



**MINUTES
OXFORD CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COURTHOUSE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 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 7:02 p.m. O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official and O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(3) To Consider Pending And Threatened Litigation.

(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 7:30 p.m. O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official and O.R.C. Section 121.22 (G)(3) To Consider Pending And Threatened Litigation.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor Smith on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Jim Vinch, Amber Franklin, Roxanne Ornelas, 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. 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; 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 Mr. Snavelly

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

4. Public Participation.

A. CARES Program Presentation - McCullough-Hyde Foundation

Mr. Tyler Wash, President & CEO, McCullough-Hyde Foundation, began the presentation and introduced Ms. Christine Hassert, RN, MSN (forensics), CEN, SANE-A, Forensic Nurse Examiner Program Coordinator, Center for Abuse and Rape Emergency Services (CARES), and Mr. Andy Swallow, MSOL, CAP®, CFRE, President & CEO, Bethesda Foundation and Good Samaritan Foundation. Representatives from the Center for Abuse and Rape Emergency Services (CARES) and the McCullough-Hyde Foundation provided City Council with an overview of CARES services and thanked the City of Oxford for its support through the Community Assistance Program, which provided \$10,000 in 2024 and \$11,100 in 2025. CARES provides free, comprehensive forensic and supportive care to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking, and elder abuse. The program is unique within the region because it includes a specialized adult and adolescent domestic violence team, operates within a hospital network, responds to elder abuse cases, and uses specialized forensic technology.

The presentation highlighted the use of the CortexFlo forensic camera, which assists forensic nurses in documenting bruising, abrasions, and other injuries through enhanced photography and contrast technology. CARES reported serving 151 survivors of sexual assault and 295 survivors of domestic violence in FY2026. Forensic examinations generally take two to four hours and may include an advocate or support person, a statement taken by a forensic nurse examiner,

physical assessment, photographs, evidence collection, and coordination with law enforcement. CARES services at McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital are available through the Emergency Department, with a forensic nurse examiner on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The program also provides transportation, short-term shelter arrangements, follow-up services, trauma-informed emotional support, referrals, and assistance navigating the legal process.

Presenters also discussed the financial challenges of operating the program. CARES services are not billable, and its only generated revenue comes from reimbursement for Sexual Assault Forensic Exam kits through the Ohio Attorney General's Office; there is no state reimbursement for forensic examinations provided to domestic violence survivors. The presentation indicated that 72% of CARES revenue comes from philanthropy and noted a 176% increase in domestic violence cases since 2023. For FY2027, CARES projects operating costs of \$541,428, with \$101,120 in SAFE kit revenue, resulting in a projected need for \$440,308 in philanthropic support to achieve budget neutrality.

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 - 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 Adopt the Consent Agenda.

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

AYE # 7

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

A. Minutes of the August 18, 2026, City Council Meeting. (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)

6. Resolutions.

- A. A Resolution Adopting A Commemorative City Of Oxford Flag, As Described In Exhibit A, Designed In Honor Of The City Of Dubno, Ukraine, To Celebrate The Sister City Relationship And The Visit Of The Dubno Delegation To Oxford, Ohio, September 18–26, 2026. (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7853.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Snively 2nd Ms. French
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

- B. A Resolution Supporting The Oxford Community Arts Center's Request For A Lease Modification With Miami University To Facilitate Historic Preservation Tax Credits (Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7854.
(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Snively 2nd Ms. French
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - Ms. Heidi Schiller, Executive Director of OCAC - Ms. Schiller provided additional information regarding the requested lease modification and the financing of the renovation project. Ms. Schiller explained that Miami University had initially responded that it intended to maintain the current lease without further amendments. She clarified that OCAC is not requesting ownership of the property or a 99-year lease. Rather, OCAC is requesting that the approximately 25 years remaining on its current lease be extended to a 60-year term, which is necessary to meet state and federal historic preservation tax-credit requirements. Ms. Schiller stated that OCAC has met the other eligibility requirements associated with the tax credits and indicated that there may be a pathway to modify the lease again after the required tax-credit and IRS compliance periods have been satisfied. In response to a question regarding whether OCAC has an alternative financing plan if the tax credits cannot be obtained, Ms. Schiller explained that

the portion of the project's capital stack currently anticipated from public sources would have to shift to private philanthropy. She noted that OCAC has already surpassed approximately \$2.5 million in private pledges, allowing the organization to pursue additional grant and foundation funding; however, replacing the anticipated state and federal historic tax credits with private fundraising would represent a significant change to the project's financing strategy and fundraising goal.

- C. A Resolution Determining The Total Cost Of The Assessment By Lot, Authorizing The List Of Assessments By Lot To Be Filed With The Clerk Of City Council And Ordering The Same Be Opened For Public Inspection And Authorizing The Clerk Of City Council To Publish Notice In A Newspaper Of General Circulation That The List Of Assessments By Lot Is Available For Public Inspection. (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7855.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

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

Public Comment - None.

- D. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Increase The Contract Amount Not To Exceed \$542,410 With Leo J. Brielmaier Company To Complete The New Public Restroom Facility In The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park At 2 West High Street (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7856.
(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas
AYE # 7
NAY # 0
ABS # 0

Mr. Perry 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 To Approve Current Replacement Pages To The Oxford Codified Ordinances. (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 Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Utility Easement Agreement With Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., To Facilitate The Installation Of Level 3 Electric Vehicle Fast Chargers At The City-Owned Surface Parking Lot At Main Street & Church Street (Michael Dreisbach, Service Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3880.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Snavelly 2nd Ms. French

AYE # 7

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

NAY # 0

ABS # 0

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

Public Comment -None.

2. An Ordinance Accepting The Recommendation Of The Planning Commission To Repeal And Replace Zoning Code Section 1143.10, Uptown District, To Allow For Retail Services Up To 20,000 Square Feet As A Permitted Use (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3881.
(Roll Call Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Ms. Ornelas

AYE # 7

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

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.	Sep 2	Environmental Commission	Municipal Building	7:00 p.m.
	Sep 3	Housing Advisory Commission	Courthouse	5:00 p.m.
	Sep 7	City Offices - CLOSED		
	Sep 8	Planning Commission	Courthouse	7:00 p.m.

Sep 10	Historic & Architectural Preservation Commission Meeting and Work Session	Courthouse	6:00 p.m.
Sep 14	Public Arts Commission of Oxford	Courthouse	5:30 p.m.
Sep 14	2027 Capital Improvement Plan City Council Work Session	Courthouse	6:30 p.m.
Sep 15	City Council	Courthouse	7:30 p.m.

9. Adjourn.

Motion – To Adjourn at 8:25 p.m.
 (Voice Vote) 1st Ms. French 2nd Mr. Snavelly
 AYE # 7
 NAY # 0
 ABS # 0