



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION  
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 – 7:00 PM  
Via Teleconference**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

David Eady – Mayor  
George Holt – Councilmember  
James Windham – Councilmember  
Lynn Bohanan – Councilmember  
Jeff Wearing – Councilmember  
Laura McCanless – Councilmember  
Avis Williams - Councilmember

**APPOINTED/STAFF PRESENT:**

Matt Pepper – City Manager  
Marcia Brooks – City Clerk/Treasurer  
Jody Reid – Utilities/Maintenance Supervisor  
Dave Harvey – Chief of Police  
C. David Strickland – City Attorney

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Newton County Commission Chairman Marcello Barnes and other representatives of Newton County, Rev. Dr. Lyn Pace (Oxford College), Laura Gafnea (Oxford College), Pastor Charlie Williams (Mt. Zion First Baptist Church), Anderson Wright, Art Vinson

1. The meeting was called to order by the Hon. David Eady, Mayor.
2. Invocation – Rev. Dr. Lyn Pace, Oxford College
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Jeff Wearing made a motion to accept the Agenda for August 2, 2021. Avis Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).** (Attachment A)
5. **Jeff Wearing made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda for August 2, 2021. Avis Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).** (Attachment B)
6. Mayor's Announcements  
Mayor Eady asked if the City Council is amenable to having the September Regular Session on September 7, 2021 due to the Labor Day holiday. No objections were raised.

Laura McCanless asked if the Council meetings are returning to a virtual format. She is fine with in person with masks or remote, but the committees need to be apprised. Some Councilmembers indicated their preference to stay virtual, and some were fine with in-person meetings.

Mayor Eady stated that current CDC guidance recommends wearing a mask when around others, even if one is vaccinated. His current plan is to allow those who wish to come to City Hall for the September meeting and allow those who wish to attend virtually. This issue can be revisited during the August work session if the Council wishes to do so.

7. **Planning Commission Recommendations/Petitions**

None.

8. **Citizen Concerns**

None.

9. **Presentation of Newton County Bicentennial Proclamation** (Attachment C)

Newton County officials were in attendance. Mayor Eady read Oxford's proclamation acknowledging the Newton County Bicentennial. Mayor Eady and Newton County Commission Chairman Marcello Barnes signed the proclamation and Chairman Barnes presented Mayor Eady with a commemorative flag.

10. **City Cemetery Request**

Mayor Eady announced that this issue has been resolved.

11. **Solar Power Purchase Contract** (Attachment D)

The Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG) has proposed a contract purchase up to four (4) megawatts of solar power per year for a period of twenty (20) years, as part of a group of cities. The City attorney has reviewed the contract and related documents and given his approval of the documents.

**Laura McCanless made a motion to authorize the City of Oxford to enter into the MEAG contract to purchase up to four (4) megawatts of solar power for twenty (20) years for the City of Oxford. James Windham seconded the motion. The motion carried (5/2) with George Holt and Jeff Wearing voting Nay.**

12. **Local Options Sales Tax (LOST) Renewal Analysis** (Attachment E)

The City Managers of the jurisdictions eligible for a proportion of LOST distributions in Newton County have proposed engaging with an independent firm (SDS Consultants, LLC) to evaluate the options for distribution of LOST proceeds for the new agreement to be finalized in 2022. The cost for the City of Oxford to participate in the analysis is \$2,820 plus a portion of the costs for any travel required. Mayor Eady stated that it is his understanding from the City Managers recommending this engagement that travel should be very limited and the consultants should be able to do most of the work virtually.

**Jeff Wearing made a motion to authorize participation in the engagement by the City of Oxford. Laura McCanless seconded the motion. The motion carried (6/1) with James Windham voting Nay.**

13. **Limited Lease Agreement for City Greenspace** (Attachment F)

**A limited lease agreement has been proposed to lease the City Greenspace to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for the purpose of giving them access to the property to complete improvements to the space that they have recommended.**

**Jeff Wearing made a motion to approve the lease agreement with the DDA. George Holt seconded the motion. The motion carried (6/1) with James Windham voting Nay.**

14. **Invoices** (Attachment G)

There was no discussion.


15. **Executive Session**

Real estate and personnel matters were discussed.

16. **Adjourn**

**James Windham made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. George Holt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).**

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brooks  
City Clerk/Treasurer