

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 – 7:00 PM.
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: Mayor Jackie Sergent, MPT Calvin (C.J.) Harris Jr., Commissioners; James (Danny) Currin, S Quon Bridges, Ron Bullock, Patricia Fields, Teresa Gilreath, and John Tovey. Also present were City Manager M. Alan Thornton and City Clerk Cynthia Bowen.

Absent: City Attorney J. Thomas Burnette

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sergent called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 PM. Reverend Chris Aho, Oxford Baptist Church. Commissioner Danny Currin led the Pledge to the Flag.

CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The Mayor requested that we add accepting a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to improve connectivity and internet availability to the agenda. Commissioner Currin requested to add a discussion to make Forest Road and Parker a three-way stop and Forest Road and Tranquil Drive a four-way stop.

COMMISSIONER BULLOCK MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF ACCEPTING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE GRANT AND THE DISCUSSION ON MAKING FOREST ROAD & PARKER A 3 WAY STOP AND FOREST ROAD & TRANQUIL DRIVE A 4 WAY STOP. 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

- Mayor Sergent announced the Yard of the Month was Don & Laura Fick of 107 W. Quailridge Road. She was not able to attend the zoom meeting.
- 2020 YOM winners were as follows:
 - Grand Prize of \$75.00 Downtown Dollars – Ann Cooke
 - Second Place of \$25.00 Downtown Dollars – Winston and Nancy Brooks
 - \$15.00 Downtown Dollars – Cynthia Jones
 - \$15.00 Downtown Dollars – Jay and Dianne Disher
 - \$15.00 Downtown Dollars – Don and Laura Fick
 - \$15.00 Downtown Dollars – Lucy Clayton
- Fire prevention week was October 4 through October 10. The Mayor and Board presented the Fire Chief David Cottrell and the Oxford Fire Department with a proclamation to honor their dedication to reducing home fires and home fire injuries through prevention, protection, and education and for their courage, discipline, and professionalism.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Xavier Wortham with the Oxford Housing Authority – Mr. Wortham is very excited about the grant to potentially provide internet to the Oxford Housing Authority residents.

THE CITY OF OXFORD PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN REJECTED.

The Parks & Recreation Plan was presented at the August 11 Board meeting. Mayor Pro Tem asked if any changes had been made to the plan since the agenda was sent out. P & R Director stated that there were some changes since August, and she highlighted those changes as being:

- The Hix Complex plan was changed to show the Hix Aquatic Center.
- The search map was adjusted

Director Cheek explained that this was a high-level sketch of what fits into Oxford's area for Parks & Recreation. After this is approved, the next step will be a feasibility study. After much discussion regarding a pool for Downtown Oxford that is accessible to all of Oxford's Citizens.

MAYOR PRO TEM MADE A MOTION TO REJECT THE PARKS& RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UNTIL HE SEES PLANS FOR A SWIMMING POOL. VOTES WERE 4 TO 3. VOTING TO REJECT THE PLAN WERE MAYOR PRO TEM HARRIS, COMMISSIONERS GILREATH, FIELDS, AND BRIDGES. VOTING TO APPROVE THE PLAN WERE COMMISSIONERS CURRIN, BULOCK, AND TOVEY. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSSION - OFFICIAL CITY POEM

Mayor Sergent introduced Lewis Bowling's idea to consider adopting the poem "A Tribute to Oxford, North Carolina on Its Bicentennial Celebration" by Dr. Helen Othow as our official City poem.

There was a discussion regarding the removal of reference to the Bicentennial Celebration. However, Ms. Othow, the author of the poem, stated she would prefer it remains as she hoped the feeling of the bicentennial would continue to live on for years to come.

COMMISSIONER TOVEY MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE POEM AS WRITTEN AS THE OFFICIAL POEM OF THE CITY OF OXFORD. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

ACCEPTED THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FROM BAND-NC RAPID RELIEF GRANT (\$5,000) TO THE CITY OF OXFORD.

The City Manager took a moment to thank Mary for applying and receiving this grant but wanted everyone to understand this was the first step in getting Broadband downtown. A \$5,000 grant is a big step in accomplishing this goal.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BRIDGES TO ACCEPT THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

DISCUSSION – STOPSIGNS AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF FOREST ROAD AND PARKER STREET AND FOREST ROAD AND TRANQUIL DRIVE.

Commissioner Currin has had some citizens voice their concern about the safety of these two intersections. They do not want speed bumps, but they also understand that the Police can't be there all the time. So, the most logical answer is stop signs.

After much discussion, including if it is beneficial to have both intersections, have stop signs. It was decided with a full consensus of the Board to have a Public Safety Committee meeting to discuss this in more detail.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

Approved the September Financial Report.

Approved the following meeting minutes:

- August 31, Agenda Meeting
- September 8, Regular Meeting
- September 23, Special Meeting
- October 7, Special Meeting

COMMISSIONER FIELDS MADE A MOTION APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. NO DISCUSSION. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

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

Cynthia Bowen, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Jacqueline vdH Sergent, Mayor