



OXFORD CITY COUNCIL Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

[Link for website video here](#)
Full Transcript available online.

Roll Call [TIME 00:04](#)

William Snavelly Mayor	Chantel Raghu Vice Mayor
Jason Bracken	Amber Franklin
Alex French	Glenn Ellerbe
David Prytherch	

A regular meeting of the Oxford City Council was called to order by Mayor William Snavelly on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Jason Bracken, William Snavelly, Amber Franklin, Glenn Ellerbe, and Alex French. Chantel Raghu was excused.

Staff Members in Attendance

Mr. Doug Elliott, City Manager; Ms. Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Mike Dreisbach, Service Director; Mr. John Jones, Police Chief; Mr. Sam Perry, Community Development Director; Mr. Joe Newlin, Finance Director; Mr. John Detherage, Fire Chief; Mr. Goeff Robinson, Police Lieutenant; Mr. Ben Mazer, Assistant Law Director; and Ms. Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council.

Approval of the Agenda [TIME 00:22](#)

Motion – To Adopt

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

AYE #6

NAY #0

ABS #0

Public Participation [TIME 00:41](#)

- A. Proclamation “ Days of Remembrance” Page 5 of the Agenda Packet – Received by a member of Hillel at Miami University
- B. Proclamation “ Arbor Day” Page 6 of the Agenda Packet – Received by Mr. Dreisbach, Service Director

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. 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.

Resident Name address Resident Comment / Request

Amy Shaiman 11 Heather Ridge Court Resident Comment / Request – Ms. Shaiman thanked the City Council and City Staff for the work they put into the Oxford Tomorrow program that was held yesterday. Ms. Shaiman thanked the Mayor and the City for the “Days of Remembrance” Proclamation.

Steven Snell 6 Old Stone Court Resident Comment / Request – Mr. Snell inquired about the absence of the Pledge of Allegiance at City Council Meetings.

Consent Agenda [TIME 11:19](#)

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.

- A. Minutes of the April 5, 2022 City Council Meeting (Heather Barbour, Clerk of Council)
Page 7 of the Agenda Packet

Motion – To Adopt

(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Prytherch 2nd Ms. Franklin

AYE #6

NAY #0

ABS #0

Resolutions

Resolution No. 7393 [TIME 12:19](#)

Page 30 of the Agenda Packet

1. A Resolution Opposing the Adoption of House Bill 563, currently being considered by a committee of the Ohio House of Representatives, Which proposes to limit local regulation of short-term rental property. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Comments from the Public – None

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7393

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

AYE #6

NAY #0

ABS #0

Resolution No. 7394 [TIME 14:36](#)

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2. A Resolution Approving the Paid Parental Leave Policy Memorandum of Understanding between the Non-Commissioned Police Division Employees Union and the City of Oxford and Authorizing the City Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the City. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Comments from the Public – None

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7394

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

AYE #6

NAY #0

ABS #0

Resolution No. 7395 [TIME 17:30](#)

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3. A Resolution Approving the Paid Parental Leave Policy Memorandum of Understanding between the Oxford Police Officers, FOP Lodge 38 and the City of Oxford and Authorizing the City Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the City. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Comments from the Public – None

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7395

(Voice Vote) 1st Mr. Ellerbe 2nd Ms. Franklin

AYE #6

NAY #0

ABS #0

Resolution No. 7396 [TIME 18:20](#)

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4. A Resolution Approving the Paid Parental Leave Policy Memorandum of Understanding between the Police Sergeants and Lieutenants, FOP Lodge 38 and the City of Oxford and Authorizing the City Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the City. (Doug Elliott, City Manager)

Comments from the Public – None

Motion – To Adopt Resolution No. 7396

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

AYE #6

NAY #0

ABS #0

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.

First Reading None

Comments from the Public – None

Second Reading

Ordinance No. 3676 [TIME 19:11](#)

Page 54 of the Agenda Packet

1. An Ordinance Approving a Conditional Use Permit Application to allow for the Re-Establishment of a Fraternity use located at 406 East Withrow Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 With Conditions. (Sam Perry, Community Development Director)

Motion – To Adopt Ordinance No. 3676

(Roll Call Vote) 1st Mr. Ellerbe 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE #6

Mr. Bracken, Mr. Ellerbe, Ms. Franklin, Ms. French, Mr. Prytherch, Mayor Snively

NAY #0

Names Here

ABS #0

Announcements & Communications

Remarks from City Council and City Staff [TIME 22:03](#)

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.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn Meeting at 8:08 p.m. [TIME 38:10](#)

(Voice Vote) 1st Ms. Franklin 2nd Mr. Prytherch

AYE #6

NAY #0

ABS #0

Request has been sucessfully updated.

