

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OXFORD**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS VIA ZOOM**

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Oxford met at the above-mentioned time and place. All members of the Board and local news media were notified of the same as well as the purpose of the meeting.

Present via Zoom: Mayor Jackie Sergent, MPT Calvin (C.J.) Harris Jr. Commissioners James (Danny) Currin, S Quon Bridges, Patricia Fields, Ron Bullock, Teresa Gilreath, S Quon Bridges, John Tovey, City Manager M. Alan Thornton, City Attorney J. Thomas Burnette, and City Clerk, Cynthia Bowen.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Sergent called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 P.M. Prayer by Reverend Jenny Wilson, Oxford United Methodist Church Commissioner Danny Currin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING TWO ADD-ON ITEMS. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Add-on item – 4D – 10 year Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Add-on-item – 4E – CDBG (CV) grant administrator.

**OPENING REMARKS BY MAYOR SERGENT**

Mayor Sergent read the opening remarks statement as stated on the agenda with no conflicts of interest noted.

**DELEGATIONS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Derrick Brown, Chairman of the HPC 213 High Street** – Spoke regarding adding the Armory to the HPC. Mr. Brown discussed the letter for the support of expanding the Historic Preservation. He was concerned about a possible change in that the City and the HPC's goals regarding the Armory were no longer the same. He highlighted the tax credits any future owners would get.

**Lori Dutra, 118 Main Street** – Spoke regarding the striping plan & coming downtown improvements – Ms. Dutra wanted to spotlight the City staff's efforts – One of the most daunting tasks is the power lines. She encouraged the Board to authorize the Manager and Staff to communicate with Duke Energy regarding burying the power lines.

Commissioner Bridges asked if it was possible to have a combination of above and below power lines or is it all or none. Ms. Dutra said that we could do both. The City Manager stated that we are having conversations with our Engineers, so

**Item 4A** - Directed the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition and certify the sufficiency to annex 4.25 acres located on Lewis Street adjacent to the out parcel at Walmart shopping center.

No discussion.

COMMISSIONER CURRIN MADE A MOTION TO DIRECT THE CITY CLERK TO INVESTIGATE THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE PETITION AND CERTIFY THE SUFFICIENCY TO ANNEX 4.25 ACRES LOCATED ON LEWIS STREET. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**Item 4B** - AECOM to complete a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for the National Guard Armory.

There was much discussion on the pros and cons of placing the Armory on the HPC including the limitations that the HPC would evoke when remodeling the Armory. Cheryl stated that she had some further information from the State and there is grey area in the restrictions and Cheryl agrees, that we need a clearer answer before we move forward.

COMMISSIONER TOVEY MADE A MOTION TO TABLE THE ITEM. ALL VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE EXCEPT COMMISSIONER BULLOCK. **THE MOTION CARRIED 6 TO 1.**

#### **Item 4C**

Public hearing set for the March 9, 2021, regular board meeting to receive citizen input for a rezoning request consisting of 4.25 acres adjacent to the Walmart shopping area.

Mayor wants a map to show more of the information on a map.

COMMISSIONER BRIDGES MADE A MOTION TO CALL FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING. ALL VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE EXCEPT COMMISSIONER GILREATH. **THE MOTION CARRIED 6 TO 1.**

The Board adopted the Series Resolution authorizing the Water and Sewer System Revenue Bond Anticipation Note.

Mayor Sergent wanted to know if we raised our payment would it decrease our interest and loan length lower than 40 years, City Manager stated that it would be like prepay and would make a little difference.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE SERIES RESOLUTION. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**4D – Add-on item** - Consider adopting the City of Oxford Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Mayor made clear that this will not include the Hix Master Plan. MPT still has concerns regarding the pool. He feels as though since it is not in writing it is still going to be ignored. He also requested someone get the chairs put away at Rucker Pool.

Commissioner Bridges was happy to the aquatic center rated high on the citizen's list. We need the Master Plan approved to apply for grants. The pool is an on going discussion and not in this piece tonight.

COMMISSIONER TOVEY MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**4E - Add-on item – Consider contracting with Stephen Austin for administering the CDBG (CV) grant in the amount of \$900,000.**

Mr. Austin's experience and current role in grant administration with the City will provide continuity and faster service to the City.

Commissioner Bridges asked what are we going to with all this money, Planning Director Hart explained approximately 810,000 would be used to be reserved to help with mortgage, rent, etc.. The remainder will be used to help with free wi-fi and a booster to help Oxford Housing Authority to get free wi-fi.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO CONTRACT STEVE AUSTIN AS CDBG (CV) GRANT ADMINISTRATOR. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED**

Approved the January Financial Report

Approved the following meeting minutes:

January 4, Agenda Meeting      January 12, Regular Meeting

COMMISSIONER FIELDS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, COMMISSIONER FIELDS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Bowen, City Clerk

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacqueline vdH Sergent, Mayor