OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Mike Smith on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Members participating were Jason Bracken, Glenn Ellerbe, David Prytherch, Chantel Raghu, William Snavely and Edna Southard.

Staff members participating were Doug Elliott, City Manager, Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager, Mike Dreisbach, Service Director, Joe Newlin, Finance Director, Sam Perry, Community Development Director, John Jones, Police Chief, John Detherage, Fire Chief, Casey Wooddell, Parks and Recreation Director, Chris Conard, Law Director and Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Snavely moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Southard 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)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kathie Brinkman, 404 Emerald Woods Drive, advised she was speaking on behalf of the Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice. Ms. Brinkman noted OCPJ was in favor of the Cold Shelter trial program that has been funded by the City of Oxford although they were concerned it would terminate at the end of February. Ms. Brinkman advised it was a much needed program and they understand it is being heavily used noting March was also typically a very cold month. Ms. Brinkman advised OCPJ would like to know if funding could be extended for another month ideally with use of City funds but falling back by private donations. Ms. Brinkman noted OCPJ was willing to work with the City on soliciting donations.

The following e-comments were received prior to the meeting:
Comments submitted on Monday, January 18, 2021 - 3:14pm:

- **Name: Pat Nelson**

- **Address: 28 Autumn Dr.**
- **Email Address:**
- **Meeting Date: Tue, 01/19/2021**
- **Agenda Item: A Resolution of the Council of the City of Oxford, Ohio, condemning the unlawful and violent attack on the U.S. Capitol Building**
- **Comments: I strongly support this resolution. Please support it.**
- **Position: Support**

Comments submitted on Monday, January 18, 2021 - 4:07pm:

- **Name: jerome and josette stanley**
- **Address: 5735 brown rd.**
- **Email Address: jerryjosette@gmail.com**
- **Meeting Date: Mon, 01/18/2021**
- **Agenda Item: resolution**
- **Comments:**

**We would like to add our names to the resolution
to condemn the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol**

- **Position: Support**

Public Comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the January 5, 2021 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Report regarding the January 6, 2021 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Ms. Southard moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Snavely 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)

Minutes of the January 5, 2021 City Council Meeting. (Mary Ann Eaton, Clerk of Council)

Minutes

Report regarding the January 6, 2021 Environmental Commission Meeting. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Report

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON
THE U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING**

A Resolution No. 7250 of the Council of the City of Oxford, Ohio, condemning the unlawful and violent attack on the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mayor Smith read the Resolution in its entirety as presented on page 25 of Council's packet.

Ms. Kathie Brinkman, 404 Emerald Woods Drive, noted she was speaking again on behalf of Oxford Citizens for Peace & Justice. Ms. Brinkman advised OCPJ supports the proposed Resolution and read a communication OCPJ sent to City Council members last week urging that such a Resolution be written as follows:
"We the Board of OCPJ call upon Oxford City Council to pass a Resolution denouncing the insurrection and violence that occurred in our nation's Capitol on January 6, 2021. Our organization was founded with a mission to educate and act locally to recruit and organize a citizens movement with the sustained political power to construct a world of peace with social, economic and environmental justice. We believe that individuals, organizations, cities and states across our nation have a moral obligation to go on record and take a stand against sedition and violence as well as those who practice it. In doing so, we as a city, as a nation and as a people send a clear signal that lawfully run elections are a cornerstone of our country, that we will not stand by while such elections are portrayed as unfair and we will hold accountable all who seek to upend them."

Ms. Brinkman added that the Resolution is important for all the reasons stated and we are grateful to live in a city that is willing to go on record as condemning such actions and those who perpetrate and encourage them. Ms. Brinkman stated what is also important to note is that Resolutions do not get to the root of what happened and the time leading up to it. Ms. Brinkman advised the actions of January 6 are unfortunately a continuing theme in our country of white supremacy, racism, and anti-Semitism. Ms. Brinkman noted until these issues are addressed we will continue to see actions such as these and advised it was on all of us individually and collectively to create a community that values all people and is intolerant of hate and oppression.