Public Comment to Council Form

Print

Submitted by: Jason Roberts

Submitted On: 2022-04-28 09:05:33

Status: Acknowledged

Priority: Normal

Assigned To: Doug Elliott

Due Date: Open

Public Comment To Council



Please note: Comments must be received by 2:00 pm the day of the council meeting to be shared with City Council members. Comments will be included in the minutes under the public comment section.

* **First Name**

Jason

Enter your First Name

* **Last Name**

Roberts

Enter your Last Name

* **Address**

30 Josie Ln

* **City**

Oxford

* **State**

OH

* **Email**

j.edward.roberts@gmail.com

Phone

216-965-6658

* **I am a...**

- ☐ Visitor
- ☒ Resident
- ☐ Business Manager
- ☐ Business Owner
- ☐ Employee in Oxford
- ☐ Student
- ☐ Other

* **Comment(s)**

For the record, I am not in support of year-round DORA expansion. As someone that's lived in various cities in Columbus, Toledo, and Cleveland, Oxford has a great deal of vibrancy and tourism all on its own in comparison. I do support the current DORA schedule as it is.

Make a public comment for review by City Council

0:00:00.0 Mayor Snavely: Read the roll please.

0:00:02.4 Clerk: Mr. Prytherch?

0:00:04.8 Mr. David Prytherch: Here.

0:00:05.6 Clerk: Mr. Bracken?

0:00:06.9 Mr. Jason Bracken: Here.

0:00:07.3 Clerk: Mr. Ellerbe?

0:00:08.4 Mr. Glenn Ellerbe: Here.

0:00:08.9 Clerk: Ms. Franklin?

0:00:10.0 Ms. Amber Franklin: Here.

0:00:10.5 Clerk: Ms. French?

0:00:11.5 Ms. Alex French: Here.

0:00:12.0 Clerk: Mayor Snavely?

0:00:13.2 Mayor Snavely: Here. So I'm gonna call the meeting to order and move to the first item which is approval of the agenda, can I have a motion?

0:00:23.2 Ms. French: So moved.

0:00:23.8 Mayor Snavely: Thank you Councilor French.

0:00:25.3 Ms. Franklin: Second.

0:00:25.7 Mayor Snavely: Seconded by Councilor Franklin. Are there any changes? All those in favor indicate by saying aye.

0:00:34.3 Group: Aye.

0:00:34.6 Mayor Snavely: Opposed? Thank you. Next, we will move to public participation. We have two proclamations. And I will read the first one. Whereas the Holocaust was the state-sponsored systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945, 6 million were murdered. Roma Gypsies, people with disabilities and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic or national reasons and millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents also suffered grievous suppression and death under Nazi tyranny. And whereas the history of the Holocaust offers an opportunity to reflect on the moral responsibilities of individual societies and governments. And whereas we, the people of the city of Oxford should

always remember the terrible events of the holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution and tyranny.

0:01:47.1 Mayor Snavelly: And whereas we the people of the city of Oxford should actively re-dedicate ourselves to the principles of individual freedom in a just society and probably re-educate as well. And whereas the days of remembrance have been set aside for the people of the city of Oxford to remember the victims of the Holocaust, as well as to reflect on the need for respect for all people. And whereas pursuant to an act of Congress, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council designates the days of remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust to be Sunday April 24th through Sunday May 1st, 2022, including the day of remembrance known as Yom HaShoah April 28th, 2022.

0:02:38.5 Mayor Snavelly: Now therefore, I William B. Snavelly, Mayor of Oxford, Ohio do hereby proclaim the week of Sunday, April 24th through Sunday, May 1st, 2022 as days of remembrance in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. In honor of the survivors, as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we as citizens of the city of Oxford, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs. And Amy, are you here? Oh Eli's here?

[background conversation]

0:03:53.9 Mayor Snavelly: The second proclamation, whereas in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska board of agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. And whereas this holiday called Arbor Day was first observed with the planting of more than one million trees in Nebraska. Parenthetically, I lived in Nebraska for three years and they needed it.

[chuckle]

0:04:22.5 Mayor Snavelly: And whereas trees can produce oxygen, provide habitat for wild life, reduce the erosion of our precious top soil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperatures, clean the air and help to absorb rainwater and slow the velocity of storm water run-off. And whereas trees are a resource providing us with wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, paper and countless other wood products. And whereas associated with the management of the sum 3510 street, park and public trees in the community, the city of Oxford has fulfilled the national Arbor Day foundations requirements for Tree City USA for 26 consecutive years. Now therefore, I William B. Snavelly Mayor of the city of Oxford, Ohio Tree City USA, do hereby proclaim that on April 29th, 2022, the last Friday of the month, the city of Oxford will recognize and participate in the national and international celebration of Arbor Day. And I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

0:05:50.1 Mr. Dreisbach: Thank you sir. Appreciate your support.

0:06:01.2 Mayor Snavelly: When we moved to Nebraska, my wife looked around and she said, "Where are the trees?"

