



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 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, June 16, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Jason Bracken, Jim Vinch, William Snavelly, 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. 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. Appointments to Boards & Commissions

Motion – To Nominate Ms. Barbara Smyth and Ms. Peggy Branstrator to be reappointed to the Environmental Commission, Ms. Cathryn Loucas to be reappointed and to appoint Mr. Chris Skoglund to the Housing Advisory Commission, To appoint Mr. David Prytherch to the Oxford Parking & Transportation Advisory Board, to reappoint Ms. Therese Ehrnschwender, Ms. Bobbe Burke, Ms. Carole Katz, Mr. Robert Bension, and Mr. Joe Squance to the Public Arts Commission of Oxford, to reappoint Mr. Jacob Young to the Oxford Recreation Board, and to Ms. Kathryn Mawer and Ms. Jill Mock to the McCullough-Hyde Foundation.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

B. Public Hearing — 2027 Tax Budget (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

Motion – To Open the Public Hearing

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Ms. Ridenour invited any members of the public to ask questions regarding the tax budget.

Public Comment - None.

Motion – To Close the Public Hearing

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

C. Notice to Legislative Authority - DMP Express LLC, Oxford Pit Stop, 5182 College Corner Pike, Oxford, Ohio 45056. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Receive without Comment.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0
ABS # 0

D. Proclamation - "Pride Month"

Ms. Megan Kuykendoll, a member of Oxford PFLAG, was in attendance to accept the Proclamation. Ms. Kuykendoll thanked Mayor Smith and the Council for its support of an inclusive community.

E. 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. Tom Cook, Oxford Township Trustee, Brown Road - Mr. Cook reported that Oxford Township trustees unanimously supported a request for a moratorium on zoning approvals related to data centers in Butler County. He noted that the Butler County Commissioners had approved a six-month moratorium.

Public Comment - Mr. Steve Chaffin, 6022 Fairfield Road - Mr. Chaffin provided comments regarding recommendations from the Charter Review Commission and requested that certain proposed charter amendments be considered separately by voters. Topics included: minimum dwelling size provisions in the Mile Square, and residency requirements for the City Manager.

Public Comment - Ms. Ann Fuehrer, Dana Drive - Ms. Fuehrer discussed a recent fair housing training program, highlighted concerns regarding housing discrimination, and thanked community partners and Council Member Franklin for civic engagement efforts.

Public Comment - Ms. Heidi Schran, 319 West Withrow Street - Ms. Schran expressed a desire for the City to discontinue use of Flock automated license plate reader technology and was invited to speak further during the scheduled discussion item.

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. Snavelly

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A. Minutes from the June 2, 2026, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

B. Uptown Parks Permit — Redlife Coffee ROW 01148 (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

6. Resolutions.

A. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Apply For, Accept, And Enter Into A Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) Agreement On Behalf Of The City Of Oxford For The Construction Of Water Facilities; And Designating A Dedicated Repayment Source For The Loan. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7833.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

B. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With YellowLite Inc. For A Solar PV System At The Senior Center. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7834.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Snavelly 2nd Ms. French
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

- C. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With StateWide Ford For The Purchase Of Two (2) 2026 Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicles With Specified Manufacturer Installed Options At A Cost Not To Exceed \$87,364.00.
(John Jones, Police Chief)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7835.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Chief Jones 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 Approving The Final Subdivision Application And Plat For An Area Referred To As “Lake Forest” Consisting Of 4 Lots Situated On 97.292 Acres Currently Addressed As 1701, 1983, & 1986 Lake Forest Drive, Oxford, Ohio 45056, With Conditions (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

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

Public Comment - Mr. Tom Cook, Brown Road - Mr. Cook asked about the traffic impact on Route 27.

2. An Ordinance Approving The Final Subdivision Application And Plat For Lake Forest Cove Section 1 Consisting Of 36 Lots Situated On 17.462 Acres Currently Addressed As 1701 Lake Forest Drive, Oxford, Ohio 45056, With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

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

Public Comment - None.