Ms. Barb Caruso, 6071 Booth Road, advised she was the current President of the Board of Oxford Citizens for Peace & Justice. Ms. Caruso noted her colleagues on the board asked her to introduce herself to Council and advised she was also speaking to support her colleague Kathie Brinkman and the work she has been doing with OCPJ. Ms. Caruso noted OCPJ appreciates Council bringing forward the proposed Resolution and advised we as a country are largely appalled by what happened on January 6, 2021. Ms. Caruso advised OCPJ believes it is important to officially both notice and name the particular offensiveness of the anti-Semitism, racism and white mostly male supremacy so evident in these events. Ms. Caruso noted to not do so tends to make invisible those particularly targeted and burdened by these events and advised OCPJ would welcome Council editing this Resolution to include both the generalization of American and the particularity of racism, anti-Semitism and white supremacy.

Mr. Snavely advised he was very much in favor of the Resolution and inquired with whom it would be shared. Mr. Elliott advised it would be sent to Oxford's two Senators and Representative.

Ms. Raghu thanked Ms. Caruso and Ms. Brinkman for their comments and thanked Mr. Elliott for his quick action in drafting the proposed Resolution. Ms. Raghu agreed with Ms. Caruso's suggested edits to the proposed Resolution and suggested it be shared with Miami University officials as she felt it would be good to have their solidarity and support in condemning white extremism as it seems to be a problem on their campus and in the area.

Ms. Southard moved to add to Section 1 after the word building "and the white supremacy, racism and anti-Semitism" and this assault on our democracy. Ms. Raghu seconded.

Mr. Ellerbe advised he would like to consolidate the white supremacism, the anti-Semitism and racism to say bigotry in all its forms. Mr. Ellerbe suggested the proposed Resolution be amended to read "bigotry in all its forms including white supremacy, racism and anti Semitism". Mr. Snavely seconded. Ms. Southard accepted the friendly amendment to her proposed amendment. Mr. Elliott suggested that a new Section 2 could read "Council further condemns bigotry in all its forms including white supremacy, racism and anti-Semitism." Mr. Ellerbe moved to accept Mr. Elliott's suggestion for Section 2 and Mr. Snavely seconded.

Mr. Prytherch thanked the Oxford Citizens for Peace & Justice for prompting Council to adopt the proposed Resolution.

Mr. Ellerbe moved to accept the amendments as presented. Mr. Snavely seconded. The motion passed 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)

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7250 as amended. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Staff Report/Resolution

RESOLUTION
STREET RENAMING

A Resolution No. 7251 accepting the recommendation of the Facility Naming Review Committee and honorably naming University Park Boulevard as Mike Davis Way. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott read his staff report into the record as follows:

"Council adopted Resolution No. 7224 on October 6, 2020. The Resolution established a Naming Review Committee composed of seven persons including three citizens; two former Oxford Mayors; one current member of City Council and the City Manager or designee as follows: Kevin McKeehan, Kate Rousmaniere, Mary Jane Roberts, Jim Squance, Dan Umbstead, Mike Smith and Doug Elliott. The naming committee was charged with providing a recommendation to City Council for naming or renaming a street after the late Mr. Mike Davis, Treasurer/CFO, of the Talawanda School District. The naming review committee held two virtual meetings, one on December 10, 2020 and one on January 4, 2021. After much discussion, the committee unanimously voted at the January 4 meeting to recommend to City Council that University Park Boulevard additionally be honorably named "Mike Davis Way". I recommend adoption of this Resolution. If adopted by Council, the City will provide a sign with a brown color background and install it. I will work with the committee and the family members to schedule a date for a formal presentation of the sign."

Mr. Elliott advised he asked Mary Jane Roberts, Vice Chair of the Talawanda School Board to make a few comments about Mr. Davis and is involvement with the Talawanda School District and with the community.

