



**MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026 AT 6:45 PM**

1. Roll Call.

Motion – To Enter Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(1) To Consider Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

AYE # 7

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Motion – To Return from Executive Session at 6:44 p.m. O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(1) To Consider Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A work session meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Smith on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:45 p.m. Members in attendance were Jason Bracken, Jim Vinch, William Snavely, Amber Franklin, Roxanne Ornelas, and Alex French.

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; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Mr. Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Chris Conard, Law Director; Ms. Reena Murphy, Sustainability Coordinator; and Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council.

2. Topic

A. Progress Toward 2026 Goals and the Review of City Council Research Initiatives from the Council Retreat

City Council met in a work session to review progress on 2026 Action Items and discuss preliminary 2027 budget recommendations. Staff explained that the recommendations are based on the Comprehensive Plan, Council retreat priorities, and research conducted by staff, boards, and commissions. The purpose of the discussion was to provide Council an opportunity to identify priorities before preparation of the 2027 budget.

Staff presented recommendations across several Comprehensive Plan goals. Under Smart Growth and Quality Places, staff advised against pursuing five-story buildings due to water pressure and fire safety limitations but noted that modest height increases may be possible through the zoning code rewrite process. Staff also reported progress on Butler County's Greenprint initiative as a potential tool for regional land-use planning. Under transportation, Council reviewed the completed sidewalk gap analysis, which identified priority sidewalk projects with an estimated cost of approximately \$224,000. Council expressed interest in further discussion of implementation priorities and funding options.

Housing discussions focused on Housing Advisory Commission recommendations, including annual funding of \$50,000 for the Winter House cold shelter program, continued exploration of warming and cooling centers, use of the City's 47-acre property to encourage mixed-income housing development, and directing proceeds from future land sales toward the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Council also discussed maintaining flexibility to pursue future affordable housing opportunities as funding becomes available.

Staff also reviewed recommendations related to economic development, sustainability, recreation, public safety, and essential services. Key topics included expanding promotion of City events through university partnerships, advancing landfill and wastewater solar projects, increasing hybrid and electric vehicles in the City fleet, continuing deer management efforts, funding public art projects, addressing police staffing challenges, implementing electronic signatures and tablets for Council, evaluating .gov email addresses, and continuing research on courthouse options. Several initiatives were recommended for future consideration due to staffing or budget constraints.

The session concluded with a review of progress on numerous 2026 action items, including the zoning code rewrite, historic preservation efforts, transportation and trail projects, affordable housing initiatives, economic development programs, and grant-funded infrastructure projects. Staff reported that many projects are progressing as planned and requested Council feedback on priorities to guide development of the 2027 budget. (slides included in minutes)

3. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 7:24 p.m.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0