[laughter]

0:06:09.8 Mayor Snavelly: And when fall came, we drove to Iowa to find a forest. [chuckle] So, it's appropriate that it started in Nebraska I think. We will move now to public comments, and we welcome comments from the public. Anyone wishing to address council about items that are not on the agenda or on the consent agenda, please come forward at this time. State your name and address for the record, and we'll give you five minutes. Welcome.

0:06:47.8 Ms. Amy Shaiman: Good evening. Amy Shaiman, 11, Heather Ridge Court. I just wanted to quickly thank city council and the city staff for the Oxford Tomorrow program that happened yesterday. I really appreciated the briefing and the updates and the summaries of what was gathered previously, as well as the opportunity to continue to participate as a community. I think it's really, really valuable, and I believe that the website that was shared for people who wanted to participate, who were not able to be there last night, is oxfordtomorrow.org. I see heads nodding; for people who are listening and not watching. So I encourage people to continue to do that and participate, and I look forward to seeing those comments woven in. In addition, I wanna thank the mayor and the city for the proclamation and remembrance of Holocaust and genocide awareness.

0:07:35.8 Ms. Amy Shaiman: Unfortunately, it was neither the first nor the last of the genocides that have happened in our world, and unfortunately there are actions happening today in various parts of the world that are also genocidal. But as someone who is a member of a community that were very significantly decimated for European roots, I appreciate that it's remembered and there's... Your slip of saying reeducate is very true there. I saw a statistic, I'm not remembering it precisely off the top of my head right now, of the low percentage of current high school and college aged people who believe that the Holocaust happened or even know what it was, is sad. So, I appreciate it being something that we pay attention to in our community and that we all work to end hatred of all kinds. Thanks.

0:08:27.5 Mayor Snavelly: You're welcome. Would anyone else like to address council tonight? Welcome.

0:08:42.1 Mr. Steve Snell: Hey, thank you. My name is Steve Snell. I live here in Oxford with my wife and my young son. So I notice on the March 15th meeting that I attended and then again, April 5th, and then again tonight, I'm seeing a pattern emerge. So I'm curious. When did we stop saying the pledge of allegiance at the start of these meetings and who made that decision?

0:09:06.1 Mayor Snavelly: I did.

0:09:06.7 Mr. Steve Snell: Okay, could you tell me why?

0:09:08.0 Mayor Snavelly: Yeah, I can. All it takes, and I would support it, is a motion. What the city manager and I looked at was the rules of council, and the rules of council identify what should be on the agenda. And while that was done out of tradition not many years ago when I was on council before, but in the meantime it's not in the rules of council. And so the next time we review the rules of council, I think we can bring that up.

0:09:42.0 Mr. Steve Snell: Do you have a copy of tonight's agenda in front of you?

0:09:44.5 Mayor Snavelly: Yes, I have a copy of it.

0:09:46.3 Mr. Steve Snell: What's the line underneath the 7:30 PM start date, or start time, say?

0:09:52.7 Mayor Snavelly: I will say this. We're not having a debate and so you may make your comment...

0:09:56.7 Mr. Steve Snell: I'm not trying to debate, sir, I'm just asking you what does the agenda state?

0:10:00.5 Mayor Snavelly: Go ahead and tell me what you think the agenda states.

0:10:01.1 Mr. Steve Snell: I don't have it in front of me. Does anybody have an agenda?

0:10:04.5 Mayor Snavelly: It says roll call.

0:10:06.3 Ms. Greene: I can correct. I understand there's a discrepancy...

0:10:10.3 Mr. Steve Snell: I must be mistaken then. I'm sorry, I apologize.

0:10:12.8 Mayor Snavelly: That's okay.

0:10:13.0 Mr. Steve Snell: I'm pulling it up online, it said...

0:10:13.2 Mayor Snavelly: No, I just didn't wanna have a debate with you.

0:10:15.1 Mr. Steve Snell: I'm not trying to debate anything.

0:10:19.2 Mayor Snavelly: Thank you.

0:10:20.8 Ms. Greene: The Granicus tool that we use online does not allow us to make edits, and it's a template that's locked in and it does say pledge of allegiance online and the printed version does not so there is a discrepancy, based with the tool that we used to build the agenda.

0:10:37.6 Mr. Steve Snell: Is the Granicus online agenda valid?

0:10:41.9 Ms. Greene: It is the tool we use to publish the agenda. And we can't... We've asked for a template to be changed and they... One of the reasons we're not... We're looking at changing from Granicus.

0:10:53.2 Mr. Steve Snell: Okay, so how do the people of Oxford get a copy of the agenda?

0:10:58.4 Mayor Snavelly: Any councilor can propose changes to the rules of council.

0:11:03.3 Mayor Snavelly: Thank you.

0:11:11.5 Mayor Snavelly: Would anyone else like to address council? Okay. We will move to the consent agenda. Can I have a motion to approve the consent agenda?

