

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014– 7:00 P.M.
CITY HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: JERRY D. ROSEBERRY, MAYOR; COUNCILMEMBERS: JIM WINDHAM; TERRY SMITH; SARAH DAVIS; GEORGE HOLT; LYN PACE; COUNCILMEMBER DAVID EADY NOT IN ATTENDANCE

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Schwartz, City Manager; Lauran Willis, City Clerk; Dave Harvey, Police Chief; Jody Reid, Utility Superintendent; David Strickland, City Attorney; James Pilgrim, Lieutenant Oxford Police Department; Jeff Novak, Police Officer Oxford Police Department, Mike Ready, Cheryl Ready, Hoyt Oliver, LaTrelle Oliver, Anderson Wright, Candidate Ester Fleming for House District 112.

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable Jerry D. Roseberry, Mayor and the invocation given by Councilmember Lyn Pace.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Pace to accept the Agenda for the March 3, 2014 Mayor and Council Meeting. The Council vote was unanimous. Attachment A

Mayor Roseberry announced Mr. Anderson Wright as Honorary Councilmember as appointed by Council Member Sarah Davis for March 2014 and presented him with a Proclamation as appreciation for his participation. Attachment B

A motion was made by Holt, seconded by Smith for the approval of the Minutes of the February 3, 2014 Regular Meeting. The Council vote was unanimous. Attachment C

A motion was made by Windham, seconded by Davis to accept the Minutes of the January 14, 2014 Called Meeting of the Tree Board. The Council vote was unanimous. Attachment D

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS/PETITIONS

Commission Chairman Mike Ready announced the Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed changes to the city flood prevention and control ordinance and map according to FEMA. The Planning Commission made a recommendation to make this provision a part of the Pre-Development Applications.

CITIZENS COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Hoyt Oliver invited everyone to attend his presentation “The Zen of Woodworking” as part of the Oxford College Community Classroom, March 4, 2014 from 4:00-5:00 pm, in the Oxford City Hall. Attachment E

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Dave Harvey introduced and welcomed new Officer Jeffery Novak to the Oxford Police Force.

Mayor Roseberry announced the Newton County Collaborative will meet Friday March 7, 2014 at noon, with the dinner at 6:00 pm and the annual meeting will follow on Saturday from 8 – 12 at the Center. The next scheduled work session is March 17, 2014 at 6:00 pm in the City Hall.

Mayor Roseberry introduced a motion for the second reading and approval of an ordinance to amend the method appointing council committees.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Pace to amend Chapter 2 Administration, Article II The Mayor and City Council, by amending Section 2-20 Standing Committees. The Council vote was five (5) in favor with (1) Councilmember Windham opposed. Attachment F

Councilmember Windham comments "while this seems to do a favor for the council members in that it reduces the amount of time involved with items going on in the city at the same time it presents a drawback in reducing the time council has involvement with the city and its operation".

Mayor Roseberry introduced a motion for the second reading and approval of a Resolution of the financial policies. This comes after extensive discussion at the December, January and February work sessions.

A motion was made by Holt, seconded by Davis for approval of a resolution adopting financial policies and to repeal, revoke and supersede all resolutions or ordinances in conflict prior to March 3, 2014. The council vote was unanimous. Attachment G

Councilmember Holt comments regarding Item #14 Transfer of Appropriations. His concern with the statement that assigns City Manager as having authority to transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among line items within the budget of each department. Councilmember Holt asked for a clarification.

City Manager Bob Schwartz said that the intention is to allow only those items to be redistributed within the individual departments. This would only allow for unused balances to be used within that department's budget. Funds in other departments would not be allowed for transfer without council approval and would require a budget amendment.

Councilmember Smith expressed concern regarding a department in which we move money and with this change there would be no checks and balances. The concern is council would know after the fact by monthly information that is giving to us in the financial statements.

City Manager Bob Schwartz stated that we want to keep you informed. City Clerk Luran Willis may find funds that need to be moved, then I would approve it. In most cases these are small amounts, any large amounts would be brought before council for approval before changes are made.

