

1/13/2026

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: January 13, 2026  
TIME: 6:31 P.M.  
PLACE: Oxford City Hall  
PRESENT: Mayor Alton Craft  
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council President  
Mr. Steven Waits, Council President Pro Tempore  
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member  
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member  
Mr. Mike Henderson, Council Member

The City Council of the City of Oxford, Alabama, met in Regular Session in the Oxford City Hall of the City of Oxford, Alabama, on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at approximately 6:31 o'clock p.m. Council President Spurlin called the meeting to order.

Ron Allen, City Attorney, was present.

Alan Atkinson, City Clerk, was present.

Mark Littleton, Betta View Hills Church of Christ, prayed the Invocation.

Council President Spurlin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Spurlin stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the December 23, 2025 meeting. Council Member Hubbard made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Henderson.

Council President Spurlin called for any comments or questions; there being none, on roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Craft presented the following proclamation.

Proclamation – Human Trafficking Awareness Month

The City Council and Mayor presented the following resolution to Fire Chief Gary Sparks, Fire Department.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

A RESOLUTION HONORING OXFORD FIRE CHIEF GARY SPARKS

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford sees it as most appropriate to honor those who have devotedly worked to improve the city and the lives of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Gary Sparks is retiring as Oxford Fire Chief on February 1, 2026, having been appointed to the position on March 3, 2007, marking the second longest tenure in the history of that position, and

WHEREAS, Chief Sparks began his service to the City of Oxford at the age of 15 as a volunteer cleaning the fire station and washing trucks, and did so throughout his high school years during which he was elected fire chief for the Oxford High School Senior Government Day; and

WHEREAS, Chief Sparks continued working as an Oxford volunteer firefighter while serving 20 years with the Anniston Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, during Chief Sparks' tenure as Oxford Fire Chief, the Oxford Fire Department transitioned to having a full-time team of professionally trained firefighters now numbering more than 40; and oversaw construction of four new fire stations and a training center, which is also utilized by the Alabama Fire College to train new firefighters from across the state; and

WHEREAS, Chief Sparks' dedication to the fire service has been recognized with his leadership of the Alabama Fire Chief's Association, the Alabama Joint Fire Council, the Alabama Fire College, and the Calhoun County 911 Board; and

WHEREAS, Chief Sparks has maintained a devotion to his family with wife Monica, son Robert, daughter-in-law Meaghen, and grandchildren Conor and Kenna; and a devotion to his faith by his service to Brookside Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, one of Chief Sparks' last major actions as Oxford Fire Chief was to acquire a new, state-of-the-art mobile unit designed for multiple purposes including protecting the public from hazardous material situations which is scheduled to be placed into service in 2026.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of Oxford, Alabama, on behalf of its citizens, the title of Fire Chief Emeritus of the Oxford Fire Department is hereby bestowed upon Gary Sparks, and declare the newest mobile unit of the Oxford Fire Department be placed into service bearing the name "Chief Gary Sparks" as a working tribute to his years of devoted service and a continuing inspiration to the generations of firefighters that will follow.

APPROVED and ADOPTED this 13th day of January, 2026.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
OXFORD, ALABAMA

By: /s/ Chris Spurlin, Council President

By: /s/ Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member

By: /s/ Phil Gardner, Council Member

By: /s/ Steven Waits, Council Pro Tempore

By: /s/ Mike Henderson, Council Member

ATTEST:

/s/ Alan B. Atkinson, City Clerk

Chief Bill Partridge, Police Department, presented Fire Chief Gary Sparks, Fire Department, a Certificate of Commendation for his public service to the City of Oxford.

Chief Sparks thanked everyone for their support over the years of his service. He stated he was proud of the Fire Department's High School program for training firefighters. He stated he loves the city of Oxford.

Council President Spurlin stated they appreciated Chief Sparks' years of service and his love for their city and the vision he had for their city.

Council President Spurlin stated that this was the time for the public hearing to consider a zoning request from Thomas Fowlkes to rezone property located at 69 Reaves Drive from Residential 1 District (R-1) to Garden Home District (GH), declared the hearing open and asked if anyone wished to address the Council either in favor of or in opposition to said zoning request from Thomas Fowlkes to rezone property located at 69 Reaves Drive from Residential 1 District (R-1) to Garden Home District (GH).

No one addressed the Council either in favor of or in opposition to said zoning request from Thomas Fowlkes to rezone property located at 69 Reaves Drive from Residential 1 District (R-1) to Garden Home District (GH).

Council President Spurlin declared the public hearing to consider a zoning request from Thomas Fowlkes to rezone property located at 69 Reaves Drive from Residential 1 District (R-1) to Garden Home District (GH), closed.

Ordinance No. 2026- 01 – Ordinance rezoning property located at 69 Reaves Drive from Residential 1 District (R-1) to Garden Home District (GH)

Council Member Henderson made a motion for the unanimous consent of the Council for the immediate consideration of Ordinance Number 2026-01. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hubbard; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried.

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Unanimous consent of the Council having been given for the immediate consideration of Ordinance Number 2026-01, Council Member Gardner made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2026-01. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hubbard; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried and Ordinance Number 2026-01 was approved.

Ordinance No. 2026- 02 – Ordinance declaring real property on Turner Road as surplus to the needs of the City and authorizing its conveyance to the Oxford Health Care Authority

Council Member Henderson made a motion for the unanimous consent of the Council for the immediate consideration of Ordinance Number 2026-02. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hubbard; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried.

Unanimous consent of the Council having been given for the immediate consideration of Ordinance Number 2026-02, Council Member Henderson made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2026-02. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hubbard; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried and Ordinance Number 2026-02 was approved.

Council President Spurlin stated the next item on the Agenda was the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution No. 2026- 02 – Resolution awarding the bid and authorizing a contract for sidewalk improvements along Main Street from Oak Street to Thomason Street to Hale Building Company Inc. in the total amount of \$939,739.00

Resolution No. 2026- 03 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Simple Grants for professional services specific to an application for a U. S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant and to sign the application and all necessary documents contained therein.

Resolution No. 2026- 04 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a Marketing License Agreement with OXFORD MALL, LLC for the use of certain property for the purpose of a boat show.

Council Member Gardner made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Resolution Numbers 2026-02 through 2026-04. The motion was seconded by Council Member Henderson; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried and the Consent Agenda, Resolution Numbers 2026-02 through 2026-04, were approved.

Mayor Craft stated that Festival Lights had been successful again and they were working on cost and having a better show next year.


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There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Henderson made a motion to adjourn. Council President Spurlin declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:51 o'clock p.m.

APPROVED  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
OXFORD, ALABAMA

  
Chris Spurlin, Council President

AUTHENTICATED:

  
Alan B. Atkinson, City Clerk  
January 13, 2026: Regular Meeting

