

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY CENTER, OXFORD, NEWTON, GEORGIA**

MEMBERS PRESENT: JERRY D. ROSEBERRY, MAYOR; FRANK DAVIS, MAYOR PRO-TEM; COUNCIL MEMBERS JIM WINDHAM; TERRY SMITH; HOYT P. OLIVER; GEORGE HOLT; FRANK DAVIS; DAVID EADY

OTHERS PRESENT: Simon Perryman; Hulon Clemons; Mary Clemons; Ed Arthur; Clark Miller, City Manager; Ed Arthur

The Public Hearing was called to order by the Honorable Jerry D. Roseberry, Mayor.

PLANNING/ZONING/STORMWATER/CEMETERY

Hoyt Oliver

The purpose of this hearing is to consider a revision of the comprehensive zoning ordinance and the comprehensive map of the City of Oxford for zoning change request to property described as Lot #7 of Block "D" Oxford Square from R-15 (Single-Family Residential) to INST/For a Community Park.

Mayor Roseberry asked if there were any applicants wishing to speak who are in favor of the proposed park. There were no applicants in favor wishing to speak.

Mayor Roseberry then asked those who are not in favor of the proposed park to be recognized and give his or her name and address and express their concerns.

First Speaker:

Mr. Simon Perryman, 120 Oxford Way, "I'm not in favor of it" I think it will bring more outside kids than those that live in Oxford Square. If you have to build a playground or community park I would like to see one built for the whole city, not just Oxford Square. I think it would be more beneficial to the city and the citizens if you built a nice park for the City of Oxford and the citizens of Oxford and not just Oxford Square. I feel if you put it over there it's going to be tucked off if you know what I mean. I don't think anyone from the other part of the community would bring their kids there. I feel you should reconsider and come up with an idea to build a park more suitable for the whole city of Oxford rather than Oxford Square. I have heard concerns or complaints about kids playing in the road. I have lived here for years and haven't seen a problem with kids playing in the road. Based on the last meeting I understood if you build a park it was going to be for kids that are one to twelve years old.

Mayor Roseberry – "That's correct".

I feel if you are going to invest that kind of money in a park it should be for everybody not just kids. We have some older citizens who like to walk. A park with a walking track would be for the older people. If you develop one with a basketball court would give the older kids something to do. I don't mean to sound negative, however if you build a park for the one to twelve year olds the older kids will tear it up. They are going to feel like they got left out. You will be out there time after time making repairs. I

would like to ask the City of Oxford, if you have to build a park, please build one for all ages not just Oxford Square.

Citizen: Mr. Hulon Clemons, 112 Oxford Way; I have been living in Oxford Square for thirty three years. My concern is the houses losing their value and the children playing in the road. I don't know what happened to back yard playing. I think we should see some of the parents about their children. Some of the children are coming from Airport Road that's about a quarter of mile away. I think the parents are not controlling the children, they are running wild. Some of these children are only three and four years old, they shouldn't even be in the Oxford Square neighborhood. Would you want a park in front of your house? We have lived there for years and we really don't want a park.

Citizen: Mrs. Mary Clemons, 112 Oxford Way; I think Mr. Perryman and my husband pretty well summed it up. I have a lot of nieces and nephews that would not fit in that category. I agree with Mr. Perryman. If you are going to build a park, build one with a walking path. I love to walk and I would like to see a park with a nice track where I can walk and feel safe. If, you are going to build a park let's have a one for everyone.

Citizen: Mr. Ed Arthur, 210 Oxford Drive; There's been a lot of traffic through there, busses, people from out of town, people taking short cuts. Our officers have worked this area several times. I feel the people on the other end of Oxford Drive are deteriorating our property because they don't keep it clean and they cause a lot of problems. As Mr. Clemons pointed out there are some section 8 and low income homes in this area. I think a park in Oxford Square would cause more problems. I recommend the city consider the lot next to the post office or do away with the idea of a park in Oxford Square.

Citizen: Mr. Perryman; I think the property behind the cemetery where the city used to pile mulch would be a good area for a park and the area by Mt. Zion Church would be a good area for a walking trail.

Councilman, Hoyt Oliver: The property the city used to pile mulch is part of the cemetery. It has now been surveyed into lots for the cemetery.

If we build a park it would be one of a number of small pocket parks we are trying in different areas of the city that will be beautified with plantings, it would be a peaceful place to be. There might be some small children activities there. It would be much like the park on Bonnell Street and George Street. I think we are talking about a place that would be beautified with trees and shrubs but no vision of active recreation.

I agree it would be nice to have a park centrally located for all citizens to use and with basketball court in an area where it would not distribute neighbors. It would be nice for the town to have an active recreational park. We have a mile of walking trail that is open to all citizens. Yes, I agree to your idea of a park for all with activities for older adults and adolescents. I don't see a place like that in Oxford Square. I see it as a place for plantings with a place to sit and relax peacefully.

Councilman, Jim Windham: Windham asked the citizens who were present. "If the city purchases the lot, what would you like to see there?"

Mr. Clemons: I would like to see it cleaned up and left like it is.

Jim Windham: Asked Ms. Clemons where would you feel safe walking in the City of Oxford? It appears the consensus is among the four of you present, you would like to see it cleaned up and left like it is.

Mr. Perryman if you do anything just clean it up and make it look better than it does now. Make it like a natural area, with shrubs, trees and flowers that would bloom seasonally.

Jim Windham: The idea is to do something nice for Oxford Square.

Mr. Holt, I'm having second thoughts about this park. I haven't heard from anyone that lives in Oxford Square that wants a park. I feel a lot of opposition from the people who are here that live in Oxford Square.

Mayor Roseberry: Anderson Wright was in favor of a Park.

Mr. Holt: Anderson Wright doesn't live in Oxford Square nor does J.P. Godfrey. I don't think that we should put a park in an area where the people that live in that area do not want a park.

Mayor Roseberry: We did actually have people that ask the city to build a park.

David Eady: Why would we spend the city's money to buy this property? If the current owner wants to donate the property and the city beautify it and have it as a property that would be seen of value, I would support that. There seems to be concern about creating a readymade opportunity to people's loyalty. I can appreciate their concern and think this is something we need to take into account. The city streets are good for walking and we want to keep them clean and safe.

There being no further discussion or comments Mayor Roseberry closed the Public Hearing at 6:30.

Respectfully Submitted

Lauran S. Willis/City Clerk