

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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, MPT Calvin (C.J.) Harris, Jr., 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sergent called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM.

Reverend Chris Aho, Oxford Baptist Church gave the prayer; the Pledge to the flag followed, led by Commissioner Bridges.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

COMMISSIONER WOODLIEF MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS:

- Resolution for Tentative Award of Bid for the 2017 DWI Sewer Main Project.
- Discussion – Ordinance change.
- Closed Session - Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)] the Board will go into Closed Session to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee.

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 with no conflicts of interest noted.

DELEGATIONS

September Yard of the Month winners were Julius Stroud and Todd Comer - 134 Military St. They were presented with a yard of the month certificate, the book “Looking Back” by Lewis Bowling, a City of Oxford “Green and Clean” license plate and they are entered for the Grand Prize to be drawn in October.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Per the Mayor, as there are a number of people signed up to speak, there will be a 3 minute time limit instead of the normal 5 minutes.

Larry Thomas – 207 E. Front Street – Mr. Thomas spoke regarding the USDA Water & Sewer improvements – Mr. Thomas, recommends that the City have a public referendum for these bonds. He also spoke on the resurfacing project.

Phil Pope – 213 College Street – Mr. Pope spoke regarding code enforcement and Blight in the City, he listed several letters that has been sent by Code Enforcement that has not been followed up on;

overgrowth on school property, and a car in an alleyway that has not been moved, and his complaints regarding 217 College Street. He stated that all of these complaints have been sent to the City Manager, City Clerk, and Planning Director.

Sherry Harris – 104 Hazelwood Court – Ms. Harris came to speak regarding the Oxford Housing Authority. She requested that the group with her stand, and that they are citizens that live in the OHA. Ms. Harris is requesting that a thorough investigation be done of the OHA. She states that there is units without air-conditioning and those residents are being requested to pay in cash. Mayor Sergent asked if Ms. Harris had presented her concerns to the Oxford Housing Board as the City has no jurisdiction over the OHA but we will send her concerns to the OHA Board.

Eddie McCoy – 408 Kingsbury Street – Mr. McCoy spoke regarding the blight on Orange, Sycamore and Raleigh Streets.

George Foster – 313 Cherry Street – Mr. Foster spoke regarding the effect that blight has on property values. He urged the Board to look into a property management ordinance.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing was held to hear Citizen input on amending the Oxford Zoning Ordinance section 1100 in order to adopt the new floodplain regulations required by NC Dept. of Emergency Management.

No one wished to speak.

THE OXFORD ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION 1100 WAS AMENDED IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE NEW FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS REQUIRED BY NC DEPT. OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

The revised floodplain ordinance is the State model provided by the NC Dept. of Emergency Management. Every 10 years the NC Dept. of Emergency Management updates their floodplain regulations. The City of Oxford Planning Department is proposing to adopt the model ordinance provided by the State which is required to be adopted by December 6, 2019. In order for the City of Oxford to continue to participate in the flood insurance program and be eligible for federal funds, we are required to update the ordinance. There was no discussion.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO AMEND SECTION 1100 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE NEW FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS REQUIRED BY THE NC DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE OCTOBER REGULAR MEETING REGARDING REQUEST FROM THE UDO COMMITTEE REGARDING PLACING A MORATORIUM ON ANY NEW INTERNET SWEEPSTAKES ESTABLISHMENTS.

There was no discussion.

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

BID FOR THE 2019 CITY STREET RESURFACING PROJECT AWARDED TO S.T. WOOTEN AND THE BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,000 APPROVED.

The Engineering Department accepted formal bids for the 2019 Street Resurfacing Project in the Training Room on August 20, 2019. The bids ranged from \$684,978.61 to \$931,907.50, which was

within 2% of the Engineers Estimate. This project will resurface approximately 2.2 miles of City Roads.

There was no discussion.

COMMISSIONER WOODLIEF MADE A MOTION TO AWARD THE STREET RESURFACING PROJECT TO S.T. WOOTEN AND TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,000. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

TENTATIVE RESOLUTION ADOPTED TO AWARD THE BID FOR THE 2017 USDA WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT TO H.G.

The Engineering Department accepted formal bids for the 2017 USDA Water and Sewer Improvements Project Contract 1 in the Training Room on September 6, 2019. The bids came in over the Engineer's Estimate of \$6,742,800 for Contract 1. The bids ranged from \$6,939,991.00 to \$9,447,391.40. This project will install approximately 30,000 linear feet of water main and 2,100 linear feet of sanitary sewer. In order to stay within the current USDA total funding amount of \$7,256,000 for design, administrative and construction, which initially covered Contract 1 and Contract 2, the City negotiated with the low bidder H.G. Reynolds, Inc. to reduce the construction costs to \$5,919,190.00 with a contingency of \$362,864.00, approximately 6.13%.

City Engineer Ratliff explained that USDA will not award unless the tentative resolution is adopted.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE RESOLUTION AND AUTHORIZE APPROXIMATELY 6.13% FOR CONTINGENCIES. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

RESOLUTION ADOPTED PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION TO THE LGC.

