



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023 – 7:00 PM
CITY HALL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Marcia Brooks – City Clerk/Treasurer
Bill Andrew – City Manager
Mark Anglin – Police Chief
David Strickland – City Attorney

ELECTED OFFICIALS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Wearing – Councilmember
Jim Windham – Councilmember

OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Carroll (Mauldin & Jenkins)

Agenda (Attachment A)

1. Mayor's Announcements

Archer Aviation – Mayor Eady advised there has been no word on the City's proposal for electric services.

2. Committee Reports

a. **Trees, Parks, and Recreation Board** – Mike Ready provided the report for this Board.

b. **Downtown Development Authority (DDA)** – Mike Ready provided the report for this Authority.

c. **Planning Commission** – Bill Andrew provided the report for this Committee.

d. **Sustainability Committee** – Laura McCanless provided the report for this Committee.

3. Review of the FY 2022 Audit (Attachment B)

Josh Carroll of the audit firm Mauldin & Jenkins provided an overview of the FY 2022 audit completed by his firm. He stated that they issued a clean opinion but there are several opportunities for areas of improvement recommended by his firm. Marcia Brooks advised she would work with the staff to address these issues, and some have

already been addressed. She will also provide information on the disbursement testing issues mentioned in the audit letter to the City Council.

Mr. Carroll mentioned that they had some overages on hours due to implementation of GASB 87. He would like to see if they can work out some agreement with the City about the additional costs. Mayor Eady advised we would take a look at it and discuss with them.

4. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for a portion of Dried Indian Creek (Attachment C)

Thomas & Hutton is an engineering and consulting firm involved in the discussion of road improvements on E. Soule Street/Williams Road related to the Archer Aviation development. They have been examining the culvert that crosses Dried Indian Creek. The preliminary hydrology assessment showed the creek topping the road during heavy rain events. Further investigation is needed to determine whether the culvert can be extended or if a bridge is needed. There are also questions related to where the flood plain is. They have proposed doing a new assessment. The cost for this assessment is \$30,250 plus consulting time and expenses. The City of Oxford can see if the City of Covington and Newton County would share in this cost.

Bill Andrew stated that there is no flood plain GIS data for this area. What is shown on maps is a guess. Mayor Eady stated there is some discrepancy as to where the City boundary is because the official map for the City is the zoning map per the City's charter, and the zoning map has not been updated to reflect changes over the years due to annexation.

The assessment is needed to determine if money should be spent to install a bridge, or if another culvert would be sufficient at a lower cost. Bill Andrew stated that if the City knew the outcome of its proposal for electrical service at Archer, our posture might change on whether this assessment is needed but as of now the City has no information about its proposal.

Laura McCanless expressed her displeasure at the prospect of making road improvements to E. Soule Street and Williams Road to make it easier for traffic to come through from Covington. She does not want the City of Oxford to bring attention to GDOT about making such road improvements. Mayor Eady stated that GDOT had not been contacted about this.

Mike Ready stated that the City needs some way of knowing where the boundary is to know how to proceed. Mayor Eady stated that Robert Jordan's survey can be used to determine where the boundary should be, and the City Council can update the map based on that information.

Mayor Eady stated that Newton County put the current culvert in, and the City's boundary at that location has not changed since it was put in. The City will work with Newton County and the City of Covington to work out the sharing of costs for the actual construction work.

5. **Oxford Historical Cemetery Foundation MOU** (Attachment D)

Mayor Eady stated that the Cemetery Foundation is waiting for a decision from the City Council before offering a new contract to Roger Ross for maintenance. The Councilmembers present believe the maintenance has greatly improved during the last year and have no concerns about extending the contract.

6. **No Truck Signage** (Attachment E)

Chief Mark Anglin spoke about signs that he would like to place at the entrance points to the City concerning truck restrictions in the City. He is requesting funds to install these signs in the amount of \$3,046.10.

Mayor Eady asked for a proposal/task order from Atkins for the cost to get approval from GDOT to place signs on Highway 81. In the meantime, the City of Covington and Newton County can be contacted about permission to install signs on the non-state routes.

Chief Anglin stated that the quote he has is from November of 2022, and he will obtain an updated quote.

7. **Other Business**

The City Council discussed sharing the cost of repainting Old Church with the Oxford Historical Society. The councilmembers agreed to pay up to \$100,000 of this cost.

8. **Work Session Meeting Review**

9. **Executive Session**

George Holt made a motion to enter Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Laura McCanless seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5/0).

An Executive Session was held to discuss real estate matters.

Mike Ready made a motion to exit Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. Erik Oliver seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5/0).

10. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Eady at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Brooks



City Clerk/Treasurer