0:11:21.7 Mr. Prytherch: So moved.

0:11:22.3 Ms. Franklin: So moved.

0:11:22.9 Mayor Snavelly: It's been moved by Councilor Prytherch, seconded by Councilor Franklin. Are there any items to be removed? There's only one, so I assume not. All those in favor of approving the consent agenda, indicate by saying aye.

0:11:41.0 Group: Aye.

0:11:41.5 Mayor Snavelly: Opposed? Thank you.

0:11:42.3 Mr. Prytherch: Can I just introduce some thanks? I know that the minutes have been evolving to try to improve as we try to develop a more efficient system, and I appreciate the moves to try to make them more transparent and link to the videos. So thank you to Heather and Jessica and anybody else for trying to make... We went to the straight action minutes and they were not very informative, so I like the links to the videos, and the transcript although imperfect is... I think we're moving in the right direction, so thank you.

0:12:10.7 Mayor Snavelly: Okay. We will move then to resolutions. We may read the resolution.

0:12:18.2 Clerk: A resolution opposing the adoption of House Bill 563, currently being considered by a committee of the Ohio House of Representatives, which proposes to limit local regulation of short-term rental property.

0:12:34.2 Mayor Snavelly: Is there a motion to adopt this resolution?

0:12:36.9 Ms. French: So moved.

0:12:38.9 Mayor Snavelly: Thank you.

0:12:39.4 Mr. Ellerbe: It's been seconded.

0:12:44.0 Mayor Snavelly: And seconded. French and Ellerbe. And...

0:12:44.7 Mr. Elliott: Thank you. Yes, House Bill 563, which is being considered by the Ohio House state and local government committee, they've had three hearings on it, would preempt local governments from regulating or prohibiting the use of short-term rental properties. As you know, the city of Oxford has adopted reasonable and common sense regulations of short-term rentals to protect our residential neighborhoods. We require short-term rentals to complete an application and a property inspection. We limit the maximum numbers of days that a structure may be rented to the 90 days per year. And we also require short-term rentals to pay the city's hotel and lodging tax at 6% total. So as I said earlier, it's being considered by the House, State and Local Government Committee. They've had three hearings on it. I believe they're in recess now, but we feel that this is a clear assault on our home rule authority, granted under the Ohio Constitution. And we have then on the legislative agenda, this resolution, and opposition to house bill 563. And I would urge council to adopt this resolution. Thank you.

0:14:01.1 Mayor Snavelly: Thank you. Is there anyone from the public who'd like to address this resolution? Seeing none. Councilors, any comments, questions? Okay.

0:14:14.6 Mr. Prytherch: Thank you. And I... If we have to do battle on this one with other municipalities, I hope we join with them because...

0:14:19.5 Mayor Snavelly: Yep.

0:14:19.7 Mr. Prytherch: This is our purview.

0:14:23.3 Mr. Bracken: And this is important to us.

0:14:24.7 Mayor Snavelly: All those in favor of the resolution indicate by saying "Aye."

0:14:27.3 Group: Aye.

0:14:29.7 Mayor Snavelly: Opposed? Resolution is adopted. Can you read the second?

0:14:33.1 Clerk: Sure. A resolution approving the Paid Parental Leave Policy, Memorandum of Understanding between the non-commissioned Police Division Employees Union, and the city of Oxford, and authorizing the City Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the city.

0:14:52.1 Mayor Snavelly: Is there a motion to adopt?

0:14:54.9 Mr. Ellerbe: So moved.

0:14:55.8 Mayor Snavelly: It's been moved by Councilor Ellerbe.

0:14:58.7 Ms. French: Second.

0:15:00.2 Mayor Snavelly: It's seconded by Councilor French.

0:15:01.6 Mr. Elliott: So I have basically, the same report for the next three resolutions. As you know, the city included paid parental leave in their employee handbook, and wage and salary ordinance that we adopted last year. And this provision allows for eight weeks of paid parental leave that does not require the employee to use their accrued leave. And after eight weeks of paid parental leave, the employee may use an additional four weeks of unpaid parental leave, during which an employee may substitute sick leave or vacation.

0:15:35.9 Mr. Elliott: The provision did not extend to our three Police Unions, the Sergeants and Lieutenants, the Patrol, and the Non-commissioned Officers. All three of those police contracts currently have a maternity provision, which allows the employee to use vacation, sick leave or unpaid leave. Two of the unions, the Sergeants and Lieutenants, and patrol, currently have a provision for a paternity leave. So we're recommending that we swap out that language for the language that we have in our employee handbook. And that's what you have on the agenda tonight. And this would make our policy consistent with what we have in the handbook. So we're recommending adoption of all three of these resolutions as you read them.

0:16:19.7 Mayor Snavelly: Okay. Thank you. Is there anyone from the public who would like to address this resolution? Hearing none. Councilors, any comments?