The Board adopted a Resolution providing for the Application to the LGC for Approval of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds and Bond Anticipation Note; and Certain Related Matters and Findings. This Resolution includes the issuance of not to exceed \$5,000,000 in the aggregate principal amount of the City's Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds and retains McGuireWoods, LLP as bond counsel.

No discussion.

COMMISSIONER FIELDS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION TO THE LGC FOR APPROVAL OF WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS AND BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE; AND CERTAIN RELATED MATTERS AND FINDINGS. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVED AMENDMENT #6 TO THE KERR LAKE REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM AGREEMENT.

Commission Bullock gave a brief overview of Amendment #6 and explained that this agreement will extend the original terms of the agreement for all parties for an additional period of ten years to 2047. Commissioner Woodlief stated that he appreciates what Commissioner Bullock, the Mayor, and the City Manager does but that this partnership is a sore spot and has been for a long time. Commissioner Bullock also clarified that the City of Oxford gets 20% Warren County 20% and the City of Henderson gets the rest. Based on this, Oxford will get 20% of the increased amount of water that will come with the expansion.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT #6 TO THE KLRWS AGREEMENT. THE VOTE WAS 5 TO 1 WITH COMMISSIONERS BULLOCK, FIELDS, BRIDGES, HARRIS, AND CURRIN VOTING YES, AND COMMISSIONER WOODLIEF VOTING NO. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

THE BOARD APPROVES A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$226,398.00.

On May 14, 2019, Board approved a Budget Amendment using the City's fund balance and proceeds from the insurance payment (for the old street sweeper). The purchase was made during FY 18-19 budget. The invoice for the new sweeper was received on August 22, 2019 in the FY 19-20 budget.

Commissioner Bullock clarified that this budget amendment would allow the City to move funds already allocated in the 2018-19 budget. No extra money is needed.

COMMISSIONER BRIDGES MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AMMENDMENT. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

RESOLUTION APPROVED FOR TENTATIVE AWARD OF BID FOR THE 2017 DWI SEWER MAIN PROJECT.

The Engineering Department accepted formal re-bids for the "2017 DWI Sewer Main Replacement Project" on Thursday, July 18th. The Division of Infrastructure (DWI) offered the City a \$2,940,000 grant and \$2,280,250 loan (\$5,921,000 total) for engineering, permitting, legal services and construction combined on February 1, 2016. The project will install approximately 15,600 feet of 8" to 30" gravity sewer lines in various locations throughout the City. The three bids ranged from \$5,143,188 to \$5,731,318 for the Base Bid without any Alternates. Staff recommended adopting a Resolution for Tentatively Awarding the contract to the low bidder H.G. Reynolds Co., Inc. in the amount of \$5,143,188, subject to approval by Division of Water Infrastructure to award the project.

The Mayor asked why this was late coming to the Board so late; it was turned in for the August meeting, but did not get on the agenda.

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

DISCUSSION ITEM

On Tuesday, September 3rd, City Staff received information regarding the authority of Municipalities during an emergency. This information prompted the need for necessary changes in the City of Oxford Ordinance Chapter 7: Civil Defense and Emergency Preparedness.

This item was presented to the Board at the September 3rd Agenda meeting, voted on and unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

David Wicker was reappointed to the Planning Board for a second term.

Approved the July 2019 Financial report.

Approved the following meeting minutes:

- *August 5 - Agenda Session
- *August 13 - Regular Session

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

BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Bullock - stated that there would be a litter sweep on September 20th beginning at noon. He also stated that the 2020 Census would begin in January and there would be postcards mailed out in March. If anyone has not received them by April 1st contact the County Manager's office. Sandy Woody is in charge of this.

Commissioner Bridges - thanked the City Manager and the staff for the improved look of the City streets. He also would like a response to these issues of blight.

Mayor Pro-Tem Harris – stated that he wanted to keep the people in the Bahamas in prayer in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian as well as the families of the young people losing their lives and he thanked the OPD for their work in trying to solve these crimes. He mentioned the prayer vigil. The Mayor stated that it would be on September 30th at the Empowerment Center from 6 to 7 pm.

Mayor Sergent – She and the City Manager presented at the GC School Board meeting regarding the future growth of the City of Oxford. She listed several groups that also presented including the County, the Mary Potter group and the new SGWASA manager.

Commissioner Bridges - requested the Mayor speak in regards to the meeting that she and the City Manager had with Congressman Butterfield. The City Manager stated that they informed the Congressman of the projects going on in the City and some of the projects that we would like to see happening.

Commissioner Currin – Reminded people of the September 12th Property Committee Meeting.

City Manager – Reminded everyone of the Hot Sauce Contest coming up the following Saturday.

COMMISSIONER WOODLIEF MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN INTO A CLOSED SESSION.

COMMISSIONER FIELDS MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE CLOSED SESSION.

WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, COMMISSIONER WOODLIEF MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.

Cynthia Bowen, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Jacqueline vdH Sergent, Mayor