



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023 – 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:

Marcia Brooks – City Clerk/Treasurer
Mark Anglin – Police Chief
Jody Reid – Utilities/Maintenance Supervisor
David Strickland – City Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Laurie Vinson

1. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable David S. Eady, Mayor.
2. **Laura McCanless made a motion to amend the agenda for the February 6, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting to add an item to discuss COVID Pay. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).** (Attachment A)
Erik Oliver made a motion to accept the amended Agenda. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).
3. **Erik Oliver made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda for February 6, 2023. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).** (Attachment B)
4. **Mayor's Report**
 - a. Mayor Eady reported that the RFP for electric service proposals for Archer Aviation was released last week and is due on February 13, 2023. Mayor Eady and Bill Andrew met with MEAG and ECG last Friday and will meet with them again tomorrow to work on the proposal. A called meeting may be needed to approve the City of Oxford proposal.
 - b. Discussions were held with the county engineer and Bill Andrew last Friday concerning the future of E. Soule Street/Williams Road improvements. The discussion centers around the current three-box culvert.
 - c. A town hall is scheduled with Archer Aviation at the Palmer Stone Elementary gym at 6:00 p.m. on February 16, 2023. Mayor Eady asked Marcia Brooks to help get the word out via the

city's email distribution list, Facebook, and via any other methods possible as soon as details are available.

5. **Citizen Concerns**

Erik Oliver asked if anyone drives around the City looking for code violations. Mayor Eady stated if anyone observes a code violation they should email Bill Andrew and he will investigate the situation. Chief Anglin stated sometimes they email Bureau Veritas several addresses where they have observed violations during their patrolling.

6. **Reappointments for the Oxford Downtown Development Authority** (Attachment C)

Erik Oliver made a motion to approve the DDA reappointments. Jim Windham seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

7. **Service Delivery Strategy: Water Service Area Changes** (Attachment D)

Mike Ready made a motion to approve the Water Service Area changes. Laura McCanless seconded the motion.

Mike Ready asked what the sign-over time for customers not currently in our territory will be. Mayor Eady stated that the changes will be in effect as soon as the agreement is fully executed. There is no formal process for notification of the customers impacted. All customers in the added service areas are aware of the changes with the exception of the Wildwood community which is on a private water system.

The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

8. **Consideration of a Resolution to Amend the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan for the Purchase of a Leaf Vacuum** (Attachment E)

George Holt made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan. Laura McCanless seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

9. **Consideration of Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) and Engagement Letter with Biren Patel Engineering** (Attachment F)

This issue was not brought to the City Council's attention during the previous work session due to time restraints. The purpose of the proposed Engagement Letter is to work with consultants that have knowledge and experience with Georgia electricity proposals and can independently provide technical assistance in drafting Oxford's response to the RFP for electrical service at Archer Aviation. Mayor Eady entered into the NDA with them in order to discuss the issue this past Friday. The proposed maximum is \$10,000 but he believes the actual cost will be much less than that. This consulting is intended to supplement the assistance being provided by ECG and MEAG.

Jim Windham expressed concern about the number of issues being brought before the Council in the last six to twelve months without being discussed in a Work Session.

Mayor Eady stated that the funds are available in the Electric Department budget. The reason this is being brought to the City Council is because the charter requires City Council approval for all contracts signed by the mayor. He added that in this case, the City just received the RFP last Tuesday, and it has a two-week deadline, which did not allow time for discussion in a work session. There was no intent to try to circumvent the Council's process.

Mr. Windham stated that he did not mean to imply that, and he is only concerned about how it impacts the residents of the City.

Erik Oliver made a motion to approve the proposed contract with Biren Patel Engineering. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

Jim Windham requested a list of current contracts the City has.

10. **COVID Pay**

The City Council discussed whether COVID leave (separate from Sick leave) should be offered to employees at its last Work Session. The proposal discussed at the Work Session includes the following requirements:

- The City will cover up to forty (40) hours of leave for COVID illness in addition to the Sick Leave and Vacation Leave already provided.
- The employee must provide proof of at least the first two COVID vaccinations.
- The employee must provide proof of a positive COVID test.
- The employee must provide proof of a negative COVID test to return to work.
- COVID leave will be granted under these provisions through June 30, 2023.

Mike Ready made a motion to approve the proposed provisions for COVID leave for employees. Laura McCanless seconded the motion. The motion carried (5/2). Erik Oliver and Jeff Wearing voted nay.

Erik Oliver asked if the action just taken is legal. David Strickland advised there is no law to keep the City from making this provision.

11. **Other Business**

Jim Windham expressed concern about the Electric Department trucks having a different logo on them than the rest of the City's vehicles. His concern centers around creating an identity for the City of Oxford by keeping all branding uniform.

Jody Reid advised he had spoken with Bill Andrew and they had made the decision to mark the Electrical trucks differently.

Mayor Eady advised Mr. Reid to bring any other changes to the City Council before completing them.

12. **Invoices** (Attachment E)

No discussion.

13. **Executive Session**

None.

14. **Adjourn**

Jim Windham made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brooks
City Clerk/Treasurer