0:16:33.9 Mr. Bracken: I think this is great. I think it demonstrates our values and what we care about. And I'm happy to do it.

0:16:37.9 Mayor Snavelly: Okay. Yeah, it's good to keep all the employees on the same page. So I'm glad to bring the police force onto it.

0:16:46.8 Mr. Prytherch: I would note that it is... I mean, this is kind of an unusual situation, through a Memorandum Of Understanding, to modify a contract. Unionization it's... Adjust contracts in certain periods. But it's nice to think that unionization, and... The union and management relationship doesn't need to be adversarial all the time, and that it doesn't need to be inflexible in the face of change. So if we're able to do this, I'm glad that we're able to do this, and not have to wait until the next contract negotiations. So I agree.

0:17:19.1 Mayor Snavelly: All those in favor of the resolution indicate by saying, "Aye."

0:17:21.5 Group: Aye.

0:17:23.0 Mayor Snavelly: Opposed? Resolution is adopted. Please read number three.

0:17:28.9 Clerk: A resolution approving the Paid Parental Leave Policy, Memorandum Of Understanding between the Oxford Police Officers, FOP Lodge 38, and the city of Oxford, and authorizing the city manager to sign the Memorandum Of Understanding on behalf of the city.

0:17:45.5 Mayor Snavelly: Is there a motion?

0:17:47.2 Mr. Ellerbe: So moved.

0:17:48.1 Ms. Franklin: Second.

0:17:48.6 Mayor Snavelly: Moved and seconded. I assume the staff report is the same?

0:17:53.6 Mr. Elliott: Yeah, the staff report is the same unless you have questions?

0:17:56.2 Mayor Snavelly: Okay. Are there any comments from the public? You'll have another chance if you think of anything. Any additional discussion on the council? All those in favor of the resolution indicate by saying "Aye."

0:18:11.6 Group: Aye.

0:18:13.0 Mayor Snavelly: Opposed? That resolution is adopted. Please read number four.

0:18:19.6 Clerk: A resolution approving the Paid Parental Leave Policy, Memorandum Of Understanding between the Police Sergeants and Lieutenants, FOP lodge 38, and the city of Oxford, and authorizing the city manager to sign the Memorandum Of Understanding on behalf of the city.

0:18:35.8 Mayor Snavelly: Is there a motion?

0:18:38.0 Mr. Ellerbe: So moved.

0:18:38.6 Mayor Snavelly: It's been moved by Councilor Ellerbe.

0:18:41.2 Ms. French: Second.

0:18:41.5 Mayor Snavelly: Seconded by Councilor French. Staff report is the same?

0:18:45.4 Mr. Elliott: Yes.

0:18:47.0 Mayor Snavelly: Anyone from the public? Okay. Any, hope... Councilors on this one? All those in favor indicate by saying "Aye."

0:18:56.7 Group: Aye.

0:18:57.1 Mayor Snavelly: Opposed? And that resolution is adopted. We have no first readings. We have one second reading. And I would invite our clerk to read it when she's ready.

0:19:10.0 Clerk: An ordinance approving a conditional use permit application to allow for the re-establishment of a fraternity use located at 406, East Withrow Street, Oxford Ohio 45056, with conditions.

0:19:25.2 Mayor Snavelly: Okay. And is there a motion to adopt this ordinance?

0:19:30.0 Mr. Ellerbe: So moved.

0:19:30.7 Mr. Prytherch: Seconded.

0:19:31.5 Mayor Snavelly: Okay. It's moved by Councilor Ellerbe, and seconded... I heard... Okay, by Councilor Prytherch. Sam, anything new here?

0:19:42.2 Mr. Perry: Nothing new. Thank you.

[laughter]

0:19:45.9 Mr. Perry: I can give a summary again if you'd like.

0:19:49.0 Mayor Snavelly: I think we had it last time.

0:19:50.6 Mr. Perry: Okay.

0:19:51.6 Mayor Snavelly: Alright. If there's questions, we'll call you back. Is there anyone from the public who would like to address this ordinance? Hearing none. Councilors, is there any further discussion?

0:20:04.7 Mr. Bracken: Sure. I would just like to... So I was at the dissenting vote in the Planning Commission. I just wanted to explain that briefly. So I felt that there was some inconsistency in how we address parking regulations, but I understand, and I don't wanna get in the way of this, it's not a bias inconsistency. It's more about ticketing values. So you have the issue of not wanting to burden streets and parking, but at the same time, you want a walkable city, you want more affordable housing, you want to preserve green spaces, you wanna reduce pavement. And so it's been so many inconsistent and something that we're gonna work on the Planning Commission, but that's why I decided not because this is problematic or in any other way.

0:20:45.5 Mayor Snavelly: Okay.

0:20:46.0 Mr. Jason Bracken: That's all.

0:20:47.7 Mayor Snavelly: So this is reverting from what it was originally built as with the same owners. And so it was their fraternity. It was a church facility for a while, now it's gonna be the fraternity again.