Ms. Mary Jane Roberts, advised she appreciated the opportunity to share who Mike Davis was and how he positively impacted this wonderful community that we all love and read the following into the record: "Mr. Mike Davis joined Talawanda City School District as CFO/treasurer on July 1, 2007. His responsibilities at Talawanda included financial reporting, treasury and cash management, strategic financial planning, bondholder relations and construction project management. Working in his role of construction project management, he spent hundreds of hours at the new Talawanda High School site. As many of you know, there were concerns that slowed down the construction which Mike addressed daily with the construction company. He spent countless hours away from the other work he needed to do for his job so that we could have the wonderful high school we have. Before joining the public sector, Mike spent approximately 27 years in various senior financial positions with May Department Stores, Inc, Federated Department Stores (now Macy's) and Gordon Brothers Retail Partners located in Boston, MA. He was a graduate of Talawanda High School and received his BS in Business majoring in Accounting at Miami University Oxford. Mike was a member of Oxford Rotary Club, having served 2 terms as president. He also served as the Secretary on the Board of Directors for the Ohio School Plan which is Talawanda's School Insurance Plan. He was on the Board of Trustees for the Butler Health Plan which is the medical insurance consortium that Talawanda belongs to. He was also the Vice President of the Miami Valley OASBO(Ohio Association of School Business Officials) which is the trade association for public school business administrators. He was also on the Oxford Community Improvement Committee as well as a board member of the Oxford Tax Appeal. He attended the yearly Ohio School Boards Convention where he made many connections that were important to us in the Talawanda School District. This is where he talked with the Officers of the Butler Health Plan and pursued the possibility of getting it in our area. As a result we now have this available to us in Hamilton which is such a positive opportunity for the Talawanda District employees. As you have heard, Mike was very active in local and state arenas to assist him in making the best decisions possible for the Talawanda School District. His motto was making the best happen for Talawanda, the district that he loved."

Ms. Roberts thanked Council for the opportunity to share about Mike Davis.

Ms. Southard advised she was in favor of the proposed Resolution noting Mike Davis was a well respected person in the community who made major contributions. Ms. Southard noted Oxford lost many good citizens in 2020 and advised the issue memorializing people has come up in many contexts. Ms. Southard suggested creating a list for the City's website indicating what memorial opportunities are available such as a Memorial Tree at the Community Park or a Memorial Bench in the park or on the OATS trail through the Oxford Community Foundation. Ms. Southard noted there are scholarships for students and there is a memorial garden at McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital.
Ms. Southard advised there were many ways to remember people in the community.

Mr. Prytherch advised street renaming was not done lightly in the City of Oxford although Oxford does not often lose citizens of such stature noting the contributions to the community by Mike Davis were so evident. Mr. Prytherch advised not only in the school system but those who served alongside of him on boards or fraternal organizations know how freely he gave of his time to his community. Mr. Prytherch thanked the Naming Review Committee and all of those who worked on this initiative.

Mayor Smith as a member of the Naming Review Committee advised there was a lot of debate about other members of the community and whether this would be a permanent change to the street name or whether it would be an honorary name change. Mayor Smith noted the committee settled on an honorary designation which negates changing all of the plats and all of the addresses. Mayor Smith advised he felt it was as much a memorial to those we have lost to Covid than it is to Mike Davis since he passed as a result of the virus.

<u>Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Resolution No. 7251. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:</u>

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Staff Report/Resolution

RESOLUTION
E-SCOOTER PROGRAM

A Resolution No. 7252 of the Council of the City of Oxford, Ohio, authorizing the City Manager to extend the Pilot Program for the Micro-Mobility Shared Transportation Program. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Mr. Elliott advised the City of Oxford began an E-Scooter sharing program in 2018 and noted the program has operated via extension of a Pilot Program, requiring the annual passage of a Council Resolution and issuing annual permits to third-party vendors. Mr. Elliott advised this program was extended in September of 2019 and re-named the "Micro-Mobility Shared Transportation Program", to better encompass all available options and technologies.

Mr. Elliott noted under this program's permits, vendors are required to adhere to strict guidelines regarding daily vehicle operation and data sharing. Mr. Elliott advised at this time Council action is required in order for the City Manager to enter into any new agreements to proceed with an E-Vehicle sharing program.

Mr. Elliott noted the outcomes of the current program have exceeded the expectations of the third-party vendors as well as provided a valuable service to Miami University students.

Mr. Elliott recommended that Council approve the extenuation of the Pilot Program through January 16, 2022 noting at some point language would be drafted to put in place a permanent Micro-Mobility Shared Transportation Program.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Raghu inquired if Mr. Elliott had numbers on how the third-party vendors have done over time. Mr. Elliott advised usage dropped off significantly as a result of Covid noting he would send the information to Council.

