



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024 – 7:00 PM
CITY HALL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

David Eady – Mayor
George Holt – Councilmember
Jeff Wearing – Councilmember
Laura McCanless – Councilmember
Mike Ready – Councilmember
Jim Windham – Councilmember
Erik Oliver – Councilmember

APPOINTED/STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Andrew – City Manager
Stacey Mullen – Deputy City Clerk
Steven Hathorn – Municipal Court Judge
David Strickland – City Attorney
Mark Anglin – Police Chief
Jody Reid – Utilities Superintendent
Kristin Watkins- Utility Billing Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael McQuaide

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eady. Kristin Watkins administered the oath of office to Steven Hathorn, Municipal Court Judge.
2. **Organizational Meeting**
 - a. The Honorable Steven Hathorn administered the Oath of Office to Mayor David S. Eady, and Councilmembers George Holt, Mike Ready, Laura McCanless, Erik Oliver, Jeff Wearing and Jim Windham.
 - b. The Honorable Steven Hathorn administered the Oath of Office to Mark Anglin, Police Chief, Cheryl Freeman, Municipal Court Solicitor and David Strickland, City Attorney.
 - c. **Jim Windham made a motion to appoint Erik Oliver as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2024. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).**
3. **Erik Oliver made a motion to accept the Agenda for the January 8, 2024 Mayor and Council Organizational Meeting and Regular Session. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).** (Appendix A)
4. **Erik Oliver made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0)**
5. **Mayor's Report**

A motion was made by Laura McCanless to move the January Work Session to January 22, 2024. Erik Oliver seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

Mayor Eady announced that Oxford College of Emory University and the City of Oxford have been selected to host the first day's destination and the start of the second day of the 44th Annual Bicycle Ride Across Georgia (BRAG) on June 2, 2024. This is a 7-day event covering 419 miles from Atlanta to Savannah.

6. Citizen Concerns

N/A

7. City Council Meeting Schedule for 2024 (Appendix B)

A motion was made by Laura McCanless to approve the City Council Meeting Schedule for 2024. The motion was seconded by Erik Oliver. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

8. Authorization for Mayor Eady to sign the Proclamation Declaring Newton County as an Education First Community (Appendix C)

A motion was made by Jeff Wearing to authorize Mayor Eady to sign the official Proclamation declaring Newton County as an Education First Community by supporting the Newton County Education Foundation (NEF) and the mission to put community resources to work for our youth. The motion was seconded by Mike Ready. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

9. Review of Recommended Changes to the Ordinance Regarding Stream Buffers (Appendix D)

A motion was made by Laura McCanless to approve the recommendation to change the Stream Buffers from 25 feet to 100 feet. The motion was seconded by Jim Windham. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

10. Public Works Fence Demolition and Replacement (Appendix E)

A motion was made by Erik Oliver to accept the bid by HCS Services for the Public Works Fence Demolition and Replacement. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

11. Consideration of Placing Signs for Catova Creek (Appendix F)

Jim Windham made a motion to approve the placement of signs for Catova Creek. George Holt seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jim Windham was concerned about the volume of signs in that location and mentioned that there should be a cleanup of signs instituted in that area. Mayor Eady stated that consideration will be made of what signs will be placed on site.

The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

12. Approval of Request for Assistance from Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) to apply for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant (Appendix G)

A motion was made by Laura McCanless to approve the request for assistance from Northeast Georgia Regional Commission to apply for the (RAISE) Grant. The motion was seconded by Jeff Wearing.

George Holt questioned if the costs of the \$500 grant application included fees. Bill Andrew stated that Covington agreed to be a co-applicant.

The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

13. **Distribution of FEMA Funds (Appendix H)**

A motion was made by Erik Oliver to leave the FEMA reimbursement funds in the General Fund. George Holt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

14. **GEFA Lead and Copper Grant (Appendix I)**

Mayor Eady suggested that a proposal be completed via ECG to obtain bids for new meters. Jim Windham advised that it was time to transition to electronic read meters. Jody Reid stated that the current meters are roughly 25-30 years old and that it is time to perhaps convert to Advance Meter Infrastructure (AMI).

A motion was made by Mike Ready to approve acceptance of the GEFA Lead and Copper Grant. The motion was seconded by Laura McCanless. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

15. **Invoices (Attachment H)**

Laura McCanless noted that the line item for the Carl Vinson Institute should not be listed under Recurring Charges.

16. **Executive Session**

None

17. **Adjourn**

Jim Windham made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacey Mullen
Deputy City Clerk

