised the amendments include definitions for Patios, Decks and Stoops noting those will be spelled out clearly so staff knows what standards apply in what situation.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

#### Staff Report/Ordinance

Second Reading. – None.

**Remarks from City Council and City staff. The comments expressed by individual members of Council or City staff during this portion of a City Council meeting do not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Oxford, The Oxford City Council, or the City staff.**

#### **Announcements & Communications.**

**Mr. Elliott wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mr. Elliott paraphrased a Thomas Jefferson quote 'I like the dreams of the future year better than the history of the past year'.**

**Mr. Elliott updated everyone on the remediation project at 110 E. High Street (former Follett's Bookstore) noting the sidewalk will be replaced as the weather permits.**

**Mr. Elliott updated everyone on an issue related City's Electric Aggregation program and advised a note was included on the City's utility bill which referred people to the City's website or encouraged them to call the City Manager's office if they had any questions.**

**Mr. Elliott updated everyone on Covid-19 statistics and the proposed vaccine schedule for Butler County. Mr. Elliott encouraged everyone to remain vigilant with mask wearing, social distancing and frequent hand washing.**

**Chief Jones noted he would respond to Mr. Joshua Smith's earlier comments. Chief Jones advised Mr. Smith was frustrated with some of his properties being broken into. Chief Jones noted OPD understands his frustration as a landlord. Chief Jones advised Mr. Smith was 2004 graduate of Miami University noting in 2004 Chief Jones was a young patrolman working third shift and assured Mr. Smith that OPD was dealing with about the same number of burglaries back then. Chief Jones noted it was unfortunate that Oxford gets hit hard during Miami University breaks. Chief Jones advised the officers work hard and it is very frustrating for them noting they patrol with MUPD, check houses, and do foot patrols. Chief Jones noted headway was made today in making two arrests that will clear several burglaries. Chief Jones thanked Mr. Smith for bringing the issue up.**

**Ms. Greene extended an invitation to an Oxford Areas Trail Update meeting on Tuesday, January 12 at noon. Ms. Greene advised she and Engineer, Scott Otto would present plans for Phase III and IV of the trail.**

**Ms. Greene advised the new website project was moving along nicely noting the goal was to have it completed the first part of 2021.**

**Ms. Greene said a sad goodbye to intern Gretchen and hello to a new intern Alex noting these young ladies have been invaluable in helping staff write website content and manage social media.**

**Mr. Perry advised staff was making progress on the Comprehensive Plan update for 2021 noting he, Ms. Greene and Mr. Moore meet on a weekly basis to work on the framework and next steps.**

Ms. Raghu referred Joshua Smith's comments and advised she made a call when she saw someone suspicious creeping around the back of her house and noted the police made an arrest within a few hours breaking into someone's house. Ms. Raghu advised OPD does what they can to stop these crimes although she felt the more poverty and substance abuse there is the more these types of crimes will increase. Ms. Raghu inquired what could be done to invest in the community and inquired if these people are coming from outside the community what can be done to incentivize peppering long-term residents in the middle of the Mile Square. Ms. Raghu advised she lives in the Mile Square and she knows her two student neighbor properties are perfectly safe during breaks. Ms. Raghu noted she felt there was a multi-model approach such as having someone who works in town live in a vacant house. Ms. Raghu advised she felt there were solutions other than just relying on the police to constantly catch people.

Ms. Raghu referred to climate change and mitigation strategies and advised she felt the bulk of the problem is resting on the shoulders of the government which includes local government and on bigger corporations. Ms. Raghu noted as individuals there were things we can do such as drive less, eat less meats and have more control over the way we power our homes.

Ms. Raghu referred to the Solarized Silverton meetings noting they were open to anyone who wants to join in to have a reduction in the cost of their solar panels. Ms. Raghu noted solar panels provide clean energy that people own, they raise the property value of the home and homeowners do not have to worry about power outages. Ms. Raghu noted she was excited that someone was willing to create a program and work with people to make this a lot more affordable. Ms. Raghu advised this was a good time to get involved as a lot of grants were coming up and encouraged those interested to Google Solarize Silverton to lookup how to get involved. Ms. Raghu noted if people sign up before March they can get a free estimate for their homes.

