



MINUTES

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING COURTHOUSE TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 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.

Motion – To Enter Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(3) To Consider Pending And Threatened Litigation.

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

AYE # 6

Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Ms. Ornelas, Mr. Snavely, Mr. Vinch, and Mayor Smith

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Motion – To Return from Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(3) To Consider Pending And Threatened Litigation.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Smith on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Alex French, Amber Franklin, William Snavely, Jim Vinch, and Roxanne Ornelas. Jason Bracken arrived at 7:05 pm.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Michael Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. Geoff Robinson, Police Lieutenant; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation Director; Ms. Reena

Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator; Mr. Scott Liberman, Assistant Law 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. Franklin
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. Proclamation "Arbor Day"

Ms. Murphy accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the Environmental Commission.

B. Art Community Engagement Survey Presentation

Ms. Greene introduced the Public Value of Art, the Policy & Advocacy in Arts, Institute for Innovation in Arts & Design students who had already given a presentation to the Public Arts Commission of Oxford (PACO).

The presentation on April 21 to Oxford City Council summarized findings from a public survey (March–April) conducted in partnership with PACO to evaluate the public value of Oxford’s public art. A total of 175 community members responded, representing a broad age range and primarily Oxford-based residents who frequently engage with the uptown area. Results indicate that public art is widely perceived as having a positive impact on community well-being, contributing to a strong sense of belonging and connection, although respondents noted a distinction between simply being in a community and actively feeling part of it. Public art was

also found to foster empathy, which supports greater social and economic engagement; however, its ability to drive deeper critical reflection or shift personal beliefs appears more limited. Overall, while public art is clearly valued, it is not being fully leveraged, presenting opportunities to expand access, increase visibility, and better communicate its role in community integration—particularly in bridging gaps between student and non-student populations. Community members expressed interest in more public art, inclusive creation processes, and works that spark conversation. The presentation emphasized that public art functions as civic infrastructure by strengthening trust and shared experiences, and suggested next steps including expanding live arts events, increasing collaboration with Miami University, activating vacant retail spaces for pop-up initiatives, and establishing a PACO student liaison to support partnerships. (slides included in minutes) Mayor Smith thanked the class for their presentation.

C. 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 - None.

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 Mr. Snively
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

A. Minutes from the April 7, 2026, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Approving Changes To The Tree List Within Oxford's Urban Tree Management Plan. (Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7813.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snaveley
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

- B. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Sign The Second Amended Subgrant Agreement Detailed In Exhibit A, Between Butler County, Ohio, And The City Of Oxford For \$1,000,000.00 Of American Rescue Plan Act/State And Local Fiscal Recovery Funds To Assist With Affordable Housing Infrastructure, As Allocated By The Butler County Board Of Commissioners. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7814.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snaveley
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 Authorizing The City Manager To Apply For Up To \$3,100,000.00 To The Ohio Housing Finance Agency For Single Family Tax Credits In Partnership With Habitat For Humanity Of Greater Cincinnati For The Clarence Place Project. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 8715.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavely
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

- D. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Contract With Tim Lally Chevrolet For The Purchase Of A 2026 Chevrolet 2500HD Crew Cab At A Cost Not To Exceed \$53,071.00. (John Detherage, Fire Chief)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7816.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavely
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Elliott presented Chief Detherage's staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - None.

- E. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Explore A New Agreement With The Talawanda Recreation Incorporated Board (TRI Board) Regarding The Future Ownership And Management Of The TRI Community Center And TRI Community Park. (Chad Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7817
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Smith 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 Repealing Oxford Codified Ordinance Chapter 181, Entitled “Income Tax” (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

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

Public Comment - None.

B. Second Reading

1. An Ordinance To Approve Current Replacement Pages To The Oxford Codified Ordinances. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3862.

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

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.

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.	Apr 22	Parks Master Plan Community Meeting	TRI Gym	6:00 p.m.
	Apr 28	Board of Zoning Appeals	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
	Apr 29	Charter Review Commission	Courthouse	4:30 p.m.
	May 5	City Council Work Session	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
	May 5	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
	May 6	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	7:00 p.m.
	May 7	Housing Advisory Commission	College@Elm	5:00 p.m.
	May 11	Oxford Recreation Board	Municipal Building	12:30 p.m.
	May 11	Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Municipal Building	5:30 p.m.
	May 12	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
	May 13	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
	May 19	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 8:17 p.m.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0