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OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: April 28, 2026
TIME: 6:26 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

ABSENT: 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, April 28, 2026, at approximately 6:26 o'clock p.m. Council President Spurlin called the meeting to order.

Ron Allen, City Attorney, was present.

Alan Atkinson, City Clerk, was present.

Alex Davenport, Meadowbrook Baptist Church, 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 April 14, 2026 meeting. Council Member Gardner made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hubbard.

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, and Spurlin; nays: none; absent: Council Member Henderson. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Spurlin stated they needed to set public hearings for May 12, 2026, to consider the following requests which were considered by the Oxford Planning Commission at their April 7, 2026 meeting:

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Zoning request from Chad Pearson LLC to rezone property located at 103 Sterling Pointe Lane from Light Manufacturing District (M-1) to Central Business District (CBD)

Zoning request from Angelia White to rezone property located at 1615 Coldwater Road from General Business District (GB) to Residential 1 District (R-1)

Zoning request from Cindy Bates to rezone property located at 817 Beck Road from Agricultural District (AG) to Residential 2 District (R-2)

Zoning request from the Calhoun County Economic Development Council to zone property located at 53184 U. S. Highway 78 as from General Manufacturing District (M-2)

Council Member Waits made a motion to appoint Deputy Chief of Police Daniel Phipps as the Chief of Police. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hubbard. 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, and Spurlin; nays: none; absent: Council Member Henderson. The motion carried.

Chief Partridge, Police Department, administered the Oath of Office of Daniel Phipps as Chief of Police.

Chief Phipps thanked God for this opportunity. He expressed his appreciation to his family. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for the trust and confidence they had placed in him by appointing him as Chief of Police. He stated he was truly honored and committed to serving the community. He thanked the men and women of the Oxford Police Department for their hard work and commitment and professionalism and stated he was proud to serve along side them. He thanked Chief Partridge for being a mentor and leader throughout his career.

Chief Phipps asked that the City Clerk read the following resolution.

RESOLUTION HONORING OXFORD POLICE CHIEF BILL PARTRIDGE

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford deems it both fitting and proper to recognize individuals whose dedication, leadership, and service have significantly contributed to the advancement, safety, and well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, Bill Partridge has honorably served the City of Oxford for nearly four decades, having joined the Oxford Police Department in 1989 and serving as Chief of Police since July of 2007, exemplifying unwavering commitment, integrity, and professionalism in the protection of life and property; and

WHEREAS, after almost 40 years of distinguished service, Chief Partridge has announced his retirement effective May 1, 2026, marking the conclusion of an exceptional career in public safety and leadership; and

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WHEREAS, Chief Partridge has also served as Public Safety Director for the City of Oxford, further demonstrating his broad leadership and commitment to the safety and well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, Chief Partridge is a distinguished graduate of the FBI National Academy, Session 225, and has achieved certification as a Law Enforcement Executive through the Alabama Chiefs of Police Association, reflecting his dedication to professional excellence and continued advancement in the field of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Chief Partridge has served with distinction in every rank within the Oxford Police Department, with the exception of Deputy Chief, thereby gaining a comprehensive understanding of departmental operations and demonstrating exceptional leadership at every level; and

WHEREAS, throughout his tenure, Chief Partridge has fostered a culture of professionalism, accountability, and service, mentoring generations of law enforcement officers and shaping the future leadership of the Oxford Police Department; and

WHEREAS, under Chief Partridge's leadership, the Oxford Police Department has experienced significant growth in personnel, training, and resources, while embracing modern technology, intelligence-led policing strategies, and innovative practices to enhance public safety and operational effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, Chief Partridge played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of specialized units, including the Emergency Services Unit, the Aviation Service Unit, and the Technical Services Unit, greatly expanding the department's capabilities in critical response, investigations, and public safety operations; and

WHEREAS, Chief Partridge demonstrated visionary leadership in the design and construction of key public safety facilities, including the Oxford Police Department headquarters, the Special Operations Facility, and the East Metro Area Crime Center (EMACC), a regional real-time crime center that has strengthened interagency cooperation and contributed to measurable reductions in crime throughout Oxford and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, Chief Partridge helped secure funding and support for the East Metro Area Crime Center, a state-of-the-art facility that collaborates with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies across the region and nation to effectively combat crime; and

WHEREAS, Chief Partridge has served in numerous leadership roles at the state level, including serving twice as President of the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police (AACOP), as Chairman of the AACOP Legislative Committee, as former Chairman of the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, as Advisory Board Chairman for the Center of Best Practices in Law Enforcement at Jacksonville State University, and as Vice President of the FBI National Academy Associates, Alabama Chapter; and

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WHEREAS, through these roles, Chief Partridge has become a recognized leader in law enforcement across the State of Alabama, contributing to policy development, training standards, and advancements in public safety; and

WHEREAS, Chief Partridge has been a strong advocate for regional collaboration, working closely with local, state, and federal partners to enhance information sharing, coordinate resources, and improve overall public safety outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Chief Partridge's leadership has emphasized community engagement, transparency, and trust, fostering strong relationships between law enforcement and the citizens of Oxford, and promoting a safer, more connected community; and

WHEREAS, his legacy of service is marked not only by operational achievements but also by his steadfast dedication to ethical leadership, officer development, and the highest standards of public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Oxford, Alabama, that this body does hereby publicly honor Chief Bill Partridge for his faithful service, exemplary leadership, and enduring contributions to the Oxford Police Department and the community at large.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in recognition of his lasting impact, the East Metro Area Crime Center (EMACC) shall be hereby renamed the "**Chief Bill Partridge East Metro Area Crime Center**," ensuring that his legacy of innovation and service will continue to inspire future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Chief Bill Partridge as a lasting expression of the City Council's gratitude, respect, and best wishes for continued success, health, and fulfillment in all future endeavors.

APPROVED and **ADOPTED** this 28th day of April, 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

ATTEST:

/s/ Alan B. Atkinson, City Clerk

A representative from Congressman Mike Roger's Office made a Congressional Record presentation to Chief Partridge.

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Danny Shears, Calhoun County Commission, read a proclamation honoring Chief Partridge and thanked him for his service to the community.

Keith Kelly, State Senator, and Randy Wood, State Representative, presented a resolution to Chief Partridge and thanked him for his service and his help with legislation in Montgomery.

Council President Spurlin stated that Chief Partridge had been his training officer for a while and they had served together and he had learned a lot from him. He stated he appreciated their friendship and where Chief Partridge had brought Oxford and keeping our citizens safe. He stated he looked forward to working with Chief Phipps and continuing this legacy and taking the city forward.


There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Waits made a motion to adjourn. Council President Spurlin declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:48 o'clock p.m.

APPROVED
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
OXFORD, ALABAMA



Chris Spurlin, Council President

AUTHENTICATED:



Alan B. Atkinson, City Clerk
April 28, 2026: Regular Meeting

