



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
OXFORD CITY HALL
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022 – 6:00 PM**

PRESENT: David S. Eady, Mayor; Councilmembers: George Holt, Jeff Wearing, Mike Ready, Laura McCanless, James Windham.

Staff members present: City Manager Bill Andrew, City Clerk/Treasurer Marcia Brooks, Chief of Police Mark Anglin.

OTHERS PRESENT: Art Vinson, Laurie Vinson, Mike McQuaide

The public hearing was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Hon. David S. Eady, Mayor.

Mayor David Eady discussed the FY2023 proposed Operating and Capital Budgets. He stated that the increases requested by the Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board are included in several different places in the budget. Remaining funds in SPLOST 2017 and projected excess funds were discussed as well as the anticipated new SPLOST referendum.

Laura McCanless stated she thought the Online Bill Pay model would cover the cost of accepting payments online. Marcia Brooks stated we are not currently covering the cost. Harris just changed merchant service providers, and she wants to see how the costs are going to work out.

Ms. McCanless also asked why the College Walk Dumpster Fee is not paid by the owner. George Holt stated that each resident at College Walk is being charged a garbage fee to offset the cost of the dumpster.

City Manager Bill Andrew stated that they have factored in increases of 7.65% for employees effective on their anniversary date. The increases will consist of a COLA of 5.1% based on the percentage the federal government is giving employees this year, and a 2.5% increase based on performance. Mr. Andrew stated that Marcia Brooks pointed out that the Employee Police and Procedures Manual states that step increases based on performance are granted every other year.

Ms. McCanless asked about the status of trying to pay for the software upgrade out of FY 2022 funds. Mayor Eady stated it does not appear that will work out, so the cost has been left in the FY 2023 budget.

Mike McQuaide asked if the excess SPLOST 2017 funds can be used for anything. Mayor Eady stated that it can be used for any of the categories the SPLOST 2017 funds were originally designated for. Laura McCanless asked if they can be used for alternative Transportation projects. Mayor Eady stated he believes they must be used for roads, bridges, and sidewalks.

Jeff Wearing asked if the excess SPLOST 2017 funds can be used for wayfinding signage. Mayor Eady stated he does not think so.

Mike McQuaide asked why the City is indicating an increase in Electric revenue in the budget. Mayor Eady stated that the Electric revenue is expected to go back up to 2019 levels after a couple of volatile years due to Oxford College being partly or completely closed due to COVID-19. He expects it to level off at that level.

Mr. McQuaide asked if details of the \$200,000 allocated for a Town Center DDA project can be shared. Mayor Eady stated this information cannot be shared right now, but soon the DDA will be sharing information about it with the City Council.

Adoption of the budgets is planned for June of 2022.

Mayor Eady adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brooks
City Clerk/Treasurer