0:21:02.8 Mr. Prytherch: And I would note that the main... I think there was agreement in almost everything except for parking in the size of the sign, and I know the applicants would wish for a sign that were larger maybe in line with what the historical non-conforming size of the sign was. But one of the things that I... When I teach planning is, it's all about fairness. And so if you extend to one person something, you have to be prepared to extend it to everyone else, and we have to try to be very careful with signage size. So I know it wasn't quite as large as the applicant would wish, but it's also not as small as our code would probably require it to be, but I think what we worked out was a compromise, and so I think it's fair.

0:21:41.0 Mayor Snavelly: Would you please call the roll.

0:21:45.8 Clerk: Mr. Bracken?

0:21:47.7 Mr. Bracken: Yes.

0:21:47.7 Clerk: Mr. Ellerbe?

0:21:48.7 Mr. Ellerbe: Yes.

0:21:49.6 Clerk: Ms. Franklin?

0:21:50.4 Ms. Franklin: Yes.

0:21:51.3 Clerk: Ms. French?

0:21:52.1 Ms. French: Yes.

0:21:52.8 Clerk: Mr. Prytherch?

0:21:53.6 Mr. Prytherch: Yes.

0:21:53.6 Clerk: Mayor Snavely?

0:21:55.1 Mayor Snavely: Yes. So ordinance is adopted. We'll move to announcements and communications, and I'll begin with the City Manager, Doug Elliott.

0:22:04.2 Mr. Elliott: I'll just share with you one thing I did put in my written report, but when we look at our water and sewer utility rates, they compare very favorably to statewide averages. Each year, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency completes a survey of residential water and sewer rates, and the rates are calculated on an annual basis and are based on water consumption of 700... Excuse me, 7756 gallons per month or 1037 cubic feet per month. So the 2019 average annual residential sewer rate in Ohio was \$749, and this was a 4.5% increase over 2018. The city of Oxford's annual sewer rate for the same amount of consumption was \$544, so it's 27.4% less than the statewide average. When we look at our residential water rate, the average Ohio residential water rate was \$697, which was a 4.2% increase over 2018. The city of Oxford's annual water rate for that same amount of consumption was \$421, which is a 39.6% less than the statewide average.

0:23:21.1 Doug Elliott: I might also share with you that in comparison to the Southwest Regional Water District, their rate is \$622 for that amount of consumption, and the city's water rate in comparison to them is 32.3% less. As you probably know, the city of Oxford last raised water and sewer rates in 2016 by 2%. At that time, we also lowered refuse rates, and prior to that, we had not raised water rates since 2019, and sewer rates had not been raised since 1997. So as you can see, we have very competitive water and sewer utility rates. We're fortunate because we made some improvements back in 1992 to find a new water treatment plant, additional wells of US 127 and a transmission line. And to pay for those, we issue debt, and in 2014, we made the last debt service payment of just under \$900,000.

0:24:26.6 Doug Elliott: Those improvements were needed to increase the water capacity because, Mike had shared with me the story about the 1989 water crisis, and I think I knew some students maybe that contributed to some of that as well. So we can currently have no outstanding debt in the water or sewer funds, but we do, of course, anticipate water rate increase needed to finance the water softening project when we get into that. We're looking to develop the RFP now for the engineering for that, and we'll be having a work session with Council on that when we get to that point. But we have very competitive rates, and I just wanted to share that with the Council and the public. That's all I have this evening. Thank you.

0:25:14.2 Mayor Snavely: Thank you.

0:25:14.3 Mr. Dreisbach: Nothing from us. Thank you.

0:25:14.7 Mayor Snavely: Thank you. Chief?

0:25:26.7 Chief Jones: One thing I noticed not on the agenda that I should have already raised with Heather, but I thought I would make the announcement just a bit early, is on May 12th, we have police community relations and review commission meeting at 7:00 o'clock here at the courthouse. So I should have gotten that added in, but I'll just make the announcement for the public. There's still plenty of time. I just wanted to say a few comments about a situation we had last night. I'm sure you heard about it. There was a lot of media coverage where an armed suspect was barricaded along with other citizens, bystanders. So we were already pretty short-handed when that started, when it

all kicked off, but we were able to get off-duty personnel in pretty quickly to help in a quick manner. And then of course, when we called out the SWAT team, which were are a member of, we received numerous resources from all around the county. So I was just very proud of how our team operated last night. We handled that situation. We were able to gain compliance from the suspect and revolve violence situation without injury to anyone involved and really without any property damage which doesn't always happen.

0:26:46.7 Chief Jones: It doesn't always end that way, and we've seen that in other situations we've been involved in, and we don't always control how it ends either, but I just wanted to thank, say last night, it worked well, it was an efficient system, to we take time. Time is on our side, and we inconvenienced some people by keeping that area shut down, but in the end, it's worth it because there was no loss of life, no injury, and just a shout out to our team who came in and helped, and also the other agencies who came in but are kind of Sheriff's Office and all the other police departments that are part of the regional spot team.

