



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026 AT 7:30 PM

MEETING PROCEDURE: Comments from the Public are welcome at two different times during the course of the meeting: (1) Comments on items not on the Agenda, and Consent Agenda items, will be heard under Public Comments – and (2) Comments on all Resolutions and Ordinances will be heard during Council consideration of said item. Please wait until you are recognized by the Mayor, state your name and address so that your comments may be properly recorded and limit your remarks to a period of five minutes or less.

1. Roll Call.

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Smith on Tuesday, Feb 17, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Amber Franklin, Roxanne Ornelas, William Snavely, 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. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda.

Motion – To Approve the Agenda.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. Proclamation - 'Akiva Greenberg Bar Mitzvah Day'

Mr. Akiva Greenberg, 111 East Spring St. — Mr. Greenberg thanked the Council for the Proclamation. Mr. Greenberg noted that a bar mitzvah is a traditional rite of passage for a young Jewish boy or girl, marking the transition from childhood to responsibility. It is traditionally celebrated with family and friends, as this will be this weekend in Oxford. Mr. Greenberg wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Council for helping make Oxford such a wonderful city, and he is very proud to call Oxford his home.

B. Public Comments

The purpose of the public comments section is for members of the public to speak to the City Council on any subject not scheduled on the Agenda, except consent agenda items. To speak, you may approach the podium and wait to be addressed by the Mayor. You will need to state your name and address for the public record. City Council values your comments, and Council rules limit public comments to five minutes for each person. Presentations are not to be in the form of public debate, personal attacks on Council, City staff, or other members of the public, and Council shall not act except to direct the City Manager to take action or schedule the matter for discussion at a later date.

Public Comment — Mr. Tyreke Farquharson, 211 N. College Ave. — Mr. Farquharson presented a few updates from the Miami ASG. Mr. Farquharson thanked City Staff for their cooperation on the pave-the-way commitment and the lighting assessment. The recently established town-and-gown council has met a few times and is working on the Good Neighbor Campaign. The Good Neighbor Initiative is a prevention-focused initiative designed to reduce off-campus disturbances, strengthen trust among students, residents, the City of Oxford, and the University, and increase awareness of the policy. Mr. Farquharson mentioned that the ASG will focus on voters' rights and voter registration, and hopes to find ways to partner with the City on this initiative.

Public Comment — Mr. J. Marcus Jobe, 15 Olde Farm Road — Mr. Jobe moved into this residence in February 1993, but has lived in Oxford since 1984. Mr. Jobe wanted to comment on the January 29, 2026, Oxford Free Press article written by Aidan Cornue. The article reported a proposed cost of \$153,000.00 to install a sidewalk that would be located on nine homeowner lots in the Heritage subdivision, including his. Mr. Jobe stated that he did not receive any notification or inquiry from the Oxford City Government regarding the sidewalk matter. Or any authorized motivation for the project from the City Government. Mr. Jobe discussed with neighbors, and no homeowners amongst the nine immediately impacted by the proposed project or contacted by the City in advance of or during the now-planned sidewalk project. Mr. Jobe referenced the article, saying the City would need to find funding for this project, which would affect not just

the nine of us but the entire Oxford Community. Regarding the issue at hand, is it possible that the City's approach is that of a big government with no transparency and no authentic focus on the voter? An approach that cancels citizens' valuable input, creates unnecessary polarity, and is quite likely a huge financial waste. Could it be that City's approach matches the heavy-handed, centrally controlled administration methods, barriers to voices of reason from the public, so prevalent in the USSR. Now in the dustbin of history, largely due to their uninformed administrative tactics and strategies. Mr. Jobe stated that the USSR's methods are not welcome in Oxford. Mr. Jobe finished by appealing the proposed sidewalk project and stated that he is not going away.

