

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OXFORD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OXFORD CITY HALL – COMMISSIONERS’ BOARD ROOM

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: Mayor Jackie Sergent, Commissioners James (Danny) Currin, Frank Strickland, S Quon Bridges, Ron Bullock, Al Woodlief, and Patricia Fields. Also present were City Manager M. Alan Thornton, City Attorney J. Thomas Burnette, and City Clerk Cynthia Bowen.

Absent: MPT Calvin (C.J.) Harris, Jr. - Illness

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sergent called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM. Reverend Jenny Wilson, Oxford United Methodist Church gave the prayer; the Pledge to the flag followed, led by Commissioner Quon Bridges.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

COMMISSIONER CURRIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

OPENING REMARKS BY MAYOR SERGENT

Mayor Sergent read the opening remarks statement as stated on the agenda; Commissioner Woodlief recused himself from voting **on Item # 5 - Consider the issue regarding insurance benefits for retired elected officials.** The Board approved.

DELEGATIONS

Report from Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans and Co., LLP on the annual financial report.
FY 2017-2018 Annual Financial Report accepted.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. ALL VOTES (6) WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Jenkins, 105 Planters Place – Mr. Jenkins stated that he is urging the Board to vote no on the matter of Insurance for retired elected officials. He also called on the Board to settle issues openly in the Boardroom instead of in the newspaper.

Joan Roberson, 119 W. Front Street – Ms. Roberson was signed up to speak but declined to do so when called on.

George Foster, 313 Cherry Street – Mr. Foster stated that insurance for former public officials is not a good idea.

INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR RETIRED ELECTED OFFICIALS DENIED

Commissioner Frank Strickland made a two-part motion:

- Part A – Rescind the existing policy giving insurance benefits to retired elected officials across the board.
- Part B – Have Attorney Burnette send a letter to Mr. Allie Ellington denying his request for the City of Oxford to reinstate his health insurance.

Before the vote, City Manager Thornton asked the Board’s permission to read a statement sent by MPT Harris and explained that Mr. Harris is sick and could not attend. Commissioner Bullock stated that it would be appropriate to hear MPT’s statement, the Board agreed.

I am of the opinion that we already have a policy in place. It is stated numerous times to let the manager do his job without interference. This is clearly a case of interference. Case in point, last year during the budget process. The funding of outside agencies was a big topic. It was declared numerous times that we should allow the manager to do his job and not get involved in his decisions. I feel that this is the same case, we already have a policy. Plain and simple, follow it if it is not amended. If we are voting on anything, it should be as to whether or not to amend the policy. I cannot remember the General Statute by memory regarding the conviction of felonies while receiving city benefits. To me, this would exclude the individual regarding those benefits. This has turned into a case where it is clearly personal and an action that is not necessarily needed. Although this is something that some might not necessarily agree with, it is something that was earned by the individual(s). I am sure that there are numerous people who receive a pension or a supplement from a source. Imagine how you would feel if that was taken away from you because someone did not agree with it. That is something that you earned at the time whether people liked it or not. I cannot say what my vote would be, because I am not sure of the motion. However, I think that my stance is clear.

IN A RAISED HAND VOTE, COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND’S TWO PART MOTION OF RESCINDING THE CURRENT POLICY AND HENCEFORTH MAKE THIS A BENEFIT THAT NO ELECTED OFFICIAL IS ELIGIBLE FOR AND TO HAVE ATTORNEY BURNETTE SEND MR. ELLINGTON A LETTER LETTING HIM KNOW THAT HIS INSURANCE WILL NOT BE REINSTATED, **CARRIED 5 TO 0.**

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160A-31 FOR CONTIGUOUS ANNEXATION BY JAMES MUELLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF LACE LASTICS

WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition was received on January 9, 2019, by the City of Oxford Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-31 provides that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the City Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the City of Oxford deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and the City Board of Commissioners of the City of Oxford that:

The City Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above-described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the City of Oxford the result of her investigation.

Jacqueline vdH Sergent, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Bowen, City Clerk

COMMISSIONER BRIDGES MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160A-31 FOR CONTIGUOUS ANNEXATION BY JAMES MUELLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF LACE LASTICS. **THE MOTION CARRIED 6 TO 1.**

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR THE MARCH 12, 2019, REGULAR BOARD MEETING REGARDING THE AMENDING OF THE B-1 ZONING ORDINANCE.