0:27:28.4 Mayor Snavelly: You're to be congratulated, maybe it really was a successful evening in that respect. Could you remind the public who may be watching if they don't have Nixle, how to get that on their phone?

0:27:42.2 Chief Jones: Sure, so one of the things with that situation there's a lot of support around that. They don't always see and that one of those things is media and getting messaging across, and sometimes we don't always get those messages out, but last night with the prolonged situation, we were able to get a message out through Nixle, it's a public safety alerting tool if you go to Nixle, nixle.com, you can sign up and get public safety alerts, which may include things like tornado warnings, fire emergencies or road closures, and as if last night was a shelter in place to the folks who lived in that area, and also to us to avoid the area, so it's a good tool to sign up for, and I will say when we put those alerts out, we knew this was gonna cause us more work with the media, but we wanna try to spread that message just in case, so we can avoid people in the area.

0:28:44.1 Mayor Snavelly: Thank you. I encourage people to sign up for Nixle if you haven't already done so, it is not over-used and it is rare that they come out, but when they do it's important, and I think it's good for people to be aware. Thank you. Joe?

0:29:00.1 Mr. Newlin: Nothing, thank you.

0:29:03.4 Mayor Snavelly: Okay, Chief?

0:29:05.6 Chief Detherage: Nothing, sir.

0:29:09.3 Mayor Snavelly: Okay. Sam?

0:29:10.5 Mr. Perry: As several have said Oxford Tomorrow workshop went well last night, and thanks for many of those of you that attended and public, we had around 100 or so, went really well, is a very positive and organized environment for collaboration and ideas from the community, so the next several weeks will be processing, those many ideas and the hundreds of post-it notes and verbal conversations to some extent that were contributed into what will be, we hope, realistic goals and objectives that will bring back to you later, probably early fall, and then we'll have something in front of you, but there'll be some steering committee meetings and then more of a public open house

to kinda bring back all of that into a more defined plan, so looking forward to that, and there were some data that was presented for those of you that as reviewed the slides in advance at the steering committee meeting that some of the voices that we haven't heard a lot from, have been the lower income community members, but with your contributions and your leadership over the past many months, some of those ideas that we think would be helpful that are needed by the lower income community have already been folded into some of your goals, but to the extent that you can help with that and allow some of those needs to be brought forth over the next several weeks, we'd appreciate that. Thank you.

0:30:32.4 Mayor Snavelly: Thank you. Assistant City Manager, Jessica Greene, welcome.

0:30:41.6 Ms. Greene: Good evening. I just wanted to give you some updates, but first, I also wanna thank Sam and Zachary Moore from the Community Development Department for MKSK for the great visiting workshop last night and the tremendous job, and they really have been, put a lot of hours into it, so thank you. Along those same lines, the online survey for those who were not able to attend last night, we'll go out, we hope tomorrow, and that survey will be open until May 6th, so we'll start publishing that here tomorrow or the next day. Make sure people are aware of that deadline, and we encourage anyone who wasn't able to attend in person to please put their feedback on to that survey. And then just wanted to let you know that Heather and I are actively researching agenda and management tools to make sure that we're using the right one, and also Mike Dreisbach and Pat O'Malley are researching our AV equipment to make sure that we're kind of using the proper tools and research, and if we need to make any upgrades, so stay tuned on that progress.

0:31:42.6 Ms. Greene: And that's my only other update for you tonight. It's just seem like a short night to give you an opportunity to let you know what we're working on. So we are actively, from your retreat, developing a new Dora application for an extended area and setting up dates for the Red Brick Fridays, and we're developing a budget for that business, a special assessment area, so we hope to have those to be coming forward to the next couple of months. And the more longer term we'll continue, we've started researching child care availability in the city of Oxford, both in-home and commercial and vouchers and not. So that's a little bit of a longer term research project, but we're hoping to get some good data to share with you, and then we're developing models with our American rescue plan funds in both the housing category and economic development categories, so we're really trying to do a lot of research and bring forward to you what we think are gonna be some best practices for the use of those dollars, so that's what's going on behind the scenes right now. Thanks.

0:32:40.4 Mayor Snavelly: Thank you, Heather?

0:32:42.9 Clerk: Nothing, thank you.

0:32:43.8 Mayor Snavelly: Okay.

0:32:46.2 Mr. Mazer: Nothing tonight, thank you.

0:32:46.3 Mayor Snavelly: Nothing from the law department. We'll just go to Glenn.

0:32:49.1 Mr. Ellerbe: I just like to thank the City and this departments for the excellent communication that we've had so far, just as a regular citizen, I feel like I'm very informed about

the various things they've been going on, whether it's an emergency or otherwise, so thanks a lot.

