

TUESDAY, MARCH 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 (CJ.) 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 Bishop Betts of Cornerstone Christian Community Church, and Commissioner Ron Bullock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

COMMISSIONER CURRIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEM REMOVED. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

- Remove item 4B – Consider approving the sub-recipient agreement between the City of Oxford and Granville County Social Services as part of the 2020 Coronavirus Assistance CDBG project up to \$60,000.

Mayor Sergent asked if we had any idea what the screening process will be? Planning Director Cheryl Hart stated that was part of the MOU that is being developed. The Mayor clarified that if someone is getting help from Social Service, they are not excluded from getting help through the CDBG grant.

OPENING REMARKS BY MAYOR SERGENT

As stated on the agenda, mayor Sergent read the opening remarks statement, with Commissioner Tovey requesting to be recused from voting on the consent agenda.

DELEGATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Holly Batten, 6120 Tabbs Creek Road, Oxford – Spoke regarding Dogs being tethered 24/7 in all kinds of weather for years. She showed a picture of an older dog that is tethered 24/7. She is asking the Board to consider stronger tethering laws. Commissioner Tovey stated that this dog is very sweet, and others in the City are tethered. Commissioner Bridges ask Ms. Batten what her recommendation would be. She would like to see limits on how long an animal can be tied out. Or, at best, some laws regarding the shelter that a dog should have. Attorney Burnette stated that the County would be the correct avenue for this item.

Larry Cozart 208 Gregory Place, Oxford – Spoke regarding Code Enforcement and Public Works. Mr. Cozart is unhappy that he has received a letter and fine from Code Enforcement. He stated that he had moved everything that he thought was junk. He also stated that he believes that the Code Enforcement went on his property. Commissioner Bridges stated that he has no clue what the circumstances are regarding Mr. Cozart's property or how the Code Enforcement office operates. He stated he assumes that there were notices prior to the \$500.00 fine. Director Hart stated that this is not the first time that Mr. Cozart has been cited for a visual blight offense. She stated that the pictures were taken from the Bullock Street side of his house. She also stated that Mr. Cozart had called the Manager, the Clerk, but not her or the Code Enforcement Officer. Commissioner Currin asked if he can call before he has to pay the fine? Ms. Hart stated that the violation does exist. There were a lot of citations that were ignored before he received such a large fine. Mayor Sergeant stated that our Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for the entire City. The responsibility is on the citizens to reach when they receive a letter.

Jeff Schons 414 College Street, Oxford – Spoke in support of the Oxford development efforts and referenced Item 4F on tonight's agenda. He works with branding and marketing for Glaxo SmithKline, and he wants to offer his talents toward the Economic Strategic Plan.

PUBLIC HEARING

Engineer Preston Royster stated that they are trying to rezone and annex the 4.25 acres, and he is available to answer any questions.

CITY BUSINESS

Item 4A - Certificate of Sufficiency for Petition of Voluntary, Contiguous, Annexation of 4.25 acres accepted and a public hearing set for the April 13th regular Board meeting.

No discussion.

COMMISSIONER TOVEY MADE A MOTION TO CALL FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING. ALL VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Item 4B - Removed from the Agenda.

Item 4C - Various policies, procedures, and plans required for the 2020 City of Oxford Coronavirus Assistance CDBG project adopted.

Commissioner Gilreath – When will this material be available for anyone to review. Director Hart stated that she would have the materials, and they would be posted on the information board. City Manager Thornton stated that these plans, policies, and procedures were for the City Staff to follow.

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

Item 4D - Fair Housing Resolution as part of the 2020 City of Oxford Coronavirus Assistance CDBG adopted.

No discussion.

COMMISSIONER TOVEY MADE A MOTION TO CALL FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING. ALL VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Item 4E - A Memorandum of Understand and a Resolution for service from North Carolina Main Street and Rural Center adopted.

Mayor Pro Tem asked how much the Budget Amendment will be? Mayor Sergent stated that it would be \$900,000. Commissioner Bridges asked if they could get reports on how the money was being spent. Mpt Harris asked who is eligible for this money? Director Hart stated that anyone that has been affected by COVID. Commissioner Bridges asked Ms. Hart to define affected by COVID. She stated that if you were laid-off or lost your job, unable to pay your rent or mortgage, things of that nature. The City Manager reiterated that point.

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

Item 4F - Adopted a Memorandum of Understanding, and the Resolution from the NC Department of Commerce adopted for service from North Carolina Main Street and Rural Center, a department of the NC Department of Commerce, to provide planning assistance on a city-wide 5-year Economic Development Strategic Plan for the City of Oxford.

No discussion.

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

Item 4G - Adopted a Memorandum of Understanding. The Resolution from the NC Department of Commerce will provide service and assistance under the Community Economic Recovery and Resiliency Initiative (CERRI) to the City of Oxford.

No discussion.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION ADOPT THE MOU AND THE RESOLUTION FOR ASSISTANCE ON A CITY-WIDE 5-YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CITY OF OXFORD. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Approved the February Financial Report

Approved the following meeting minutes:

February 1, Agenda Meeting February 9, Regular Meeting

COMMISSIONER CURRIN 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 RECESS THE MEETING UNTIL 8:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 11TH. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Cynthia Bowen, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Jacqueline vdH Sergent, Mayor