Councilmember Smith stated "My major concern is with no committees we are lessening council's ability to be a check and balances especially in the finances. I would like for council to be aware of any changes in expenditures. We have worked hard to solidify the cities financial position. This council and ones prior to it have done a good job of protecting the city especially in the downturn of the economy. I would hate to see monies spent in such a way that would deplete those efforts. We have to protect the city long term. What we are doing with this change would be giving up those checks and balances".

Mayor Roseberry asked Councilmember Smith if he would like to amend paragraph 14.

A motion was made by Smith seconded by Holt to Amend Section 14, Transfer of Appropriations that during the fiscal year, the City Manager may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation

balance among the line items within the budget of each Department, so long as the City Council is notified in advance of any transfer. The council vote was unanimous.

Mayor Roseberry introduced the second reading and adoption of an ordinance to prohibit the cutting of trees on city property.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Windham to approve an amendment to Chapter 38 Vegetation, Article III Tree Management, by adding section 38-59 Trees, Cutting or Defacing; To Repeal all Conflicting Ordinances. The council vote was unanimous. Attachment H

Mayor Roseberry requested for a motion to be made for a Resolution to update the Municipal Competitive Trust authorized signers. This includes the amendment suggested during the February 3 council meeting.

A motion was made by Windham, seconded by Holt to approve a Resolution to update the persons and positions authorized to sign for the Municipal Competitive Trust transactions. The council vote was unanimous. Attachment I

Mayor Roseberry introduced the second reading and adoption of an Ordinance to amend the Flood Plain Ordinance recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Planning Commission discussed these amendments at its meeting on Tuesday, February 18 and had no objections.

A motion was made by Windham, seconded by Holt to adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 14: Environment; Article II: Flood Prevention and Control; To Repeal all conflicting Ordinances; with an effective date of March 3, 2014. Attachment J

City Clerk Lauran Willis presented a memo and explanation of a project regarding the acceptance of credit and debit cards for utility payments and court fines. After much discussion it was agreed to table this item and moved it to the March work session for further discussion.

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Windham to table discussion of Credit Card acceptance and move it to the March 17, 2014 work session agenda. The council vote was unanimous. Attachment K

Routine Monthly Bills Paid

VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
City of Covington	Gas Maintenance Facility from 12/27/2013 to 1/27/2014	1,200.15
GMEBS Retirement Trust	Employees Retirement Fund for (February 2014)	6,342.83
Humana	Employees Health Insurance (February)	5,628.92
Latham Home Sanitation	Waste Removal and Recycling (January)	5,353.74
Newton County Water & Sew	Plant Operations & Maintenance (January Usage)	5,508.92
Newton County Commissioner	Water Purchase Cornish Creek (January)	13,630.00
Sophicity	IT in a Box (February)	1,331.97
Southeastern Power Admin	SEPA Energy Cost (January Billing Period)	3,643.90
Verizon	January Billing & Upgrade of 3 Phones	1,208.11
<u>PURCHASES/CONTRACT LABOR</u>		

David Strickland	Legal & Professional	3,204.70
Irby Electrical Distributors	Miscellaneous Electrical Supplies for College Project	9,937.63
Marable-Pirkle, Inc.	Pole Change Out	9,903.00
Marable-Pirkle, Inc.	College Project (Underground Transformer) to be Reimbursed	32,250.00
McNair, McLemore, Middle	Professional Services	5,118.60
MasterCard Services	Government Clerk Training Athens and other misc.	1,377.63
Social Circle Ace	Blower & 2 Chainsaws	2,869.96
Treadwell, Tamplin	Professional Services & DCA Audit Reporting Annual Audit	3,500.00
APPROVED CONTRACTS		
Anderson Grading & Pipeline	Water Improvement	190,298.20

A motion was made by Holt, seconded by Smith for the approval of the invoices. The council vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Windham, seconded by Smith to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The council vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauran Willis
 City Clerk