Public Comment — Ms. Debbie Samland, 105 Olde Farm Road — Ms. Samland referenced the Oxford Free Press article appearing January 23rd that reported a \$153,000.00 pla to install a sidewalk on the lots of nine homeowners located on Olde Farm Road. Ms. Samland has been in contact with Mr. Elliott and has reached out to the homeowners impacted by this proposal from Contreras Road to 105 Olde Farm Road. Ms. Samland noted that several of these lots have fully mature, healthy, beautiful maple trees. Ms. Samland mentioned that the cost of the proposed sidewalk installation has been reported as \$153,000.00, and that homeowners would be responsible for 25% of that cost. This would make the total \$38,250.00, or \$4,250.00 per homeowner. Ms. Samland shared that three of the nine homes are owned by retirees. After speaking with the homeowners, she found that no one had been contacted in advance of this planning by the City, or formally advised of the cost or potential addition to their current Oxford City taxes or personal property taxes, and no homeowner reported wanting the sidewalk. Ms. Samland mentioned that Country Club Drive and Olde Farm Road are scheduled for repaving and costly curb and sidewalk repairs in the summer of 2026. Homeowners have historically also paid for these costly curb and sidewalk repairs. We see no reason for this to be a number one project that needs to be taken care of. Ms. Samland closed by saying that this proposed improvement is unnecessary, unwelcome, and will be a financial burden to all of us, especially the homeowners who are retired and on fixed incomes, as well as for the City of Oxford. Ms. Samland suggested the City Council suspend any follow-through on the Heritage sidewalk extension project. If this project is to be discussed again, we, the homeowners, want to be directly informed, not by a newspaper, and have an opportunity to give our input.

Public Comment — Mr. Jeremy Michael, 129 Country Club Drive — Mr. Michael shared that he had emailed each one of the City Councilors today with a five-point breakdown of why this plan does not make sense. Mr. Michael mentioned the historical inconsistency with this in that this neighborhood has existed for 60 years, and this has been a project that has not even remotely been requested by the residents of the neighborhood. With no documented history of any safety issues with that portion of the neighborhood. This creates a dangerous precedent for other neighborhoods within the City. If historical neighborhoods in the City have to accommodate or create sidewalks for accessibility, then there are several other neighborhoods that will also have to follow suit. Mr. Michael stated that he didn't believe those homeowners had asked for the same projects; this is not something that is being requested. So, where is the motivation coming from that makes this a number one priority for the City Council? Mr. Michael has documented over 15 instances and included seven of both modern and recent construction projects that have failed to meet the standard of safety, creating more than a three-inch step in between panels of the sidewalk. Those are the things that need to get addressed more than creating a project that wasn't requested. Mr. Michael noted the lack of justification or any supporting data for this. Has there been a study? Have we already addressed the fact that none of the residents have been

contacted about this project? So it looks really heavy-handed coming from a City Council that doesn't communicate with its constituents about a project that wasn't requested. Mr. Michael stated that the financial burden is obviously incredibly high, and we've already talked about that. Mr. Michael mentioned that his project goes against the Oxford Codified Ordinances of landscaping and tree preservation, as well as the tree preservation requirement that mandates that this Council has passed to remove the 600 year old trees, plus four additional trees to make room for this project. Additionally, it chokes the front of the neighborhood, and we will have to relocate all underground utilities there to make space. Mr. Michael finished by sharing that the installation of a sidewalk was just legally challenged in the state of Ohio last year, where repairs are a resident's responsibility or can be, but the installation of a new sidewalk is not. This also puts in the face of legal challenges that will come further down the road. Mr. Michael asked that the City Council listen to your residents, to make fiduciary decisions that make sense, and to table this project or identify a clear reason that it needs to be completed.

