



MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, JULY 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.

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

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. 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. Ornelas
AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. 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, 724 Melinda Drive - Ms. Musmeci-Kimball expressed concerns about the expansion of surveillance technology, citing reported instances nationwide in which automated license plate readers have allegedly been used for immigration enforcement, abortion-related investigations, stalking incidents, and data security breaches. She referenced reports from organizations including the Electronic Frontier Foundation and ACLU, arguing that the technology threatens civil liberties and constitutional rights. Ms. Musmeci-Kimball stated that Oxford's original contract was approved without sufficient community engagement and urged Council to initiate a broader public discussion regarding surveillance technology and the community's definition of public safety.

Public Comment - Ms. Janice Dutton, 302 West Vine Street - Ms. Dutton also spoke against continued use of the Flock system, sharing personal experiences with traffic stops to illustrate how police interactions have historically relied upon officer judgment rather than automated technology. She cited examples from the Institute for Justice and the ACLU describing instances in which ALPR errors reportedly resulted in innocent individuals being detained at gunpoint due to incorrect license plate matches. Ms. Dutton emphasized concerns regarding the system's reported accuracy rate, the potential consequences of false matches, and reports of unauthorized access to camera systems. While expressing confidence in the Oxford Police Department, she urged Council to reconsider its partnership with Flock Safety, increase transparency regarding data sharing, limit outside agency access, and continue discussions through the Police Community Relations and Review Commission (PCRRC)

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 # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Submit A Payment In The Amount Of \$283,846.00 To The Ohio Water Development Authority To Pay Administrative Charges For Cooperative Agreement Account 12025 To Fund Water Treatment Plant Membrane Softening Improvements. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7841
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snively
AYE # 6
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 The Butler County Mutual Police Aid Agreement. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7842
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin
AYE # 6
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 Repealing Code Section 351.03 Prohibited Standing Or Parking Places And Adopting New Section 351.03 Prohibited Standing Or Parking Places. (John Jones, Police Chief)

Chief Jones presented his staff report and addressed questions and comments from the Council.

Public Comment - Ms. Janice Dutton, 302 West Vine Street - Ms. Dutton thanked Chief Jones for this Ordinance. Describing repeated instances in which parked vehicles blocked access to her driveway.

B. Second 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)

Motion – To Amend Ordinance No. 3870 by adding the word recall to 9.07. Should now read "revising Section 9.07 Recall by removing existing wording and replacing with new process". (Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Snavelly 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 6

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3870 as amended.

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

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Mr. Elliott reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - Mr. Kevin McKeehan, 2126 Dana Drive - Mr. McKeehan served on the Charter Review Commission. Mr. McKeehan expressed disappointment that the amendment had been separated from the other Charter revisions but supported its placement on the ballot, arguing that land-use decisions should be governed through the zoning code rather than the Charter. He suggested that retaining the prohibition could limit opportunities for additional housing, including affordable housing such as projects like Clarence Place, within portions of the Mile Square.

2. An Ordinance Providing For The Submission To The Electorate Of An Amendment 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)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3871.

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

AYE # 5

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

NAY # 1

Mr. Snavelly

ABS # 0

Mr. Elliott reported that this Ordinance was added after the first reading to be added to the ballot as a separate issue and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - Ms. Janice Dutton, 302 West Vine Street - Ms. Dutton spoke in opposition, arguing that the Charter restriction was originally adopted because residents lacked confidence that zoning regulations alone would adequately protect the character of the Mile Square. She stated that zoning changes and variances could be approved relatively easily, while Charter amendments require direct voter approval. Ms. Dutton also disputed claims that increasing allowable density would result in more affordable housing, expressing concern that additional development would instead encourage more student-oriented housing and erode established neighborhoods. She urged Council not to advance the amendment to the ballot.

3. 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)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3872.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin

AYE # 6
Ms. French, Ms. Ornelas, Mr. Snavelly, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Franklin, and Mayor Smith
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Dreisbach reported no changes since the first meeting and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

4. 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)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3873.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly

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

Mr. Dreisbach reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

5. 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)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3874.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly

AYE # 6
Mr. Snavelly, Mr. Bracken, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Ms. Ornelas, and Mayor Smith
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Dreisbach reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

6. 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)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3875.

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

AYE # 6

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Mr. Dreisbach reported no changes since the first reading and offered to answer any questions.

Public Comment - None.

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

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3876.

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

AYE #

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

Ms. Ridenour mentioned adding the \$50,000.00 donation for the cold shelter as being the only change 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. Aug 4	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
Aug 4	Climate Action Steering Committee	Municipal Building	10:30 a.m.
Aug 5	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	7:00 p.m.
Aug 6	Housing Advisory Commission — CANCELED	Courthouse	5:00 p.m.
Aug 10	Oxford Recreation Board	Municipal Building	12:30 p.m.
Aug 10	Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
Aug 11	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.
Aug 12	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
Aug 17	Oxford Parking & Transportation Advisory Board	Municipal Building	9:00 a.m.
Aug 18	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.
Aug 19	Board of Building Appeals	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
Aug 25	Board of Zoning Appeals	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 9:09 pm.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Franklin

AYE # 6
NAY # 0
ABS # 0