



**MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 – 7:00 PM
CITY HALL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

APPOINTED/STAFF PRESENT:

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

Note: Jeff Wearing was not present during votes taken for items 1-8

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark McKercher

1. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable David S. Eady, Mayor.
2. **Laura McCanless made a motion to accept the agenda for the October 2, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting. Erik Oliver seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).** (Attachment A)
3. **Laura McCanless made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda for October 2, 2023. Erik Oliver seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).** (Attachment B)
4. **Mayor's Report**
Mayor Eady announced that the next City of Oxford/Oxford College Community Classroom will be held at Oxford City Hall October 30th at 6:00 p.m.
5. **Citizen Concerns**
None.
6. **Change Order #1 for Emory St. Sidewalk from West Soule Street to West Richardson St.**
(Attachment C)

Jim Windham made a motion to approve the change order. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).

7. **Approve Purchase of New Mower** (Attachment D)

Erik Oliver made a motion to approve the purchase of the mower. Laura McCanless seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).

8. **Ratification of the Trees Across Georgia Grant Application** (Attachment E)

Laura McCanless made a motion to ratify the application for the grant. Erik Oliver seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Laura McCanless asked where the southern edge of the covered area is. Mayor Eady advised it is Moore Street.

Erik Oliver asked what the width is of the ground that will be treated. Bill Andrew advised it is the City right of way along the creek.

The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

9. **Invoices** (Attachment F)

The City Council reviewed invoices paid for \$1,000 or more and a listing of all SPLOST 2017 Public Safety expenditures to date.

10. **Executive Session**

None.

Other Business

Laura McCanless asked to restate her position regarding her reservations about the Whatcoat Street realignment. She stated that she discovered information this week about the cost (\$700,000), and feels that this cost is too high, given the limited benefit to the public. She understands it may be too late to stop the 100% drawings, but she wants it on record that she will not support going forward with this project.

Bill Andrew stated that Atkins is nearly finished with the 100% drawings, and they should be finalized by the end of next week. He also stated that he believes the estimated cost of \$700,000 was included in the FY 2024 Capital Budget, which the City Council approved in June.

Jim Windham reiterated his position he has stated in previous meetings, that he is opposed to the Town Center development as a whole, of which the Whatcoat Street realignment is a part, without further research and analysis first. He stated that he is not opposed to some type of work on Whatcoat Street but feels that the intended outcome could be accomplished by spending much less money. He agreed with Ms. McCanless' statement that he does not see how the project will benefit the public.

Mayor Eady stated that this meeting is not the proper forum to discuss the issue, but it can be discussed at the next work session. By then the 100% drawings should be in the City's hands. The consensus of the City Council at the last work session was to proceed with the 100% drawings. He is not familiar with a document being distributed in the last week concerning the estimated cost, but \$700,000 was included in the budget as an estimate based on a document

received from Atkins in April. This is only a best-guess estimate, and the true cost will not be known until the project is bid out. The 100% drawings must be completed in order to move to the bidding process. He also reminded the City Council that the project which the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is working on and has awarded to a contractor is contingent upon completion of the Whatcoat Street realignment work. This work includes not only rerouting the street but also addressing some major drainage issues.

He emphatically expressed concern about the City Council continually moving projects to a certain point and then putting the brakes on them. He stated his position that if the City Council wants to see any progress the City Councilmembers will have to commit to projects and be willing to see them through. This issue will be added to the October 16th work session agenda.

11. **Adjourn**

Jim Windham made a motion to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brooks
City Clerk/Treasurer