



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025 – 6:30 PM  
CITY HALL**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

David Eady - Mayor  
George Holt – Councilmember  
Jim Windham – Councilmember  
Laura McCanless – Councilmember  
Jeff Wearing – Councilmember

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Marcia Brooks –City Clerk/Treasurer  
Bill Andrew – City Manager  
Mark Anglin – Police Chief  
David Strickland – City Attorney

**ELECTED OFFICIALS NOT PRESENT:**

Mike Ready – Councilmember  
Erik Oliver – Councilmember

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Laura Gafnea (Oxford College), Tommy Hailey and Tim Smith (Newton County Sheriff's Office), Jane Fadely

**Agenda (Attachment A)**

**1. Mayor's Announcements**

- Bill Andrew provided updates on the Turkey Creek sewer moratorium. The City of Oxford will be involved with the micro detection efforts. Micro detection will begin this Fall and is expected to be completed in 2026. NCWSA will be installing a flow station at Moore Street.
- Mr. Andrew also announced that the City will be allowed to hold the LMIG supplemental funds and accumulate them toward the next paving event.
- Mr. Andrew announced that the Newton County engineer has asked the City to remove the speed table on Moore Street. He also stated that the City did not have the jurisdiction to set the speed limit at 25 at that spot because it's outside the city limits. Jim Windham and Laura McCanless were in favor of petitioning the County to keep the speed table and speed limit because of the impact on the City of Oxford. Bill Andrew does not recommend this approach because it would increase the amount of paving Oxford would have to maintain, and it is also very dangerous because the speed table is not built correctly. Mayor Eady recommended removing the speed table and asking the County to consider lowering the speed limit further west on Moore Street.

- Staff is working on adding electronic locks and climate control to Old Church.
- The RFP for smart meters will be released this week.

## 2. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board** – Mayor Eady and Laura McCanless provided the report.
- b. **Planning Commission** – No report.
- c. **Downtown Development Authority** – Mayor Eady provided the report.
- d. **Sustainability Committee** – Mayor Eady provided the report.

## 3. **Tommy Hailey, Newton County Sheriff's Office Community Liaison**

Mr. Hailey expressed appreciation to the City of Oxford for the City's willingness to partner with Newton County Sheriff's Office to support programs and events that benefit the Newton County communities. He provided information about events coming this year. He or Deputy Tim Smith, who works with Mr. Hailey, will be attending Council meetings for the cities in Newton County.

## 4. **Discussion of FY 2026 Operating Budget** (Appendix B)

Marcia Brooks stated that she will need to find additional funds (revenue) in the Operating Budget if the cost for the ECG Economic & Community Development Program is added (Item #6). Mayor Eady recommended having the DDA pay the full cost for this item.

## 5. **Discussion of FY 2026 Capital Budget, Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, and FY 2026 Special Revenue Budget** (Attachment C)

Micro detection cost discussed in Item #9 will be added to the Capital budget to be funded by Water/Sewer Capital. CHIP grant information will be added to the Special Revenue budget.

## 6. **ECG Economic & Community Development Program** (Attachment D)

City of Oxford will partner with the DDA to work through this program to facilitate the development of the Town Center area and some other areas that are subject to possible development. The DDA will pay the cost of \$5,076.

## 7. **Discussion of Management of the Oxford Cemetery** (Attachment E)

The City Council discussed concerns about the management of the cemetery by the Oxford Historical Cemetery Foundation (OHCF). Mayor Eady shared that their role seems convoluted to him, and he's not sure if their involvement is necessary.

There was discussion among the City Council members and Bill Andrew regarding the investments not earning as high a yield as possible, and the earnings have not

been adequate to cover the cost of lawn maintenance, which the City has to supplement each year.

Bill Andrew mentioned that a number of the stones have P.C. on them for perpetual care, and that standard that people paid extra for is not being upheld. Also, this option was not made available to African Americans in the past.

Laura McCanless and Jim Windham were in favor of taking back full control of the cemetery. Mr. Windham believes the OHCF should be dissolved and their money placed in a fund with the City of Oxford, with more emphasis on maximizing investment earnings.

Mayor Eady stated that if the City terminates its contract with the OHCF, their purpose for existing will no longer be valid. They would have to dissolve as a 501(c)(3). When a 501(c)(3) is dissolved, the money must be placed in another 501(c)(3) or taken over by a local government.

Mayor Eady proposed notifying the OHCF that in writing of the City's intent and formalizing the decision at the June regular session. David Strickland stated he believes the City can proceed. Jeff Wearing, Jim Windham and Laura McCanless support this approach. George Holt stated he does not think anyone on the OHCF board will be opposed to dissolving. Mayor Eady will work with Bill Andrew and David Strickland to get this task completed.

8. **Second Read – Update to the Oxford Animal Control Ordinance** (Attachment F)  
The ordinance was approved in error at the May 5, 2025 regular session. The May 5, 2025 reading should have been the first reading. David Strickland advised the Mayor and City Council could vote to treat this reading as the second reading.

**Laura McCanless made a motion to treat this reading of the proposed ordinance as the second reading. Jim Windham seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5/0).**

The Mayor and City Council will vote on final adoption at the June 2, 2025 meeting.

9. **Letter of Agreement with Carter & Sloope to provide engineering services for Micro-Detection for the Turkey Creek Line** (Attachment G)  
There was no discussion.

#### 10. **Other Business**

Marcia Brooks informed the Mayor and City Council of the status of the A/V RFP. Bill Andrew provided an update on the ordinance rewrite project.

#### 11. **Work Session Meeting Review**

**12. Executive Session**

None.

**13. Adjourn**

Mayor Eady adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcia Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcia Brooks  
City Clerk/Treasurer