



**MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026 AT 7:00 PM**

1. Roll Call.

Motion – To Enter Executive Session at 6:28 p.m. O.R.C. 121.22(G)(6) Details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or public office

(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly

AYE # 7

Mr. Vinch, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Ms. Ornelas, Mr. Snavelly, and Mayor Smith

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Motion – To Return from Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. O.R.C. 121.22(G)(6) Details relative to the security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or a public office, if disclosure of the matters discussed could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the security of the public body or public office

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A work session meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Smith on Tuesday, Feb 17, 2026, at 7:02 p.m. Members in attendance were Amber Franklin, Roxanne, William Snavelly, Jim Vinch, Alex French, and Jason Bracken.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr.

Michael Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation Director; and Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council.

2. Topic

A. Discussion of Court Options

The City Council discussed options for local court services following Butler County's decision to relocate the Area I Court to Hamilton effective March 31, 2026. The City Manager outlined three primary options: allowing the court to move to Hamilton, pursuing the creation of a Municipal Court (which would require state legislative approval and significant financial investment), or establishing a locally operated Mayor's Court.

Council focused primarily on the Mayor's Court option, which could be created by local ordinance and would handle misdemeanor traffic and local ordinance violations. Discussion included startup costs, staffing needs, provision of public defenders when required, financial sustainability, and the potential to restore local control over diversion programming. Members also considered the impacts on residents, police operations, local businesses, and the use of the current municipal building.

While no final operational decisions were made during the Work Session, Council expressed interest in maintaining convenient, locally controlled court services and acknowledged that implementation would require a transition period and further administrative planning. Slides included in minutes.

3. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 7:28 p.m.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0