

# ATTENTION OXFORD RESIDENTS

In July 2002 the Oxford Mayor and City Council appointed a “steering committee” to coordinate the development of a **Facilities Master Plan**. This plan will establish how best to invest in City property and facilities to meet the needs of Oxford’s residents over the next 25+ years. The Mayor and Council likely will contract the services of a planning consultant to provide technical support for this planning process.

The steering committee for developing Oxford’s Facilities Master Plan pledges to involve as many folks as possible in this planning process so that the plan developed truly comes from the town-at-large rather than a select few. On September 16, 2002 we hosted an open town meeting, inviting everyone who pays utilities in the City of Oxford. Attendees offered many excellent suggestions, which we will incorporate into the initial phase of the planning process to establish the guiding principles for the Facilities Master Plan.

**As a follow-up to our first meeting, we invite each of you to attend a second town meeting on SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, at 7:00 PM in the Community Center, for more dialogue on how best to invest in the future of Oxford.**

Our focus during this meeting is the City-owned property and facilities, which house various services—fire, police, maintenance, sanitation, etc.—for our town. How we provide these services, and how much service we provide, affects which property and facilities (and how much) we invest in. Therefore, we are asking questions, such as: How much property and facilities does the City have, and how much do we need? Why and where do we need them? Are there other, and perhaps “better,” ways to meet these needs?

In preparation for this meeting, we ask that you reflect on the historic, yet timeless, words spoken in 1880 by Atticus Haygood, Methodist Minister and then President of Emory College. These words were first shared by Dr. Haygood during a Thanksgiving Sermon titled, “The New South”:

**“What is really good—and there is much that is good—let us stand by, and make it better if we can.”**

Sincerely,  
City of Oxford  
Facilities Master Plan Steering Committee

## Here are the comments we received on September 16<sup>th</sup>:

1. There is insufficient administrative support for the Police and Fire Departments
2. The Fire and Police Departments are very responsive – we should spend the money necessary to keep our present level of service
3. Map all pipes, lines, meters, etc. in Oxford – write down what is in Roscoe’s head
4. Clean up the “City Barn”!!
5. Should the “City Barn” even be located in center of town, along Emory Street?
6. Buy run-down house next to City Hall...
7. Oxford has a significant investment in Garbage trucks and people to provide this service – should we continue to provide this “in-house” or should we “out-source” (i.e., contract with a private firm)?
8. Gas pumps for City vehicles are not secure with poor lighting – should we install a key-code access system or make other improvements to better secure access?
9. Should Oxford use “excess” property for commercial uses?
10. What is the cost/benefit of using “sodium vapor” street lights? – ask Bill Meecham, City of Covington
11. Why can we not bury power, phone and cable lines? What are the lifecycle costs/benefits? How would we pay for it? Where should we start?
12. Does Oxford need to provide electrical service? Note that fees from electrical services currently subsidizes all other services (e.g., water, sewer and sanitation) – 1/3 of the revenue for electrical services comes from Oxford College
13. Police and Fire Departments are “sacred cows” – leave them alone!! We like having our own...
14. Oxford provides “personal” service that you can’t find elsewhere – employees often go the extra step
15. Should Oxford adopt a “central green” concept, as found in New England?
16. We need to provide sewer service for the entire town!!
17. Why do we pay twice for water with sewer? The current rates structure doesn’t account for landscape and other outside water uses that don’t run through the sewer pipes.
18. What percent (%) of residential units (houses, apartments, duplexes, etc.) in Oxford are rental? Is this too much, just enough, or not enough?
19. Are we losing touch with the philosophy that built this town? The City must maintain a strong relationship and partnership with Oxford College
20. What can/should be done about vacant lots that become (perceived as) a nuisance to neighbors? For example, the lot on the southwest corner of Asbury and (unopened) George Street is not maintained.
21. How can we reduce traffic on Emory Street? Should we pressure the “powers that be” to purchase rights-of-way for a northwest bypass from Highway 81 (north of Oxford) to I-20 at Almon?
22. Is there value in attempting to “leverage” residential property owned by Oxford College to meet future facility needs? How feasible/desirable is this?
23. Should the City retain ownership of its excess property but lease it to others?
24. Can we install a suggestion box at City Hall for additional input?