B. Second Reading

1. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3844 Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 3 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2026. (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3866.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly

AYE # 7

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Ms. Ridenour reviewed the changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

2. An Ordinance Authorizing The Tax Budget For The Year 2027 And Directing That The Same Be Transmitted To The Butler County Auditor. (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3867.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly

AYE # 7

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

NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Ms. Ridenour mentioned no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

8. Discussion Item

A. Flock Cameras

Chief Jones provided an overview of the City's use of Flock Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras. He explained that the cameras capture images of license plates and vehicle characteristics in public spaces but do not use facial recognition technology, identify vehicle occupants, record conversations, or collect cell phone data. He stated that the City currently operates cameras at multiple locations throughout Oxford and that the system is used as an investigative tool to assist officers in solving crimes and locating stolen vehicles, wanted persons, and missing individuals.

Chief Jones described how officers use the system to search for vehicles associated with criminal investigations and receive alerts when vehicles connected to warrants, stolen vehicle reports, or other law enforcement notifications enter the City. He presented several examples in which ALPR data assisted investigations involving vehicle thefts, hit-skip crashes, sexual assault investigations, child endangerment cases, and other criminal matters. He emphasized that ALPR data is only one component of an investigation and does not, by itself, establish probable cause for enforcement actions.

Chief Jones also discussed privacy safeguards, including audit trails, access restrictions, data ownership provisions, and departmental policies governing use of the system. He noted that the City shares ALPR data with other participating law enforcement agencies and that staff continues to review options for auditing and limiting access as technology evolves.

Mr. Chris Conard addressed questions regarding contractual agreements with Flock and clarified that the City's current agreement provides that the City owns and controls data collected through its cameras. He stated that decisions regarding the continued use of technology are policy decisions for the Council.

Public Comment - Ms. Janice Dutton, 302 West Vine Street - Ms. Dutton expressed concerns regarding privacy, data sharing, and the potential for misuse of information collected by ALPR systems. She referenced actions taken by other municipalities that have restricted or terminated agreements with Flock and questioned the reliability of assurances provided by the company regarding data access and use. She urged Council to consider the broader civil liberties implications associated with the technology.

Public Comment - Mr. Tom Cook, Brown Road - Mr. Cook stated that while he was comfortable with the Oxford Police Department's use of the system, he was concerned about data sharing with other agencies, particularly agencies that may use information for immigration enforcement purposes.

Public Comment - Mr. Kevin Reuning, Carrie Circle - Mr. Reuning expressed concern about the large number of law enforcement agencies with access to shared ALPR networks and questioned whether the public safety benefits justify the privacy risks. He cited examples of reported misuse in other jurisdictions and raised concerns regarding the expansion of surveillance technologies through partnerships with private companies and other organizations.

Public Comment - Mr. Brandon Ney, 319 West Withrow Street - Mr. Ney stated his opposition to corporate surveillance systems and expressed concern regarding government participation in those technologies.

Public Comment - Ms. Heidi Schran, 319 West Withrow Street - Ms. Schran expressed concern about data security, potential data breaches, and the use of information by agencies outside Oxford. She stated that her concerns were directed primarily toward broader data-sharing practices rather than the Oxford Police Department itself.

The Council discussion focused on data ownership and contractual provisions, audit and oversight mechanisms, data-sharing policies, potential future access restrictions, and the balance between public safety benefits and privacy concerns.
(slides included in minutes)

9. 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.	Jun 17	Board of Building Appeals - CANCELED	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
	Jun 23	Board of Zoning Appeals - CANCELED	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
	Jun 29	Oxford Parking & Transportation Advisory Board	Municipal Building	9:00 a.m.
	Jul 1	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	6:00 p.m.
	Jul 2	Housing Advisory Commission - CANCELED	Courthouse	5:00 p.m.
	Jul 3	City Offices - CLOSED		
	Jul 7	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
	Jul 13	Oxford Recreation Board	Municipal Building	12:30 p.m.
	Jul 13	Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
	Jul 14	Planning Commission	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.

10. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 9:38 p.m.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0