



**MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026 AT 6:45 PM**

1. Roll Call.

A work session meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Smith on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 6:45 p.m. Members in attendance were Alex French, William Snaveley, Amber Franklin, and Roxanne Ornelas. Jason Bracken and Jim Vinch arrived at 6:46 pm.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Michael Dreisbach, Service Director; 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. Complete Streets and Sidewalk Discussion

The Oxford City Council held a work session on March 3, 2026, to discuss the City's Complete Streets policy and the issue of sidewalk gaps, including a proposed sidewalk along Olde Farm Road. Staff provided background on the Complete Streets policy adopted in 2019, which promotes streets that safely accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit users. Staff explained how the policy has been considered during street resurfacing projects and presented four possible approaches for addressing sidewalk gaps: maintaining the current policy with a scoring rubric to prioritize projects, shifting to a citywide prioritization through the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, canceling the project, or proceeding with the Olde Farm Road

sidewalk project with a proposed cost share of 75% city funding and 25% property owner assessments.

Council members discussed the broader goals of the policy and concerns raised by residents, including project costs, tree impacts, and whether property owners should be responsible for part of the cost of new sidewalks. Several members emphasized that sidewalks provide a public benefit and that sidewalk planning should be more strategic rather than automatically triggered by street resurfacing. Following the discussion, Council members generally supported separating sidewalk construction from resurfacing projects and instead evaluating sidewalk gaps through a comprehensive citywide analysis as part of the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan. Staff was directed to explore removing the resurfacing trigger from the Complete Streets policy and expanding the scope of the master planning effort to help prioritize sidewalk improvements and guide future investments. (Slides included in minutes)

3. Adjourn.

Motion – To Ajourn at 7:27 pm.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0