



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023 – 6:30 PM
CITY HALL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS NOT PRESENT:

Laura McCanless – Councilmember

OTHERS PRESENT: Cheryl Ready

Agenda (Attachment A)

1. Mayor’s Announcements

2. Committee Reports

- a. **Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board** – Cheryl Ready provided the report for this Board.
- b. **Planning Commission** – Bill Andrew provided the report for this Committee.
- c. **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** – Mike Ready provided the report for this Authority. He stated the RFP for the Whatcoat Street development has gone out with a deadline of June 15.
- d. **Sustainability Committee** – Bill Andrew provided an update on the status of the Dried Indian Creek trail grant. An extensive discussion was held concerning protection of property on the east and west sides of Oxford.

3. Review of proposal by MessengerAVL for new audio equipment in the Community Room of City Hall (Attachment B)

Marcia Brooks explained the proposal that was received from MessengerAVL. She was asked by the City Council to obtain a second quote for the sound work and to investigate the cost to make video system improvements. Erik Oliver offered to contact

the person(s) responsible for audio/visual equipment at Oxford College and ask them to help determine the needs for the room.

Mayor Eady discussed the resolution issues with the projector in the room. Ms. Brooks stated that may be an issue with her laptop, and she needs to get some help with that from a vendor.

4. Second Amendment to the Power Purchase Contract (Attachment C)

Mayor Eady explained MEAG's proposed second amendment to the solar power purchase contract previously agreed to by Oxford. The cost per Megawatt hour has increased from \$29.06 to \$37.75. The option of MEAG to purchase the system at the end of fifteen years has also been removed. The amount of funding to be secured also changed. The price per Megawatt hour is still lower than the comparative pricing received when the City was bidding for electric service on the Archer project, the lowest of which was \$40 per Megawatt hour. The City's average price for power on the wholesale market is \$62.50 per Megawatt hour.

Jim Windham asked if the City can back out and what the drop-dead date is. Mayor Eady stated the City can choose whether to accept each amendment. If the City rejects an amendment, it has backed out at that point.

George Holt asked what the City is committed to paying. Mayor Eady stated the City is only committed to pay for the power actually generated on its behalf. If the system never gets built and never generates any power, the City of Oxford would have no obligation. There is a step-up clause in the contract. If a City defaults after the system is built, all remaining participants will have an obligation to cover that City's share, proportionate to each City's share of the project.

Mike Ready stated there is very little risk because the City has to purchase additional capacity each year anyway.

There was no opposition mentioned to approving the second amendment at the June regular session.

5. Proposed Transfer of Funds in the General Operating Account (Attachment D)

Marcia Brooks reviewed the memorandum sent to the City Council members concerning proposals to move funds from the General Operating account to other accounts.

Mike Ready stated he does not think putting the money in Georgia Fund 1 is a viable option because it is more difficult to get to than a regular checking account. The City is working on a number of projects in the near future and needs the ability to access the money quickly. Jim Windham agreed with Mr. Ready.

The consensus was to move the funds to the Electric and Water/Sewer Capital accounts as recommended by staff.

6. Planning Commission Request to Consider Mr. Troy Willis for the Planning Commission (Attachment E)

The City Council will vote on the appointment of Mr. Willis at the June regular session.

7. Consideration of a request from Mauldin & Jenkins to cover some of the overage for their last audit (Attachment F)

The City Council members were not amenable to paying for any of the overage from the last audit. Mayor Eady advised they should be told the City of Oxford will pay the contracted amount.

8. Need for Water Line Easement on “E. George Street” (Attachment G)

An easement signed by the previous property owner has been located, but one has not been located that was also signed by the City of Oxford. Jody Reid’s recollection is that the City hired a contractor to install the water line. There is currently a slow water leak in the line. E. George Street is not a public street but Latham Sanitation has been picking up garbage on it for years. Erik Oliver contends that the easement has been created over time by virtue of the fact that the City installed the line and has been servicing it and the individual taps on it for years.

Mayor Eady stated that David Strickland needs to prepare a new easement document and have all affected current property owners sign it along with the City. Then it needs to be filed with the Superior Court in Newton County. The City Council can also choose to designate a road easement if it so desires.

Bill Andrew advised the property owners are willing to fix the leak if the easement can be executed to provide a legitimate reason for the water to be shut off long enough to make the repairs. The City could then inspect the repairs, determine if they are up to City standards, and take possession of the water line. Jody Reid asked for a legal interpretation to ensure he has permission to go on the property and make repairs if needed.

Mayor Eady asked Bill Andrew to speak with Frank Turner at the City of Covington to find out how they deal with this issue at Fiedstone Apartments, which is a similar situation.

9. Consideration of the Indigo Energy proposal for an EV Charging Station at City Hall (Attachment H)

Jody Reid explained that the proposal is for one pedestal with two (2) charging portals. Each charging portal is a Level 2 charger that will charge a vehicle in 8-10 hours. The police department is currently charging the Mach 1 about once every other week, and it holds a charge for about 6-8 hours of use.

Chief Mark Anglin stated that they don’t want the green paint finishing plan that is shown in the presentation, but they will need to reserve the spaces. The turnkey price without the finishing plan is \$9,565.00. The FY 2023 Capital budget includes \$15,000 allocated for this purpose. A security code will be required to plug in to the pedestal, which will prohibit unauthorized individuals from using it. His understanding is the cost

for electricity is about \$20-\$30 per month. A contract must be signed with the company. The City Council will vote on this proposal at the June regular session.

10. Review of any FY2024 Budget Concerns or Suggestions

No discussion.

11. Other Business

12. Work Session Meeting Review

13. Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Eady at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Brooks



City Clerk/Treasurer