



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION  
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023 – 7:00 PM  
CITY HALL**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

David Eady – Mayor  
George Holt – Councilmember  
Jeff Wearing – Councilmember  
Mike Ready – Councilmember  
Erik Oliver – Councilmember

**APPOINTED/STAFF PRESENT:**

Bill Andrew – City Manager  
Mark Anglin – Police Chief  
David Strickland – City Attorney  
Stacey Mullen – Deputy City Clerk

**ELECTED OFFICIALS NOT PRESENT:**

Laura McCanless – Councilmember  
Jim Windham – Councilmember

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None.

1. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable David S. Eady, Mayor.
2. **Mike Ready made a motion to accept the agenda for the July 10, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting. Erik Oliver seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5/0).** (Attachment A)
3. There were no Consent Agenda items.
4. **Mayor's Report**  
Mayor Eady advised he will be sending the City Councilmembers proposals for a solar project that will be discussed at the July work session and voted on at the August regular session. Mayor Eady thanked Sydney Chacon and Chief Anglin for the great job with the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. He mentioned one lesson learned for next year, to rope off the cemetery to prohibit parking there.
5. **Citizen Concerns**  
Erik Oliver asked Bill Andrew about the status of the Old Church painting and lead abatement project. Mr. Andrew did not have any specific updates, but he expects the job will be completed within the contract term.

Mr. Andrew asked about the status of a community meeting with Archer Aviation. Mayor Eady advised he has not heard any more information about a meeting being planned. Mr. Andrew

stated he spoke to the Newton County engineer last week and was told that Newton County does not have any funding for road improvements on their part of Williams Road.

Mr. Andrew stated that the permit for the North Emory Street sidewalk/crosswalk project was finally received from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Erik Oliver asked about the status of the new city limit signs. Mr. Andrew advised the City is waiting for the contractor to put them up.

**6. Review of City Fees, Tariffs, and Fines Schedule Changes (Attachment B)**

**Jeff Wearing made a motion to approve the new schedule. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5/0).**

**7. Third Amendment to the MEAG Solar Power Purchase Contract (Attachment C)**

**Jeff Wearing made a motion to approve the third amendment to the MEAG solar power purchase contract. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5/0).**

**8. Authorization for the City Manager to accept the Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionately Impacted Communities Terms and Conditions (Attachment D)**

**Mike Ready made a motion to approve acceptance by the City Manager of the Terms and Conditions. Erik Oliver seconded the motion to open the issue for discussion.**

**Discussion:**

Erik Oliver reiterated his comments from the June work session, that he feels the wrong route is designated, and the cost is too high.

Mike Ready stated he thought the route was walked and a change to the route was discussed. Mayor Eady stated that the City is not able to move the route to the north side of Soule Street. The engineering firm will provide drawings for a couple of options within the allowed area and provide cost estimates for those options. It seemed at the time that most concerns were mitigated. They could also make special provisions at locations where the trail would interfere with residential property. Mr. Ready asked what the fluctuation in the cost would be by having two proposals. Mayor Eady advised that there are considerable contingencies in the project budget that should address any price fluctuations.

Mayor Eady stated this vote is to agree to accept the funds. If the City accepts them now and elects later not to accept them, this action may reflect poorly on the City of Oxford and reduce the City's chances of receiving future funds.

Bill Andrew stated that the officials working on the Yellow River trail with connectivity to the Georgia International Horse Park are interested in connecting with this proposed trail.

Erik Oliver mentioned several inaccuracies on the map of the Yellow River trail. Mayor Eady stated the map was adopted a couple of years ago. Jeff Wearing expressed concerns about obligating funds without having accurate plans.

Mayor Eady stated that the City has \$900,000 for design and engineering of the trail on the east side of Oxford on Dried Indian Creek. The proposed trail on Soule Street is intended to connect to that trail as well as the Yellow River trail. It is known that running a sidewalk from Hull Street to Emory Street would be a significant cost. The City's Complete Streets and Trails Plan includes provisions to improve pedestrian access on Soule Street.

Erik Oliver expressed concerned about spending \$3.5 million for a trail that would only connect to Dried Indian Creek until further notification is received about connectivity by other partners. The Yellow River trail connectivity is not guaranteed right now. He is opposed to including the cost of the culvert repairs on Soule Street in this cost. He feels the City should not pay any money to help Archer with their traffic until they pay toward it. He agrees that safe pedestrian access is needed on Soule Street but feels that the City should pay for it with its own funds.

Mayor Eady stated that part of the reason for the culvert replacement is to increase the flow capacity because the current hydrology shows that the current culvert is not adequate for a 100-year flood event, and water would top the road. The City must notify the State of Georgia by July 14, 2023, whether the funds will be accepted.

Mr. Oliver stated it seems an inappropriate use of trail money to get at an unrelated issue, the culvert under Soule Street.

**The motion was denied by a majority (3/2). Erik Oliver, Jeff Wearing, and George Holt voted nay. Mike Ready and David Eady voted yes.**

**9. Funding Request: Archway Partnership Opportunity for Newton County and the City of Oxford (Attachment E)**

**Erik Oliver made a motion to approve the funding request. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5/0).**

**10. Invoices**

Invoices were not available for review.

**11. Review of Millage Rate Proposal for FY 2024 budget (Attachment F)**

Mayor Eady stated that this item needs to be discussed because of timing issues and deadlines for advertising.

The City Councilmembers discussed the factors influencing the increase in property value assessments. Erik Oliver stated he would like to see a decrease in utility rates concurrent with property tax increases due to assessment changes.

Mayor Eady stated that the City budget has steadily increased and will continue to increase. The increase is largely due to the budget showing the City as fully staffed. The City is trying to raise revenue to match that increase in costs.

A majority of the Councilmembers were in favor of advertising the rate at 5.444.

12. **Adjourn**

**Erik Oliver made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 p.m. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5/0).**

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