Mr. Snavely inquired if staff had a record of citizen complaints about the scooters noting he has heard several complaints about scooters being left in handicapped ramps. Mr. Elliott advised staff had many of the complaints received noting many of them were about where the scooters were left. Mr. Elliott advised that issue was challenging and noted the City may have to start impounding scooters that are not parked correctly.

Ms. Greene advised the geo-fencing technology in the Uptown and campus areas has improved significantly noting she rode a scooter onto the campus and noted if the scooter was not parked in a bike rack it would not turn off, the meter would keep running. Ms. Greene further noted once it was parked property she had to take a picture of it to prove it was in a bike rack. Ms. Greene advised staff could work with the vendor to expand the geo-fenced areas.

Mr. Snavely advised he was willing to support the one year extension although he would like some monitoring of it.

Ms. Southard noted her support for the proposed Resolution and advised the program was originally in response to a Miami student initiative. Ms. Southard advised it was a way to reduce the number of cars which was very much within Council's Transportation Plan. Ms. Southard acknowledged the issue of the scooters being left in inappropriate places and noted her hope that would be monitored and resolved.

Mr. Prytherch moved to adopt Resolution No. 7252. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Staff Report/Resolution

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH SUNESIS

A Resolution No. 7253 accepting the bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Sunesis Construction Co. for road improvements to US27 at a cost of $3,332,333.74 plus a contingency in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the contract price or $333,233.00 for a total cost not to exceed $3,665,566.74. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised this project has taken several years to come to fruition noting Miami University conducted a traffic engineering study with a focus on pedestrian safety in 2017. Mr. Dreisbach shared his screen and provided a detailed presentation of the project which is also outlined on pages 31-38 of Council's packet. Mr. Dreisbach advised grant funding from ODOT would pay $250,000 of the City's portion of the paving project, grant funding from ODOT would pay $1,000,000 towards the pedestrian safety improvements and Miami University would pay for all other project costs except for the City's share of Urban Paving. Mr. Dreisbach advised with Council approval construction will begin in May and hopefully be complete prior to Miami's fall semester. Mr. Dreisbach offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Brandon Flessner, 5480 Brown Road, advised Council to table or vote against the proposed Resolution or at least send it the Parking and Transportation Advisory Board for further review. Mr. Flessner noted he felt there were a number of issues with it including safety. Mr. Flessner advised islands have been constructed in Oxford since the summer of 2017 and he felt there has not been any demonstrated safety benefits. Mr. Flessner referred to the set of islands built on S. Patterson in 2018 and noted there had never been any bike or pedestrian involved crashes along that corridor. Mr. Flessner advised he did not know if there has been since although if there has it makes safety worse for bikes and pedestrians. Mr. Flessner noted two weeks after after that set of islands were open to the public an Oxford to You driver slammed into their tower proving that these are actually more dangerous for cars. Mr. Flessner advised residents have complained about pedestrian visibility from these islands and Miami has admitted that their plantings were too tall along S. Patterson Avenue. Mr. Flessner noted there was data that says there is little or no safety benefit and residents do not feel there is a safety benefit. Mr. Flessner advised islands slow traffic down for cars and inquired with marginal safety benefits why would we make things worse for cars. Mr. Flessner noted the islands create odd traffic patterns and would eliminate the left turn into the Roudebush parking lot and other areas which will cause illegal U-turns around the islands. Mr. Flessner advised a transit priority signal would be installed at Tallawanda and High Street and advised he felt it was a missed opportunity to install fully adaptive traffic signals along this corridor. Mr. Flessner reiterated he felt Council should reconsider the proposed project.

Mr. Dreisbach advised no one design is going to be perfect and noted there were pros and cons to what we do and how we manage moving the most vehicles through in the safest manner and increase safety for pedestrians. Mr. Dreisbach noted vehicular traffic would be improved by removing the number of crosswalks on E. High Street and advised there would be 4 crosswalks instead of 7. Mr. Dreisbach noted the area in question can be dangerous at night or in foggy conditions and advised this project will include new LED street and pedestrian lighting throughout the project. Mr. Dreisbach referred to traffic detection and noted the intersection of Spring, SR73 and Patterson was very complicated and there was detection at that intersection on SR73 and on Spring Street. Mr. Dreisbach advised if a vehicle pulls up and stops appropriately the signal will recognize the traffic there and begin the change to a green light. Mr. Dreisbach noted otherwise the light will stay green on Patterson Avenue.