The current zoning ordinance allows distilleries in the I-1, I-2, I-3 and B-3 zoning districts.

COMMISSIONER WOODLIEF MADE A MOTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE MARCH 12TH REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO HEAR CITIZEN INPUT ON AMENDING A ZONING ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE THE DEFINITION OF A CRAFT DISTILLERY AND AMENDING THE TABLE OF PERMITTED USES TO ALLOW A CRAFT DISTILLERY IN THE B-1 ZONING DISTRICT. ALL VOTES (6) WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR THE MARCH 12, 2019, REGULAR BOARD MEETING REGARDING A REZONING REQUEST FROM EDDIE CAUDLE TO REZONE 8 ACRES OF LAND FROM R-A TO B-2.

The purpose of the rezoning is for the entire property to have the Highway Business zoning and to make it more marketable for future development.

COMMISSIONER CURRIN MADE A MOTION TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE MARCH 12TH REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO HEAR CITIZEN INPUT ON THE REZONING REQUEST FROM EDDIE CAUDLE TO REZONE 8 ACRES OF LAND FROM R-A TO B-2. ALL VOTES (6) WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

DEMOLITION ORDINANCE FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 311 MCCLANAHAN STREET ADOPTED.

Commissioner Bridges asked were the owners talked to about the property taxes and liens? Ms. Hart, Planning Director, answered yes, and the Mayor asked if the liens were an attempt to reach the owners, again the answer was yes.

COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE DEMOLITION ORDINANCE FOR 311 MCCLANAHAN STREET. ALL VOTES (6) WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

DEMOLITION ORDINANCE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 100 KING STREET ADOPTED.

After viewing the pictures of this property, Commissioner Bridges, asked about the danger. Ms. Hart explained that the property was almost on the ground. The pictures given to the board were taken several weeks ago. Mayor Sergent complimented Ms. Hart and the Code Enforcement Officer on the job they have been doing to beautify the City.

COMMISSIONER FIELDS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE DEMOLITION ORDINANCE FOR 100 KING STREET. ALL VOTES (6) WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVED THE SUBDIVISION PLAT WHICH INCLUDES SUBDIVIDING A 3.00-ACRE TRACT OF LAND FROM AN EXISTING 10-ACRE TRACT.

No discussion.

COMMISSIONER WOODLIEF MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUBDIVISION PLAT THAT INCLUDES SUBDIVIDING A 3.00 ACRE TRACT FROM AN EXISTING 10-ACRE TRACT. ALL VOTES (6) WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

AWARDED THE BID FOR THE WWTP WEST SLUDGE LAGOON REHABILITATION.

No discussion.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO THE LOW BIDDER HG REYNOLDS IN THE AMOUNT OF 423,300 AND AUTHORIZING AN ADDITIONAL \$11,700 (APPROXIMATELY 3%) FOR CONTINGENCIES FOR A TOTAL OF \$435,000. ALL VOTES (6) WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

JAMES CRAWFORD REAPPOINTED TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

No discussion.

COMMISSIONER WOODLIEF MADE A MOTION TO REAPPOINT JAMES CRAWFORD TO A 2ND TERM ON THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT. ALL VOTES (6) WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

JACALYN THOMAS APPOINTED TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TO COMPLETE THE REMAINDER OF MARC BROOKS'S TERM.

Mr. Brook's term will expire on June 29, 2019.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT JACALYN THOMAS TO THE HPC TO FILL THE REMAINDER OF MARC BROOKS'S TERM. ALL VOTES (6) WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Approved the January 2019 Financial report.

Approved the following meeting minutes:

- *January 7 - Agenda Session
- *January 15 - Regular Session

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Woodlief – asked for an update on the Armory. Attorney Burnette stated that we are waiting on the survey of the Armory.

Commissioner Fields – stated that she was going home feeling better than when she came in, and she thanked the Board for that and hoped that the Board increased the Citizens perception of this Board favorably.

Commissioner Strickland – stated that he is concerned that the news is listing the City of Oxford as the 17th worst in the State for water. City Manager Thornton clarified by saying the news is referring to the distribution system, not the drinking water.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Cynthia Bowen, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Jacqueline vdH Sergent, Mayor