

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 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 Mr. Dan Winslow, Humanist and Commissioner Quon Bridges led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The February 26 Board Retreat Minutes were removed, and the March 11 recalled meeting added to the Consent agenda.

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

OPENING REMARKS BY MAYOR SERGENT

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

DELEGATIONS

Amy Ratliff – City Engineer, provided an update on the status of the Orphan Landfill project and an update on all infrastructure projects that the City is has committed to or are currently underway.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held to receive citizen input on the request from Eddie Caudle for a non-contiguous annexation consisting of 4.25 acres located on Lewis Street next to Walmart shopping center.

No discussion. The Board will meet to vote on this annexation on Thursday, April 15 at 8:30 A.M.

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

THE BOARD APPROVED A 1 LOT SUBDIVISION CONSISTING OF 4.25 ACRES LOCATED ON LEWIS STREET NEXT TO WALMART SHOPPING CENTER.

No discussion.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 1 LOT SUBDIVISION. ALL VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR THE MAY 11TH REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO HEAR CITIZEN INPUT REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (UDO).

No discussion.

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

BANNER DESIGNS FOR ATTACHMENT TO DUKE ENERGY POLES APPROVED.

Rosalyn Green with the DOEDC was there to present the agenda item. There was some discussion on the design of the banners.

COMMISSIONER CURRIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE BOTH BANNER DESIGNS. ALL VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

ADOPTED THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING LAWS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS RECOGNIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH.

**CITY OF OXFORD
FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford seeks to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents;
and

WHEREAS, citizens seek safe, sanitary, and habitable dwellings in all areas of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford finds the denial of equal housing opportunities because of religion, race, age, color, sex, familial or handicap status, or national origin legally wrong and socially unjust; and

WHEREAS, the denial of equal housing opportunities in housing accommodations is detrimental to public welfare and public order; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford finds the practice of discrimination against a citizen in housing a denial of equal rights and equal opportunity to seek a better living and develop community pride; and

WHEREAS, April is recognized annually as federal Fair Housing Month.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Oxford, North Carolina, that

Section 1. The City of Oxford has declared it an official policy of the City that there shall be no discrimination in the terms, conditions, or choices for buying or renting housing within the City.

Section 2. All business groups and individual citizens of the City are urged to respect and implement this policy.

Section 3. The Mayor is the official authorized by the City to (1) receive and document complaints regarding housing discrimination in the City; and (2) refer such complaints to the North Carolina Human Relations Board of Commission for investigation, conciliation, and resolution.

Section 4. This resolution applies only to the Community Development Block Grant, its recipients and will expire at the completion of the Project.

Commissioner Gilreath asked about the posting of the Fair Houses regulations; Planning Director Hart explained that the Fair Housing poster would be placed in the newspaper, social media, and in City Hall.

COMMISSIONER BRIDGES MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FAIR HOUSING LAWS AND PUBLIC AWARENESS. ALL VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

ADOPTED A CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

No discussion

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS. ALL VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

FREESE AND NICHOLS CONSULTING ENGINEERS TO PERFORM THIS FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION.

Commissioner Tovey asked how long the study would take? City Manager Thornton stated at least 60 days. Commissioner Currin asked why not just fix the drain that is leaking? City Manager Thornton stated that might be what the recommendation is. Commissioner Gilreath states that this is a lot of money to spend. Charles Archer with Freese and Nichols gave a brief explanation of what would be done and stated that Freese and Nichols has quite a bit of experience dealing with cemeteries. Commissioner Gilreath stated that there should be a group visit. MPT Harris asked if this study would encompass the entire cemetery or just the section that is having a problem. City Manager Thornton said that the affected section is the only pipe there. After much discussion, Commissioner Bridges stated that he doesn't need to see the problem to know that it needs to be fixed. He also stated that a lawsuit, if the graves are damaged, could cost more.

COMMISSIONER CURRIN MADE A MOTION TO OFFICIALLY ENGAGE WITH FREESE & NICHOLS TO PERFORM THE STUDY AND PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD. **THE MOTION CARRIED 6 TO 1, WITH COMMISSIONER GILREATH BEING THE ONLY NAY.**

A SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF OXFORD AND AREA CONGREGATIONS IN MINISTRY (ACIM) AS PART OF THE 2020 CORONAVIRUS ASSISTANCE CDBG PROJECT UP TO \$30,000 APPROVED.

COMMISSIONER GILREATH ASKED IF THE BOARD COULD GET A REPORT ON HOW THIS MONEY HAS BEEN SPENT.

Planning Director Hart stated that no money had been spent because the City has not received the money. Approving the sub-recipient agreement is another step towards getting the funds released. Mayor Sergent asked if we had any sense of when we could start dispersing funds. Director Hart agreed to give the Board notice of what the start-up date will be.

COMMISSIONER FIELDS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT. ALL VOTES IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Approved the February Financial Report

Approved the following meeting minutes:

- February 26, Board Retreat
- March 1, Agenda Meeting
- March 9, Regular Meeting
- March 29, Special Meeting/Public Hearing

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 8:30 A.M. ON THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

ATTEST:

Cynthia Bowen, City Clerk

Jacqueline vdH Sergent, Mayor