Mr. Prytherch advised in previous iterations of this project, applying for the grant, Miami University employees recused themselves and inquired if active Miami University employees should recuse from this discussion and vote. Mr. Conard inquired what the funding sources were. Mr. Dreisbach advised $1,000,000 from ODOT and the urban paving portion will be $250,000 from ODOT as well as $250,000 from the City. Mr. Dreisbach noted all other expenses will be paid by Miami University. Mr. Conard noted he felt it was an issue.

Mr. Snavely inquired what the approximate amount was that Miami University would pay. Mr. Dreisbach advised $1.8 million.

Mr. Prytherch, Mr. Ellerbe and Mr. Bracken recused themselves as Miami University employees.

Mr. Prytherch withdrew his motion to adopt the proposed Resolution.

<u>Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7253. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call:</u>

AYE: Ms. Southard, Ms. Raghu, Mr. Snavely, Mayor Smith (4)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Staff Report/Resolution

RESOLUTION
CONTRACT WITH
LARRY SMITH, INC.

A Resolution No. 7254 accepting the bid and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Larry Smith, Inc. for the improvement of two culverts under College Corner Pike at a cost of $167,990.00 plus a contingency amount of $7,010.00 for a total cost not to exceed $175,000.00. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised in conjunction with ODOT the City performs inspections of all culverts on an annual basis noting these two culverts on N. 27 were found to be in deteriorating condition. Mr. Dreisbach advised staff applied for a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and was successful in obtaining a grant not to exceed $103,250.00. Mr. Dreisbach noted the OPWC would pay approximately 59% of the project cost and local funds would be used for the remainder. Mr. Dreisbach noted 6 bids were received for the project with Larry Smith, Inc. providing the best and lowest bid.

There were no comments from the public.

Ms. Southard referred to page 41 of Council's packet and inquired what that Resolution was for. Mr. Dreisbach advised it was a reminder that Council approved staff applying for the grant.

Mr. Prytherch expressed his gratitude for the diligence of the Service and Engineering Department for getting the most infrastructure for the least amount of money at the highest quality. Mr. Dreisbach complimented City Engineer, Scott Otto noting he was very good at writing competitive grant applications.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Resolution No. 7254. Ms. Southard seconded. The Resolution was adopted 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)

Staff Report/Resolution

Ordinances.

First Reading – None.

Second Reading.

ORDINANCE
EASEMENT AGREEMENT

An Ordinance No. 3604 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 this and the next two Ordinances were similar and would provide utility easements for new development along Southpointe Boulevard at U.S.27. Mr. Dreisbach noted there were no changes sine the first reading of the proposed Ordinance.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3604. 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)

Staff Report/Ordinance

ORDINANCE
EASEMENT AGREEMENT

An Ordinance No. 3605 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)

Mr. Dreisbach advised he had no additional comments.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

<u>Ms. Southard moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3605. Mr. Snavely seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:</u>

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

<u>Staff Report/Ordinance</u>

<u>ORDINANCE</u>
<u>EASEMENT AGREEMENT</u>

An Ordinance No. 3606 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)

Mr. Dreisbach advised he had no additional comments.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

<u>Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3606. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:</u>

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

<u>Staff Report/Ordinance</u>

<u>ORDINANCE</u>
<u>SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET</u>

An Ordinance No. 3607 Amending Ordinance No. 3600. Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 1 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2021. (Joe Newlin, Finance Director)

Mr. Newlin discussed is staff report as presented on pages 71-71 of Council's packet and offered to answer any questions.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

<u>Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3607. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was</u>

adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Staff Report/Ordinance

ORDINANCE
NEW CHAPTER 1147

An Ordinance No. 3608 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 through Councilor Southard's review of the proposed Ordinance staff corrected an error in the language as it was presented on January 5, 2021. Mr. Perry thanked Councilor Southard for bringing this to staff's attention. Mr. Perry advised there were no other changes to the proposed Ordinance.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3608. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Ordinance was adopted 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)

