



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2024 – 6:30 PM
CITY HALL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Marcia Brooks – City Clerk/Treasurer
Bill Andrew – City Manager
Mark Anglin – Police Chief
Jody Reid – Supervisor of Maintenance

ELECTED OFFICIALS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Wearing – Councilmember

OTHERS PRESENT: Art Vinson, Mike McQuaide, Charles Green, Sam Latimer (Rushton)

Agenda (Attachment A)

1. Mayor's Announcements

Mayor Eady and Bill Andrew provided an update on the RAISE grant. A public hearing will be held on January 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. to solicit community input on the scope of the grant. The current thinking is a sidewalk and pedestrian bridge on Emory Street over I-20. The funding from the *Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionately Impacted Neighborhoods* Grant can count as the match, so no match will be required from local funds. The City of Covington will be a co-applicant.

He also gave an update on the *Improving Neighborhood Outcomes in Disproportionately Impacted Neighborhoods* Grant. Atkins has been working on concept plans for the three options previously voted on by the City Council. The State Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) wants to know ASAP what the City's alternate scope is. Mayor Eady believes all three routes can be constructed with the grant. The concept plans will be provided before the February 5th regular session. The City Council needs to come prepared to vote on submitting the three concept plans to OPB.

Work on the North Emory Street sidewalk is progressing.

2. Committee Reports

- a. **Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board** – Mike Ready provided the report. He announced that the Arbor Day celebration is on February 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall. Discussion was held about the plans for shade at Asbury Street Park. The City Council would like for the Board to provide some creative options for shade over the sitting areas and the playground.
- b. **Downtown Development Committee** – Mayor Eady announced that the stakes have been placed for the easement at the Whatcoat Street property being obtained from Emory University.
- c. **Sustainability Committee** – Laura McCanless provided the report. The committee has been working on short-, mid-, and long-range plans.
- d. **Old Church Venue Committee** – Mike Ready reported that the committee reviewed three proposals and has selected a vendor for venue management of Old Church. They are requesting authorization from the City Council to move forward with negotiations with the selected vendor. The committee also has recommendations for several updates to the building at a cost of about \$20,000 which will need to be funded. Mayor Eady suggested that the Oxford Historical Society might agree to provide a portion of this funding since the cost of painting and lead abatement was less than originally anticipated. Mayor Eady would like to try to complete these updates in FY 2024. There was no opposition to moving forward with the negotiations.
- e. **Planning Commission** – Bill Andrew provided the report.

3. FY 2023 City of Oxford Audit Report (Attachment B)

Sam Latimer with Rushton Accounting presented their completed audit findings and financial report for Fiscal Year 2023.

4. City of Oxford Media Productions Ordinance (DRAFT) (Appendix C)

Laura McCanless has changes that are typographical in nature. She will provide these changes to Bill Andrew.

Ms. McCanless asked how fees will be handled. She thought they might be negotiated between film companies and the City individually since they are not included in the draft ordinance. Mayor Eady stated that the fee schedule should be updated to include these fees, and it could be incorporated by reference in the ordinance. There should not be any negotiation with individual companies for fees.

Erik Oliver and Mark Anglin believe the proposed ordinance may be too restrictive when contemplated in conjunction with access to public property and public rights-of-ways and First Amendment rights.

Mayor Eady asked the Councilmembers to review the draft and provide their feedback to Bill Andrew so he can pass it along to the Planning Commission. He suggested that perhaps the author did not intend for commercial productions to include individuals uploading videos to YouTube. Jim Windham suggested including more definitions to clarify such issues.

5. **City of Oxford Short-Term Rental Ordinance (DRAFT)** (Attachment D)

Mayor Eady asked the Councilmembers to review the draft and provide their feedback to Bill Andrew so he can pass it along to the Planning Commission.

6. **Amended Agreement for Newton County Water and Sewer Authority (NCWSA) Sanitary Sewer Flow Study** (Attachment E)

Carter and Sloope has provided a proposal to complete a study of the sewer flow on the east side of Covington along with the study they are already doing on the west side per the City of Oxford's request. The additional cost would be \$16,400. Laura McCanless and Jim Windham both feel this would be useful information.

7. **Oxford-Covington Wastewater Capacity Agreement** (Attachment G)

The City of Covington is offering 18,000 gallons per day of sewer capacity in their wastewater treatment plant at a cost of \$22.00/gallon or \$396,000.00. The City is still in negotiations with Archer Aviation but they have agreed to pay \$62,429.25 for water and \$462,000.00 for 38,500 gpd of sewer (\$12.00 per gallon). Future capacity for Archer Aviation would be at \$27.53/gallon or whatever the going rate will be. Carter and Sloope has confirmed that the physical capacity of the pipe on the east side sewer easement is sufficient to handle future development.

Erik Oliver proposed a committee to consider ways to limit development surrounding Oxford through annexation. Mayor Eady stated some analytics are needed regarding physical and geographical limitations of the properties that are potential sites for development. Development may be cost-prohibitive in some areas.

8. **Transfer of Funds to Georgia Fund 1 Account** (Attachment H)

Marcia Brooks reviewed the proposed transfer of funds from the General Operating account to Georgia Fund 1.

9. **City Hall Landscape Plan** (Attachment I)

Two bids were provided for sustainable landscape plans around City Hall. Approval is requested from the City Council to move forward with the low bid to develop a plan to be presented to the City Council.

10. **FY 2024 Capital Budget Amendments** (Appendix J)

The proposed amendments provide for completion of two years of road surfacing of the City's ten-year schedule as approved by the City Council in FY 2023 by deferring projects that cannot be completed during this fiscal year. The cost to complete two years of work was not included in the FY 2024 Capital Budget. Also included are other amendments that are needed to address unexpected expenditures and omissions. Mayor Eady discussed the rationale for the changes.

Laura McCanless asked if the extra money being spent now will impact future year capital budgets.

Mayor Eady stated that the two years of road surfacing should have been included in the FY 2024 budget, and if it had been, the project list for Fiscal Year 2024 would have looked different. The deferrals will need to be evaluated for possible inclusion when the FY 2025 Capital Budget is being developed.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Work Session Meeting Review

13. Executive Session

None.

14. Adjourn

Mayor Eady adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brooks
City Clerk/Treasurer