Mr. Ellerbe advised he looked forward to the Oats Trail update as he was a big fan of it.

Mr. Ellerbe implored all constituents in the Oxford area to solicit the local businesses, restaurants and small shops noting it was a rough time for them. Mr. Ellerbe noted the businesses need assistance and patronage from the constituents.

Mr. Snavelly seconded Mr. Ellerbe's comment noting the businesses in town need everyone's patronage. Mr. Snavelly noted most of the restaurants will handle take-out orders if people are uncomfortable being inside.

Mr. Snavelly advised students would be back in town soon and noted his hope OPD will continue the enforcement of the Mask Ordinance. Mr. Snavelly thanked OPD for the job they did in the past regarding this issue.

Mr. Snavelly advised he has heard some of the bars in town are soliciting or taking reservations from large groups noting when the groups come in they believe because it is a reservation they do not need to follow the guidelines. Mr. Snavelly noted he did not believe that was true and advised he would like staff to verify that is not the case so those business owners will be aware of what the rules are.

Ms. Southard thanked City staff noting every one of the approximately 100 employees of the City has been working hard. Ms. Southard noted this year unlike previous years we have not been able to have the usual celebrations such as the Holiday Luncheon or the New Year's Eve Breakfast. Ms. Southard noted her hope City staff feels appreciated because she feels the citizens of Oxford do appreciate City staff very much. Ms. Southard thanked the City Manager for being so responsive noting whenever she passes on a comment or complaint by a citizen she gets a response very quickly which she appreciates.

Mr. Bracken encouraged everyone to stay strong in terms of avoiding COVID-19 and to keep practicing social distancing and wearing masks. Mr. Bracken noted there is light at the end of the tunnel because vaccines are coming. Mr. Bracken again encouraged everyone to stay safe.

Mr. Prytherch advised students were returning to town at the end of the month noting they would also start filtering back. Mr. Prytherch advised he knew Miami University was ready to aggressively test the students moving back to campus. Mr. Prytherch noted Miami was a day late and a dollar short on the off-campus students during the fall semester. Mr. Prytherch inquired if staff knew what the testing strategy was for off-campus students. Mr. Elliott advised Mr. Pickerill stated the on-campus students will be moving back in phases and they will be tested before they are permitted to move into their dorm. Mr. Elliott noted he will discuss the off-campus strategy with Mr. Pickerill and report back to Council.

Mr. Prytherch advised he was thinking about introducing a Resolution that formalizes some of the processes Council has been talking about to make planning more strategic. Mr. Prytherch noted staff and Council were investing a lot of time in a Comprehensive Plan which is a wonderful document although he felt methods need to be in place to meet the goals. Mr. Prytherch advised he would like Council to commit to doing an annual report at the beginning of the year noting Council did so much in 2020 that should be shared with the public. Mr. Prytherch advised he would like Council to commit to a way to have conversations about the budget far ahead of time. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt if Council was going to develop a Comprehensive Plan they need to have to have a way to implement it on an annual basis.

Mr. Prytherch noted he felt a Council Retreat should be scheduled sooner than later.

Mayor Smith thanked staff for the clarification email regarding the Electric Aggregation issue noting he felt it answered everyone's questions.

Mayor Smith encouraged everyone to be patient as we wait to hear exactly how the COVID-19 vaccines will be handled.

#### Future Meetings. (Virtual)

WED – Jan 6 Environmental Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

FRI – Jan 8 Community Improvement Corporation Meeting 12:00 p.m.

TUES – Jan 12 Public Arts Commission of Oxford Meeting 4:30 p.m.

TUES – Jan 12 Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

WED – Jan 13 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting 6:15 p.m.

THUR – Jan 14 Recreation Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.

MON – Jan 18 Holiday – City Offices Closed

TUES – Jan 19 City Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.

WED – Jan 20 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6:30 p.m.

#### Adjourn.

Mr. Snavelly moved to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Mr. Prytherch 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).**

Those members present: Mike Smith Mayor, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, Edna Southard, Jason Bracken, and William Snavely, Vice Mayor.

Those members excused: None.

Staff members present: None

Staff members excused: None.

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