Staff Report/Ordinance

ORDINANCE
NEW CHAPTER 1149

An Ordinance No. 3609 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 advised there were no changes since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3609. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted 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)

Staff Report/Ordinance

ORDINANCE
NEW CHAPTER 1141

An Ordinance No. 3610 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 there were no changes since the first reading of the proposed Ordinance.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3610. 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)

Staff Report/Ordinance

ORDINANCE
NEW CHAPTER 1143

An Ordinance No. 3611 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 he had no additional comments.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3611. Ms. Southard seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)
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Staff Report/Ordinance

ORDINANCE
AMENDED CHAPTER 1159

An Ordinance No. 3612 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 he no additional comments.

There were no comments from the public or from Council.

Mr. Snavely moved to adopt Ordinance No. 3612. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The Ordinance was adopted by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Staff Report/Ordinance

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Discussion – Alternative land use of a portion of Merry Day Park as recommended by the Environmental Commission. (Mike Dreisbach, Service Director)

Mr. Dreisbach advised at the January 6, 2021 meeting of the Environmental Commission there was discussion of alternative uses of public lands for the purpose of community gardens, pollinator gardens and/or natural habitats. Mr. Dreisbach noted Merry Day Park was suggested as a potential location given its relative underutilization as a recreation area, its proximity to parking areas and proximity to the Family Resource Center, Food Pantry and a new proposed TOPSS building. Mr. Dreisbach advised details of this discussion are on page 20-21 of Council's packet, in the Environmental Commission Meeting Report. Mr. Dreisbach noted a motion was made and approved by the Environmental Commission as follows:

The Environmental Commission respectfully recommends that the Oxford Recreation Board and City Council considers the alternative land use of a portion of Merry Day Park as community and pollinator gardens and natural habitats. The Commission further suggests that the Recreation Board and City Council allow time for presentations by Mr. Olson, Mr. O'Malley, and Mr. Hall.

Mr. Dreisbach advised he included in Council's packet an agreement with the former owner of this parcel, Mr. Ray Day, which details stipulations about the transfer of this parcel including that it be used for recreational and leisure activities. Mr. Dreisbach offered to answer any questions.

Mr. Snavely inquired how much of the land would be used for such gardens. Ms. Raghu advised it would start very small so it would not impede on the children that do use the open field. Ms. Raghu noted Mr. Hall is working with the City of Hamilton and is already doing these projects on City owned property. Ms. Raghu advised Mr. Olson and Mr. O'Malley are associated with TOPPS and the Farmers Market.

Mr. Bracken advised this could be incremental in terms of land usage. Mr. Bracken noted input from the stakeholders such as residents of the mobile home park and other neighbors would be solicited.

Mr. Prytherch noted his support for this initiative. Mr. Prytherch noted these projects are easier said than done and require a management strategy. Mr. Prytherch advised he felt the Environmental Commission should work with the Service and Engineering Department and the Parks and Recreation Department on the managerial aspects of such a project. Mr. Prytherch noted he felt a stakeholder such as TOPPS would be needed as well.

Mr. Dreisbach concurred this area was underutilized at times although kids do play ball games there. Mr. Dreisbach advised the drainage in this area was very poor and will not support gardening in its current state. Mr. Dreisbach noted he felt it would take $10,000 to $15,000 to improve the drainage enough to support gardening activities.

After further discussion Mr. Wooddell advised he agreed that gardening could be a leisure activity and would fit within the scope of the park. Mr. Wooddell noted he felt repurposing public land into something like a produce garden is a good use of space that may be underutilized and advised there would still be plenty of green space left available. Mr. Wooddell noted he felt the Family Resource Center should be consulted since at one point they had a community garden and they possibly still operate one. Mr. Wooddell noted if Council would like he was happy to bring this matter to the February Recreation Board meeting and ask for their advice.

Mr. Snavely suggested the interested parties work with the Recreation Board and TOPSS and other entities that might be interested and involved and come up with a proposal for Council to consider.

Mr. Bracken advised the Family Resource Center has a community garden and would like to see it expanded.

Staff Report/Pertinent Documents

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Elliott referred to the cold shelter project Ms. Brinkman noted concern with and advised staff would check with the Family Resource Center to see how much CARES Act funding they still had. Mr. Elliott advised the deadline to use the funds was extended to December 31, 2021.