Public Comment — Mr. Chip Murray, 113 Country Club Drive — Mr. Murray noted that sidewalks are great, but without the trees on Olde Farm Road, it's not worth it, right? The gains that you get from minor safety that my neighbors and I would say are not needed right now, and the convenience of walking on a sidewalk versus the street, but to lose those trees would be tragic. Mr. Murray mentioned the costs, the liabilities, and the rest of it on the homeowners. Ask our neighbors if we want that. If a whole bunch of neighbors are lining up, saying we want sidewalks, I could possibly get on board eventually, but I really do not want them. Mr. Murray stated if the sidewalks are for recreational use, to wait for the bike path to be finished, and will be coming around wherever it ends up, and we can figure out other ways that we can get outdoors and walk there. We don't need sidewalks, and we certainly don't need to take out those trees that we've got up there right now. The value of a tree out in front of your yard, especially those big maples, is thousands of dollars. Some will argue that when you put in sidewalks, your property values go up a bit because that's more infrastructure for it all. Asking those homeowners to lose all those trees is not going to balance out. It is not worthwhile. Mr. Murray finished by saying that if the City of Oxford fixed all of the other problems in the City that could use \$160,000.00, then wants to have this conversation, we can do that down the road, but let's use that money elsewhere, anywhere else than our sidewalks. We don't need them.

Public Comment — Ms. Lindsey Thome, 2198 Mormon Road — Ms. Thome read a prepared statement into the record (statement is included in minutes). Ms. Thome mentioned that she would love to continue this conversation and help to be a solution in this issue.

5. Consent Agenda.

All matters under the Consent Agenda are considered by the City Council to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. Any City Council member may, however, remove an item from consent by request. Items removed for separate discussion will be considered after the motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion – To Approve the Consent Agenda.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 7

NAY # 0
ABS # 0

- A. Minutes from the January 30, 2026, City Council Retreat Work Session (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

- B. Minutes from the February 3, 2026, City Council Meeting (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

- C. A Resolution Approving Then And Now Certificates For Purchase Orders Issued Above \$3,000 Where An Invoice Was Received Prior To The Purchase Order Date, As A Requirement Of Ohio Revised Code 5705.41 (d) (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Oxford, Ohio, Accepting The 2026 Action Items Toward The Comprehensive Plan As Exhibit A And Accepting The 2027 Research Items As Exhibit B (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7790.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Snively 2nd Ms. French
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Ms. Greene presented her staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- B. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Execute An Amended And Reinstated Lease Agreement As Described In Exhibit A, Between The City Of Oxford, Ohio, And CSX Transportation, Inc. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7791.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Snavely 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Ms. Greene presented her staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- C. A Resolution Accepting The Proposal And Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With Pros Consulting Inc. For The Parks And Recreation Master Plan And Conceptual Feasibility Analyses For The TRI Community Center and TRI Community Center Site (Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7792.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Smith presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- D. A Resolution Accepting The Bid And Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With Alpha Construction Indiana, Inc. For The Installation Of Equipment And Materials To Remove Phosphorus From The City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent As Required By The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency At A Cost Of \$599,950.00 Plus A 10% Contingency In The Amount Of \$59,995.00 For A Total Cost Not To Exceed \$659,945.00. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7793.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Dreisbach presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- E. A Resolution Authorizing A Payment Of \$111,096.73 To The Conservation Fund In Conjunction With The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ohio Department Of Transportation, And The Construction Of The Oxford Area Trail System (Phase V). (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7794.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Dreisbach presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

7. Ordinances.

Ordinances are adopted using a two-step procedure. First reading introduces the Ordinance and provides an opportunity for public input on the subject as well as allowing Council to request more information as needed. Second reading is to provide Council with the opportunity to consider new information and to deliberate.

A. First Reading

1. An Ordinance Accepting The Annexation Petition From Miami University For 157.217 Acres Of Land In The Township Of Oxford, Butler County Ohio, And Accepting Said Territory To Be Annexed. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Mr. Elliott presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

2. An Ordinance Approving A Six Month Extension Of The Approved Clarence Place Final Subdivision Plat And A One Year Extension Of The Clarence Place Final Planned Development Located On 3.464 Acres At 601-607 West Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Mr. Perry presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

3. An Ordinance Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 137 Entitled Housing Advisory Commission, And Adopting New Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 137 Entitled Housing Advisory Commission. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Ms. Greene presented her staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

B. Second Reading

1. An Ordinance Establishing A Mayor's Court And Establishing Chapter 172 Of The Oxford Codified Ordinances. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3853.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Snavelly 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 7

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Mr. Elliott reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

