

OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 6, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.
CITY HALL – 110 W. CLARK ST. OXFORD, GA 30054
A G E N D A

1. Call to Order – City Clerk Marcia Brooks

- a. *Oath of Office for Municipal Court Judge Steven A. Hathorn, administered by City Staff, State of Georgia Notary Public

2. Organizational Meeting – Judge Steven A. Hathorn presiding.

- a. Oath of Office for Mayor and Councilmembers continuing to serve:
 - i. David S. Eady – Mayor
 - ii. Erik Oliver – Post 1
 - iii. George Holt – Post 2
 - iv. Laura McCanless – Post 3
 - v. Mike Ready – Post 4
 - vi. Jim Windham – Post 5
 - vii. Jeff Wearing – Post 6
- b. Mayor and Council Appointment and Oath for the Administrative Officers continuing to serve:
 - i. *C. David Strickland, PC – City Attorney
 - ii. *Cheryl Freeman – Municipal Solicitor
 - iii. Marcia Brooks – City Clerk/Treasurer
 - iv. Mark Anglin – Chief of Police
- c. ***Mayor Pro-Tem for 2025** – The current Mayor Pro Tem is Erik Oliver and he has generously agreed to serve within this capacity.

2. Motion to accept the Agenda for the January 6, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.

3. Consent Agenda:

- a. *Minutes of the City Council Regular Session on December 9, 2024
- b. *Minutes of the City Council Work Session on December 16, 2024
- c. *2025 City Council Meetings Schedule and City Holidays
- d. Approval of Qualifying Fees for 2025 Municipal Election – The deadline to set these fees is February 1, 2025. The qualifying fees are determined by Georgia State Law as being 3% of the annual salary for each council post or \$144.00.

4. Mayor's Report:

- a. Please note, the next Work Session will be held on Tuesday, January 21. It has been moved to accommodate the MLK, Jr. Holiday on Monday, January 20. The Old Church

will be hosting the Oxford College – MLK, Jr. Celebration at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, January 22.

5. Citizen Concerns

6. ***Authorization the Mayor to Accept the 2025 Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) - Trees Across Georgia Grant:** The City has received a grant of \$75,150 (U.S. Inflation Reduction Act Funding through the (GFC)) to restore the riparian environment around Catova Creek. Due to serving an economically distressed area, this funding does not require a match. This work is to be completed by January 31, 2026. The removal of the invasive plants and subsequent native plant restoration will improve the environment for the stream corridor and the experience while using the Catova Creek Trail.
7. ***Authorization for the Mayor to Accept the Task Order (TO) from Carter & Sloope for Smart Meters:** Through this TO, Carter & Sloope would oversee the bidding for water and electric smart meters, the bidding for the installation of the meters, assist in the management of the construction and installation of the meters, and verify all meters are working correctly. The total TO cost is \$95,800. The City has budgeted \$300,000 for this project. It is likely more funds will be necessary in FY 2026 to complete this project.
8. **Authorization for Mayor Eady to Contract with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) to Apply for Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant:** NEGRC has agreed to this assist with this application for a standard fee of \$1,500. In my recent discussion with Brian Bolick and John Boudreau (AtkinsRéalis) it was suggested we consider applying for SS4A funds for a Planning and Demonstration Grant to align all of our traffic and street signage with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and create a plan to tie together our bike/pedestrian facilities with the new SR 81 bridge and fully integrate the schools, employment centers, public service facilities, and shopping in the area. This would include a wayfinding plan. The Notice for Funding Opportunity is due out in March 2025 and NEGRC has indicated they could assist with the application. See <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A> for more information on the grant. This plan of action would not result in new signage being installed; however, we would be able to apply for substantial implementation funds in 2026 and our \$20,000 would go much further in planning a larger scope of action. This federal grant would require bids for all planning and design.
9. ***Second Read of an Ordinance to Amend the Oxford Code of Ordinances to align with House Bill 456:** HB 456 passed the Georgia General Assembly in 2024 and requires the following changes:

Sec. 12-20. Appointment and qualifications of judge.

The Mayor and City Council are authorized to appoint a judge of the Municipal Court, who shall serve a two-year term upon appointment. Any person appointed as a judge shall possess such qualifications and shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Mayor and City Council and ~~shall serve at the pleasure of the governing authority,~~ upon appointment, shall serve until a successor is appointed, or if the judge is removed

from office as provided in Code Section 36-32-2.1. Such term shall be memorialized in a written agreement between such individual and the City of Oxford.

10. Authorization for the City to Proceed with the City Hall Landscape Proposal from Shades of Green: At the last Work Session, the Council indicated a desire to move forward with “Section B” of the proposal. This proposal reflects that effort. Please note, City staff will look into the possibility of removing the Indian Hawthorn bushes and the metal edging in order to save costs. The City budgeted \$50,000 for this project and has spent \$5,329, leaving \$44,671 available. In addition to the costs associated with the landscaping, staff are pursuing information on what the total costs will be for repairing the City Hall cistern.

11. *Invoices: Council will review the city’s recently paid invoices over \$1,000.

12. Executive Session: An Executive Session could potentially be held for Land Acquisition/Disposition, Addressing Pending or Potential Litigation, and/or Personnel.

13. Adjourn

*Attachments