Mr. Elliott noted a lot of people have questions about the vaccination program for COVID and advised staff does not have a lot of answers right now because it depended on the supply. Mr. Elliott noted the vaccine rollout may be slow due to the supply. Mr. Elliott advised McCullough-Hyde Hospital has a call number which is 862-6843 to make an appointment once vaccines are available. Mr. Elliott encouraged everyone to continue masking, avoiding large gatherings and to wash hands frequently. Mr. Elliott advised the number for the Kroger pharmacy is 1-866-211-5320 to make appointments for a vaccine.

Mr. Dreisbach thanked the Streets and Maintenance Division noting in between minisnowstorms they re-poured the concrete at 110 E. High Street where the underground storage tank work was completed, saving the City some money. Mr. Dreisbach noted the Streets and Maintenance Division also installed concrete foundations for new radar display devices which will be installed on Fairfield Road.

Mr. Dreisbach advised work was complete at High Street and Patterson Avenue noting staff did some brick maintenance work there on the southwest corner.

Mr. Wooddell advised his department was working on some facility enhancement projects at the TRI Building noting a lot of the details are not yet fully determined. Mr. Wooddell advised they were working on funding and finalized plans and would share the information at a later date.

Ms. Greene advised the City and Miami University were invited to the third round of the JobsOhio funding application noting they will be presenting to JobsOhio On January 29. Ms. Greene noted Oxford was 1 of 98 communities invited to apply and only 10 have made it to the third round. Ms. Greene advised between 4-5 communities will be awarded up to 2 million dollars noting if awarded Oxford would use it for the Elm Street project.

Ms. Greene noted for those who sent her ideas for the annual report she has sent a draft to the graphic designer to mark -up something for review.

Ms. Greene advised the PCRRC established a work group to tackle the task assigned to them in the Resolution Council adopted regarding a new chapter in the comp plan for a safe, healthy and equitable Oxford. Ms. Greene noted they will meet every other week through spring of 2021.

Mr. Perry advised there were 6 or so housing projects in various stages of review noting housing for everyone was one of Council's goals. Mr. Perry advised he felt it would be interesting to see how they they affect the supply, demand and cost which was something he would look at closely over the next year.

Mr. Perry thanked staff, inspectors and landlords who have been cooperative and patient in getting housing inspections done noting it has not been easy with COVID, distancing and all the necessary safety precautions.

Mr. Conard noted in an abundance of caution he felt the decision for Councilors to recuse earlier this evening was the right one. Mr. Conard clarified portions of the legal opinion regarding this matter.

Mr. Conard advised tomorrow's date was a 7 digit palindrome 1 20 2021.

Ms. Raghu inquired if there was a process in place to get excess vaccine doses to people and if there was anything Council could do to communicate how that process happens. Mr. Elliott advised staff keeps asking for information noting he did not think anyone had answers right now. Mr. Elliott advised McCullough-Hyde Hospital was still vaccinating their own staff which will affect the 80 and older group. Mr. Elliott noted people could fill out the Butler County Board of Health survey although it was not a way to sign up for a vaccination. Mr. Elliott suggested that people 80 and over call the phone numbers he provided. Mr. Elliott noted his hope the rollout would start increasing. Ms. Raghu advised there can be additional doses in a vial that were not initially accounted for and noted her hope there could be a way to equitably distribute those doses.

In honor of MLK Day, Ms. Raghu read a tweet written by Dr. Martin Luther King's daughter, Bernice King as follows: "Please don't act like everyone loved my father. He was assassinated. A 1967 poll reflected that he was one of the most hated men in America. Most hated. Many who quote him now and evoke him to deter justice today would likely hate, and may already hate, the authentic King."
Ms. Raghu noted if you ever wondered what you would be doing during the civil rights movement in the 1960's you do not have to look that far because you are doing it right now. Ms. Raghu read a quote from Ms. King as follows: "MLK Jr. was resolute about eradicating racism, poverty and militarism." Ms. Raghu noted it was a trying time for everyone although

she felt it was inspiring that we have such an ability to make a collective change towards fighting against racism, fighting for justice and eradicating poverty within our boundaries. Ms. Raghu advised in honor of MLK Day she felt it was important to remember what his true sentiments were.