2. An Ordinance Accepting The Recommendation Of The Planning Commission To Approve A Preliminary Subdivision, Preliminary & Final Planned Development, Waivers And Conditions For The New Roots 16-Unit Microhome Community To Be Located On 2.19 Acres Of Land At 5234 Hester Road (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3854.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly

AYE # 7

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Mr. Perry reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment — Ms. Anne Bailey, 192 Stone Creek Drive — Ms. Bailey shared her full support for this Ordinance. Ms. Bailey is a board member for OASH and is a member of the HAC. Ms. Bailey mentioned a recent OASH board meeting last Friday, during which the board members drafted an advocacy statement for the Ordinance, which was approved. OASH then decided to present it at their monthly meeting, which was last evening, the February meeting. The group present voted unanimously to present this statement to Council this evening. Ms. Bailey read the following statement: The mission of Oxford Area Solutions for Housing is to respond to and prevent homelessness. Increasing the stock of affordable housing is essential to achieving this mission. The New Roots development targets income-qualifying homeowners, consistent with the City's priority of housing for all. At least four of these micro homes are identified specifically for individuals or families with intellectual or developmental disabilities, known as IDD. The development team indicated that there is a severe shortage in the Ohio IDD market. I see this is really kind of a pilot thing that our City and our State could use as a demonstration project. As an advocacy group, OASH believes it is important for interested members of the public to voice support for initiatives that further our mission and vision. We applaud the flexibility of the City in pivoting away from an earlier approved development. The use of efficiency and decision making to facilitate the use of ARPA funds for infrastructure cost and a recognition that a design for accessibility may benefit from the use of waivers and conditions in approving development plans. Ultimately, we also acknowledge the vision, initiative, and commitment of Emily and Mark Kendall and Inclusive Housing Resources and EmpwerMe Living.

Public Comment — Ms. Jeniffer Heston-Mullins, 137 Kelly Drive — Ms. Heston-Mullins shared her support of this Ordinance. Ms. Heston-Mullins is an Oxford citizen, a social worker who's worked with older adults and their families for almost 30 years, a gerontologist who studies aging, and a volunteer with Age Friendly Oxford and OASH. Ms. Heston-Mullins commended the Planning Commission for its recommendation to approve the New Roots development and its acknowledgment of the need for more affordable housing options in our community. Ms. Heston-Mullins noted that she was particularly glad that the New Roots development has earmarked homes for individuals and families living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Heston-Mullins mentioned that improvements in health care and the decline of institutionalization have increased the life expectancy of most people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Heston-Mullins explained that this number has gone up from about 22 years in 1931 to almost 70 years now. Ms. Heston-Mullins stated that there are more people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including Down Syndrome, than before. And individuals aging with intellectual and developmental disabilities are living longer and often outliving family members who have provided care and support. Having developments like New Roots in our community can help these individuals stay independent and in the community. Ms. Heston-Mullins encouraged the planning commission and the City Council to continue to pursue affordable housing in Oxford. Lack of affordable housing has serious impacts on older adults living on a fixed income, and research indicates that this is a real growing issue. About 20%, one out of five of those experiencing homelessness that were identified in the 2024 national point in time count were ages 55 and older. The fastest growing group of those experiencing homelessness is individuals over the age of 55. Many of whom are experiencing

homelessness for the first time in their lives. Ms. Heston-Mullins thanked the Council for its efforts to make the community a livable community for people of all ages and abilities.

8. Announcements & Communications.

A. 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.

B. Future Meetings.

(Note: Meetings are held at the Court House unless otherwise indicated.)

DATE	Meeting		
1. Feb 18	Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
Feb 19	Police Community Relations & Review Commission	Oxford Seniors Center	4:00 p.m.
Feb 20	Community Improvement Corporation	College@Elm	12:00 p.m.
Mar 3	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
Mar 4	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	7:00 p.m.
Mar 5	Housing Advisory Commission	College@Elm	5:00 p.m.
Mar 9	Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Municipal Building	5:30 p.m.
Mar 10	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
Mar 11	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
Mar 12	Civil Rights Commission	Municipal Building	4:00 p.m.
Mar 17	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 8:52 p.m.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavely
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0