

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OXFORD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM - OXFORD CITY HALL

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, MPT Calvin (C.J.) Harris Jr. Commissioners James (Danny) Currin, S Quon Bridges, Ron Bullock, Teresa Gilreath, S Quon Bridges, John Tovey, City Manager M. Alan Thornton, City Attorney J. Thomas Burnette, and City Clerk, Cynthia Bowen.

Absent: Commissioner Patricia Fields

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sergent called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 P.M. Prayer by Reverend Bruce Beck, West Oxford Baptist Church, and Commissioner John Tovey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING REMARKS BY MAYOR SERGENT

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

CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

COMMISSIONER CURRIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A CLOSED SESSION ADDED TO THE AGENDA.
THE MOTION CARRIED.

DELEGATIONS

The May Yard of the Month winner is Mike and Haven Parrott 304 Raleigh St.

Mayor Sergent presented proclamations for the following:

- Honoring Lee Hight, Sunrise Biscuit – 22 years in business.
- Honoring Laurie Stephens, Kevin and Claudia King, Coble Printing – 18 years in business.
- Tina Cheek introduced Charissa Puryear, Director of the Granville County Cooperative Extension, and some of her staff; Latonia Oakley, Program Assistant and Tiana Jones, 4-H Youth Development – Teen Court and Community Service. The Co-op and Parks and Recreation will be partnering to bring programs back to Granville Street. Ms. Puryear gave the Board of Commissioners an update on the programs and workshops available through the Co-op.
 - Commissioner Tovey asked if there had been a lot of interaction with the young people around the center? Ms. Puryear said not a lot, but they are just getting started.
 - Commissioner Bridges asked if Teen Court would be one of the programs that would continue to be under Ms. Puryear's control, she stated that Ms. Jones would be taking this over, but she would still be watching over it. Mr. Bridges stated that these were great programs, and he appreciates all the work these ladies are doing.
 - Mayor Sergent inquired about the hours. Ms. Puryear stated that the summer would be mainly renovations, but she will keep the Board updated on the progress.

- Mayor Sergent introduced Matthew Selves, Public Safety Risk Management Consultant, for the NCLM. Mr. Selves was at the meeting to recognize the Oxford Police Department for completing the Law Enforcement Risk Management Review and proactively serving the community in a professional manner while taking steps to minimize risks to our citizens and Officers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Baba Kerr of 7089 Bayberry Drive, Oxford – Mr. Kerr stated that he hopes and prays that the Board of Commissioners will work together to ensure that the pool that has been discussed for years will be a reality sooner rather than later,

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held to receive citizen input regarding adopting the FY 2021-2022 Budget.

The City Manager presented his FY 2021-2022 budget on May 11, 2021. Therefore a public hearing is required pursuant to NCGS § 159-12.

- Joan Roberson of 502 N. Country Club Drive, Oxford – Ms. Roberson commented on the personnel committee meeting, and the issue of across the board raises. Ms. Roberson is asking the Board to consider that the Police never know when they leave their house if they come back home. In addition, she asked that the Board consider the risk factor involved when determining the raises for the City employees.

The City Manager commented that there are a lot of things to consider. We were looking at the appropriate time to begin a Merit Pay system. A recommendation came from the committee to hold off on the Merit Pay system and research it more. It was recommended to give all employees a 4% COLA raise and have a salary study explicitly done for the PD. Three years ago, there was a salary study done for the City employees as a whole.

The Mayor asked on the timeline would the salary study for the PD to be done. City Manager Thornton stated that it would begin in August.

Commissioner Tovey stated that there are two departments in the City that when they go on a call, they are never sure that they will come back. That is, the Police Department and the Fire Department. So he said that should be taken into consideration when pay increases are discussed.

Commissioner Currin said that he was in favor of the 4% COLA increase.

- Baba Kerr, 7089 Bayberry Drive, Oxford – Mr. Kerr stated that he supports a significant raise for the Oxford PD.
- Commissioner Gilreath stated that she believes that there should have been a better way and a more transparent way to discuss merit pay vs. COLA pay.

Mayor Sergent closed the Public Hearing and stated that what she understands that what came from the personnel meeting was that employees would receive a 4% COLA and that the Manager and Human Resources and the Personnel Committee members would look into putting a merit pay system in place.

Commissioner Bullock had 2 points to make; 1, At no time was there any opposition to a pay increase, and 2. Before you vote on an issue like that, be prepared to know how it will be handled, the issues involved, and get an implementation plan. At that time, the committee was not ready to vote on the merit pay issue.

FY 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE ADOPTED.

COMMISSIONER TOVEY MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE FY 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

A PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE CITIZEN INPUT ON THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD), REFERRED TO AS IVEY MEADOWS, LOCATED OFF IVEY DAY RD AND N COUNTRY CLUB DR.

Joseph Norris, 204 Meadowbrook – He wanted to thank the staff for their responses and the 20 ft. buffer. His final request was that when they begin naming the streets, they don't use anything with Meadow in it.

Mayor Sergent read a letter from Jeff Derry, Oak Island, NC,

Mr. Derry objects to this development for the following reasons:

1. It will add much water runoff from this site to the Meadowbrook development, which even now often floods. The excess water from this development will invariably make its way into the literal Meadowbrook that transverses the development and make an already bad situation worse.
2. Planned urban development implies a Home Owner's Association (HOA). Do not approve as an HOA. They are a bad investment for the consumer. You never own your home; the property management company does. Stop paying these ridiculous monthly dues and see how quickly they foreclose on your home. Pattern the development after other free-standing developments like Green Acres and Meadowbrook, where the homeowner owns their land-title free and clear. With an HOA, your land title is not free and clear but encumbered by the association forever. Commissioners- stop approving HOA's. Stop advocating for property management companies and advocate for people. HOAs are bad investments. Just ask the people in the Lexington Park community!

Jeff Derry
Oak Island, NC

APPROVED THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) REFERRED TO AS IVEY MEADOWS.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PUD DEVELOPMENT KNOWN AS IVEY MEADOWS. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Approved the May Financial Report

Approved the following meeting minutes:

- May 3 – Agenda Meeting
- May 11 – 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 8:30 A.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 13TH. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Cynthia Bowen, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Jacqueline vdH Sergent, Mayor