MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 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.

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1. Roll Call.

   A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Smith on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Roxanne Ornelas, Jason Bracken, Jim Vinch, Amber Franklin, William Snavely, 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. Geoff Robinson, Police Lieutenant; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Ms. Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director; Mr. Chad Smith, Parks and Recreation Director; Mr. Chris Conard, 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 TOPSS Grand Opening

Mayor Smith presented a proclamation recognizing TOPSS (Oxford Pantry and Social Services) in celebration of the organization's nearly two decades of service to residents of the Talawanda School District. The proclamation highlighted TOPSS' growth from a community food pantry into a comprehensive social services organization providing food assistance, housing support, emergency assistance, and other critical resources. It also recognized the organization's resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic and its continued expansion, including the opening of its new facility at 5445 College Corner Pike. The Mayor proclaimed July 17, 2026, as TOPSS Grand Opening Day in the City of Oxford. Ms. Sherry Martin, Executive Director of TOPSS, accepted the proclamation and thanked the City Council, City staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners for their continued support.

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 - Ms. Linda Musmeci- Kimball, Melinda Drive - Ms. Musmeci- Kimball urged City Council to terminate the City's contract with Flock Safety, expressing concerns regarding privacy, civil liberties, and the long-term implications of mass surveillance. She argued that the technology continuously records and catalogs the movements of all vehicles that pass the cameras rather than only capturing vehicles involved in suspected criminal activity. Ms. Musmeci- Kimball stated that the data collected can reveal sensitive information about individuals' daily lives and is stored in a nationwide database accessible to participating law enforcement agencies with limited oversight. Ms. Musmeci- Kimball further expressed concern that ALPR technology has been used in other jurisdictions to monitor activities related to political activism, reproductive healthcare, immigration, gun ownership, and other lawful activities. She stated that surveillance systems often expand beyond their original intended purpose and cited concerns that Flock Safety has modified its contractual terms in ways that reduce local governments' control over their own data while increasing the company's authority over information sharing. She also referenced reports that some municipalities believed they had limited data sharing but later discovered broader access had been enabled. Concluding her remarks, Ms. Musmeci- Kimball stated that residents should have a reasonable expectation of privacy regarding their movements in public spaces and expressed opposition to Oxford participating in what she characterized as a nationwide surveillance network. She requested that Council cancel the City's contract with Flock Safety and instead prioritize transparency, accountability, and protection of individual privacy rights. She concluded by stating that she did not consent to her movement records being stored and shared through such a system.

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 June 16, 2026, City Council Work Session. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

B. Minutes from the June 16, 2026, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

6. Resolutions.

A. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Amend The Scope Of Services For Strand & Associates To Include Construction Engineering Services For A New Water Treatment Plant, And Amending The Not To Exceed Value For Their Contract. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7836
(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.

B. A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into an Agreement with Cronin Ford North, LLC For The Purchase Of Two Replacement Fleet Vehicles (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7837
(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.

C. A Resolution To Declare The Necessity And Intent To Acquire Certain Parcels Of Real Estate Owned By Ledger, LLC, With Interest By Others, For The BUT-Oxford Amtrak Station Project. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7838
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavely
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Dreisbach presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council. Ms. Ornelas left the dais at 7:51 p.m. and was not present during the vote. Ms. Ornelas returned to the dais at 7:54 p.m.

Public Comment - None.

D. A Resolution Authorizing The Donation Of $50,000 From The Opioid Settlement Fund To The Sheltering Oxford Nonprofit Organization To Support An Emergency Cold

Weather Shelter And Related Opioid Abatement Services As Described In Exhibit A (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7839
(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. Ms. Greene noted a correction to her staff report: the Winter House Operations will be from November 15, 2026—March 15, 2027.

Public Comment - None.

E. A Resolution Adopting The City Of Oxford's 2026 Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan As Described In Exhibit A. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7840
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Ms. Greene presented her 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 Providing For The Submission To The Electorate Of Amendments To The Charter Of The City Of Oxford, Ohio, And To Place The Same On The Ballot At The General Election, November 3, 2026. (Douglas R. Elliott, Jr., City Manager)

Mr. Elliott presented his staff report (slides included) and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Motion – To separate recommendation #1, Amendment 2.11, from the list of other recommended Amendments and place it in a separate Ordinance for second reading and as a separate issue on the ballot.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Snavely 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 6
NAY # 1
ABS # 0

Motion – To separate recommendation #5, Amendment 4.01, from the list of other recommended Amendments and place it in a separate Ordinance for second reading and as a separate issue on the ballot.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Ornelas 2nd
AYE #
NAY #
ABS #

Ms. Ornelas withdrew her motion to discuss Amendment 4.01. Additional discussion addressed the recommendation allowing a City Manager to reside outside the City with Council approval, noting that Ohio law no longer permits mandatory municipal residency requirements.

Motion – To remove Amendment 3.04 from the list of recommended Amendments.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Bracken 2nd Mr. Snavely
AYE # 4
NAY # 3
ABS # 0

Public Comment - None.

2. An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement With The Board Of Education Of The Talawanda Local School District For The Planned Construction Of A Passenger Rail Platform. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

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

Public Comment - None.

3. An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement With Southwestern Ohio Seniors' Services, Inc., A Non-Profit Ohio Corporation Now Known As Maple Knoll Communities, Inc. For The Purpose Of An Easement For The Construction Of The (OATS) Oxford Area Trail System Phase VI. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

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

Public Comment - None.

4. An Ordinance Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Easement Agreement With Clawson Properties I, LLC For The Purpose Of An Easement For The Construction Of The (OATS) Oxford Area Trail System Phase V. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

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

Public Comment - None.

5. An Ordinance To Appropriate Certain Real Property Interests Owned By Ledger, LLC, With Interests By Others, For The BUT-Oxford Amtrak Station Project. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

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

Public Comment - None.

6. An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 3844 Supplemental Budget Ordinance Number 4 To Make Supplemental Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2026. (Heidi Ridenour, Finance Director)

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

Public Comment - None.

B. Second 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)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3868.
(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

Mr. Perry noted that a memo regarding the traffic impact was added to the agenda packet and that there were no other changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

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)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3869.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Orneals

AYE # 7
Mr. Snavely, Mr. Vinch, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Ms. Ornelas, and Mayor Smith.
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Perry 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.	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.
	Jul 15	Board of Building Appeals - CANCELED	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
	Jul 15	Board of Zoning Appeals	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
	Jul 21	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
	Aug 4	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
	Aug 5	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	7:00 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 9:06 p.m.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0