0:33:05.0 Mayor Snavelly: Thank you, Glenn. Alex.

0:33:06.9 Ms. French: I'm gonna do some reiteration, the Oxford Tomorrow event kudos to everybody. It was really well run. Very well attended. I know that I'm gonna put the link to the survey on all of my social media pages, so if you're out there watching tonight and haven't had a chance to voice your opinions yet, please let us know at oxfordtomorrow.org and stay tuned to that page for any other public input sessions, Sam mentioned that we have one more public workshop session coming up that date and location is to be determined, and then I also want to tip my cap to our Oxford Police Department. I tangentially know through my work how hard it is to coordinate a crisis.

0:33:45.2 Ms. French: When counseling schools on how to handle that, to do that for a whole town and a whole apartment complex, full of people on a very highly traveled road and keep everybody safe is a huge deal. So just I... I'm very proud of our town for a lot over the last couple days. So kudos to everybody. Thank you.

0:34:06.3 Mayor Snavelly: Thank you.

0:34:07.1 Ms. Franklin: Yeah, I just like to echo what was said and to also thank Chief Jones and OPD for the excellent work in the crisis management last night. Thank you.

0:34:15.8 Mr. Bracken: Yeah, I would say the same thing, but I wanted to add how excited I am about potential childcare possibilities and affordable housing going forward. So thanks for that to staff and everybody involved in this. It's being pretty great lately. Thanks for all the work.

0:34:31.4 Mr. Prytherch: So, don't wanna reiterate other than it was a great team effort that was brought to it last night. Obviously our staff between Sam and Zach and Jessica and all the interns, Casey was there manning. So we had staff and department heads there MKSK, its doing a great job. But our citizens invested a lot of passion in that event last night. I mean, a hundred people came out who are really believing the plan. They wouldn't come out on a Wednesday night if they didn't care about the topics and they didn't really... They weren't optimistic that we would take them seriously. I know from some experience that just because you make a plan doesn't mean... Plans don't implement themselves and you have to be ready to take all those ideas and figure out how to translate them into action.

0:35:15.0 Mr. Prytherch: I think we made enormous progress that way, but you can... We just don't wanna do a disservice to our citizens, to invest all that energy in us, to not then be ready to do all that we can. So it's a long term. I mean, we're gonna write the plan, but the challenge will then be ours to figure out as a city, as an organization. How do we figure out how to... Bite, eat the elephant one bite at a time, and set realistic expectations on what possible. So I'm proud of the cultural change that we've made. But it's really possible to write a plan and not use it. So, I think given how much investment people making as the city, as our tax dollars and staff. But the public, we... It's really incumbent on us to just respect and thank the people by figuring out a mechanism for doing these things that they're asking us to do. So...

0:36:05.7 Mayor Snavelly: I want to thank chief, members of police department. I think the city of

Oxford is blessed to have such excellent employees across the board, and none are better example of that than our police department. And please convey that all of council very much appreciates them. Number of people ask, when are things gonna start happening again and things uptown. While we had Earth day, that was pretty well attended. We had this wonderful planning session last night. But coming up this Saturday, two things that you may be interested in that are big community events and that you can take part in and the weather should co-operate. It should be sunny and warm. And one of those is the 66th Annual Pancake Day put on by Oxford's Kiwanis Club. And you can get tickets or you can pay an extra dollar at the door, if you want to.

0:37:12.2 Mayor Snavelly: Almost everybody in the community tends to want to go to it and you see everybody there and the money that is spent, goes to helping kids in our community. And I think it's a really good cause, and I hope that you have an opportunity to go. This is the last pitch I'll make. I have some few tickets left. The other thing is that Electric Roots Music festival is also going to be going on and this weekend. And I hope you have a chance to go uptown and enjoy the music. And there will be music from...

0:37:48.8 Ms. Franklin: To make a note on...

0:37:49.1 Mayor Snavelly: Yeah.

0:37:49.3 Ms. Franklin: Mm-hmm.

0:37:49.4 Mayor Snavelly: There's quite a few performers. And do you know the time? It's 2:00...

0:37:54.7 Ms. Franklin: It's all day. It's like 2:00 to I believe 9:00.

0:37:56.3 Mayor Snavelly: 2:00 to 10:00 or 9:00.

0:38:00.2 Ms. Franklin: Yeah, it's a full day, so...

0:38:01.2 Mayor Snavelly: So get out there. Enjoy the music, enjoy congregating with your fellow citizens. With that, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

0:38:13.7 Ms. Franklin: So moved.

[laughter]

0:38:14.4 Mr. Ellerbe: Seconded.

0:38:19.1 Mayor Snavelly: That was a hard one to get. Seconded, all those in favor, indicate by say aye.

0:38:22.Group: Aye.

0:38:22.7 Mayor Snavelly: Opposed? Thank you. The meeting is adjourned.