Mr. Snavely advised COVID issues were on his mind noting he appreciated the update from the City Manager. Mr. Snavely advised talking to friends in other states it seems Ohio is woefully behind.

Mr. Snavely noted a lot of students were coming into town and advised he knew of one restaurant that was closed right now due to COVID. Mr. Snavely advised another restaurant may have to close because of COVID issues related to Miami University students. Mr. Snavely noted he felt Oxford was in a dangerous time and he hoped OPD will enforce mask wearing especially in lines at bars. Mr. Snavely advised 3 bars were making reservations for large groups of people and they all go in together which he felt were potential super spreader events that Council should be aware of.

Ms. Greene advised she and Chief Jones were doing an "Uptown Walk Around" this week to meet with bar owners to go through their past violations or areas of concern and also ask if they have any questions. Ms. Greene noted the Butler County Board of Health met with bar owners who wanted to make group reservations and gave them permission for that strategy. Ms. Greene advised patrons could come in and sit at different tables in groups of 10. Ms. Greene noted she and Chief Jones would work with bar owners on how to address the lines outside.

Mr. Snavely advised he supported the cold shelter program noting his hope the City could move forward with extending it.

Mr. Snavely noted today was a Day of Remembrance for people who have lost their lives to COVID and advised it was now over 400,000 in the United States. Mr. Snavely encouraged people to put a candle in their window to help memorialize and remember those who were lost.

Ms. Southard referenced the 400,000 men, women and children in the United States who have died of COVID-19 noting she was very pleased to see a Nation Day and a national acknowledgement. Ms. Southard advised she has talked about this for a long time and was appalled there had not been a national observance of this catastrophe. Ms. Southard noted the 400,000 people had families, children, spouses and parents which was a tremendous tragedy. Ms. Southard advised the memorial in Washington DC tonight was beautiful with 400,000 lights, one light for each person who has died.

Ms. Southard thanked City staff for providing help and information regarding the vaccine and the rollout noting her hope that would continue because it is very confusing.

Mr. Bracken noted more Americans have died in the last ten months than in all of WWII and advised there had been over two million deaths worldwide. Mr. Bracken asked everyone to take this seriously noting we were not at the peak of it yet and he hoped we were approaching it and getting over it soon especially with vaccines coming available. Mr. Bracken encouraged everyone to mask up, try to distance and get the vaccine when its their turn.

Mr. Bracken noted his support of sustaining the cold shelter program and the Wi-Fi program and advised he felt they were invaluable resources for the community.

Mr. Prytherch thanked everyone for their time in this evening's Work Session noting he felt their was consensus about Council's commitment to transparency in their processes. Mr. Prytherch advised he was not sure what the best way forward was noting it could be either/or a Resolution or something on the website.

Mayor Smith reminded everyone of Oxford's small part in the Civil Rights Movement of 1964. Mayor Smith noted if people have not visited the Freedom Summer Memorial on Miami's campus it is worth going to see as it tells a very good story.

Mayor Smith reminded everyone returning to Oxford there was still a 10:00 p.m. curfew, the mass gathering Ordinance was still in place as well as the mask Ordinance.

Mayor Smith wished everyone a safe inauguration day tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Snavely moved to adjourn at 9:48 p.m. Mr. Prytherch seconded. The motion passed by the following roll call:

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

NAY: None (0)

ABS: None (0)

Future Meetings. (Virtual)

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

THUR – Jan 21 Climate Action Steering Committee 9:30 p.m.

MON – Jan 25 Housing Advisory Commission Meeting 1:30 p.m.

TUES – Feb 2 City Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.

WED - Feb 3 Environmental Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

TUES – Feb 9 Public Arts Commission of Oxford Meeting 4:30 p.m.

TUES – Feb 9 Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m.

WED - Feb 10 Historic and Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting 6:15 p.m.

THUR –Feb 11 Recreation Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.

MON - Feb 15 Holiday – City Offices Closed

TUES – Feb 16 City Council Meeting 7:30 p.m.

WED - Feb 17 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting 6:30 p.m.

MON – Feb 22 Housing Advisory Commission Meeting 1:30 p.m.

Adjourn.