

Town - Gown committee - May 13, 2014
City of Oxford and Oxford College

Present (City of Oxford): Mayor Jerry Roseberry, Councilmembers Jim Windham, Terry Smith, and Sarah Davis, Bob Schwartz, city manager, Judy Greer and JP Godfrey.

Present (Oxford College): Dean Steve Bowen, Dean Joe Moon, Dean Myra Frady, Kendra Mayfield, and Margaret Dugan.

Present (members of the public): Hoyt Oliver.

OPENING: Mayor Roseberry convened the meeting at 10:15 AM. The Mayor noted that because this was a meeting of City Council it was covered by the state open meetings law. He made introductions and stated that he would begin with a short report from the city which would be followed by a report from the college.

The city had a good audit report for its last fiscal year. We are currently working on our fiscal year 2015 budget and capital budget. The capital budget will include some additional sidewalks along Moore Street and also on Emory Street. The capital budget also includes the early planning stages for a city park. This will probably be a three to four year project. In our utility department we are considering remote read meters. In the Streets Department we continue to worry with potholes and repaving. We continue to have a low crime rate. We are starting to work on a master plan and beginning to assemble a committee to do this. Mayor Roseberry said he had recently talked to Margaret Dugan about the possibility of her serving on that committee.

Jim Windham noted that the Council was looking for younger thoughts and ways to serve the students as part of the master plan. He also noted that the capital budget closely follows our Short Term Work Program.

Terry Smith reported that the Emory and Asbury water line construction should be completed late in June or early in July. He mentioned that the city was thinking about extending a line to a new 12 inch main on Cook Road along Moore Street which would provide greater pressure and flow throughout that portion of the city.

Dean Bowen started the discussion on behalf of Oxford College. He mentioned that there appeared to be a drainage problem along the side of Moore Street and that the city might want to pay attention to that whatever it repairs the pavement there.

Mayor Roseberry mentioned that he had had discussions with a member of the school board who told him at the moment there were no plans to sell or dispose of the Palmer Stone School.

Dean Bowen mentioned that there had been a strengthening of the relationship between Oxford College and the Emory Atlanta campus. It has been demonstrated that Oxford College works well for freshmen and sophomores. During the last four years 95% of Oxford College graduates have gone on to

further their education at Emory. The incoming class this fall has SAT scores very close to those of the incoming class at the main campus. Oxford College is no longer the “back door” to Emory. This coming year’s strategic planning process at the College will be to work to redefine the Oxford College identity. The new chair of the Emory Trustees is John Morgan who is an Oxford college graduate. Oxford College will welcome four new faculty members this fall.

Daniel Parson is the organic farmer for Oxford College. He has harvested his first crop. He will bring several issues forward to the Oxford Planning Commission this evening. In addition, the college is installing an irrigation well on the property.

Dean Frady distributed a map showing the May 6, 2014 version of the Oxford College future development plan. On page 2 of an additional handout Dean Frady mentioned that the college plans to build a sidewalk from the corner of Moore to Haygood in front of the tennis courts. On page 3 of the handout a parking lot will be built behind Williams gym. Modifications will be made to another parking lot to provide for bus pull off with one-way traffic only. On page 4, because of the construction of the science building, the parking behind Graham Hall is going away and will only be used for utility parking. On page 5 the solution for parking will be to add 60 spaces to the main north lot giving the college a total of 195 spaces.

Jim Windham and Judy Greer discussed the possibility of a joint video between the college and the city as a way to welcome both local visitors and visitors from out of town. Dean Frady mentioned that the college has updated its map on the web and is more welcoming. Judy Greer suggested that perhaps one day we could have a community day to invite members of the community to the campus. Jim Windham discussed whether or not it would be possible to connect the back side of the campus to the trail system.

JP Godfrey reported on some of the work of the 175th anniversary committees. There is going to be a booklet published of 175 significant persons in the history of the city of Oxford. Because of the overlap between the Methodist Church, the college and the city, many of the people mentioned will be important to all three. On December 6 at 11 AM there will be a convocation at the Old Church to celebrate the 175th anniversary. The speaker will be Dr. Herschel Sheets of the North Georgia Methodist conference.

Dean Frady announced that Kendra Mayfield would be the new liaison for the College with the City of Oxford. Both Dean Frady and Mayor Roseberry thanked Margaret Dugan for her service in this capacity in the past.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.