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OXFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: September 22, 2020  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Oxford Performing Arts Center  
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 Performing Arts Center of the City of Oxford, Alabama, on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at approximately 6:30 o'clock p.m. Council President Spurlin called the meeting to order.

Ron Allen, City Attorney, was present.

Alan Atkinson, City Clerk, was present.

Minister Dell Kimberly, Betta View Hills Church of Christ, prayed the Invocation.

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

Council President Spurlin stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the September 8th, 2020 meeting. Council Member Henderson made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gardner.

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 to Dr. Ryan Parrish, Gwen Parrish, Hunter Parrish, Grace Parrish, Lindsey Jacks, and Brook Hale.

Proclamation – National Chiropractic Health Month

Mayor Craft presented the following proclamation to Kenneth Paschal, Alabama Family Rights Association.

Proclamation – Family Day/Family Week

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Council President Spurlin announced that was the time for the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Thelma and Rel Baker for a structure located at 415 Alice Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, declared the hearing open and asked if anyone wished to address the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Thelma and Rel Baker for a structure located at 415 Alice Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

No one addressed the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Thelma and Rel Baker for a structure located at 415 Alice Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

Council President Spurlin declared the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Thelma and Rel Baker for a structure located at 415 Alice Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, closed.

Council President Spurlin announced that was the time for the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Len Stanford for a structure located at 329 Alice Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, declared the hearing open and asked if anyone wished to address the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Len Stanford for a structure located at 329 Alice Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

No one addressed the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Len Stanford for a structure located at 329 Alice Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

Council President Spurlin declared the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Len Stanford for a structure located at 329 Alice Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, closed.

Council President Spurlin announced that was the time for the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to John Bennett for a structure located at 74 Gwin Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, declared the hearing open and asked if anyone wished to address the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to John Bennett for a structure located at 74 Gwin Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

No one addressed the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to John Bennett for a structure located at 74 Gwin Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

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Council President Spurlin declared the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to John Bennett for a structure located at 74 Gwin Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, closed.

Council President Spurlin announced that was the time for the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Gary Turley for a structure located at 312 W. Oak Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, declared the hearing open and asked if anyone wished to address the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Gary Turley for a structure located at 312 W. Oak Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

Chelsea Turley addressed the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Gary Turley for a structure located at 312 W. Oak Street and stated they would like to repair the property but had been told that they could not make the necessary repairs to fix the problems. She stated they had not been able to find anyone to make the repairs, so they had submitted their own work order. She stated if they denied her work proposal then she would like to request more time to find someone to do the required work.

Council President Spurlin asked Ms. Turley how long the house had been vacant.

Ms. Turley stated the house had probably been vacant for 8 or 9 years.

Council President Spurlin asked Ms. Turley had any work been done on the house in the past 8 or 9 years.

Ms. Turley stated they had done some work on the inside but because of financial reasons they had been delayed.

Council President Spurlin stated their biggest concern was the safety of others and there was evidence that there had been people in and out of the structure. He stated that their concern was it did not appear any actions had been taken to repair the structure and abate the dangerous aspects of the structure.

Ms. Turley stated they would make the necessary repairs if they were given more time.

Council Member Henderson asked Ms. Turley what their intention for the house was.

Ms. Turley stated she had relatives that needed a place to stay so it would be occupied.

Council Member Waits asked if the house was structurally sound.

Joey Stay, Inspections Department, stated there was a wiring issue, the siding was rotted, and the seal plate around the side of the home along the block is rotting. He stated structurally there were issues. He stated he had not been inside the house. He stated the structural repairs needed to be

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done by a licensed contractor and for the roof any repairs would have to be done by someone licensed with the State.

Ms. Turley asked they could have more time to hire someone to do the work.

Council President Spurlin asked Ms. Turley how long it would take them to start.

Ms. Turley stated at least two weeks.

Council President Spurlin asked Ms. Turley if they were given a month then they would be working toward having a licensed contractor beginning to making the repairs within that month.

Ms. Turley stated, yes, that they would.

Council President Spurlin stated to Ms. Turley that they would go forward with the condemnation of the structure tonight with the condition that no action would be taken against the structure for thirty days and if they had hired a licensed contractor and begun repairs within the thirty day period then the City would reevaluate the situation at that time.

Juna Copa, 1301 Noble Street, Turley addressed the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Gary Turley for a structure located at 312 W. Oak Street and asked if repairing the things listed on their proposal were sufficient.

Mr. Stay stated that the exterior repairs were only part of the problem but they had not been inside the house to evaluate the amount of repairs needed on the interior.

Council President Spurlin asked if anyone else wished to address the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Gary Turley for a structure located at 312 W. Oak Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

No one else addressed the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Gary Turley for a structure located at 312 W. Oak Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

Council President Spurlin declared the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Gary Turley for a structure located at 312 W. Oak Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, closed.

Council President Spurlin announced that was the time for the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Henry L. and Annie L. Curry for a structure located at 414 W. Oak Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, declared the hearing open and asked if anyone wished to address the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Henry L. and Annie L. Curry for a structure located at 414 W. Oak Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

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No one addressed the Council concerning said condemnation notice sent to Henry L. and Annie L. Curry for a structure located at 414 W. Oak Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned.

Council President Spurlin declared the public hearing to receive comments on the condemnation notice sent to Henry L. and Annie L. Curry for a structure located at 414 W. Oak Street to show cause, if any, as to why the structure located on the property should not be condemned, closed.

Council President Spurlin stated the next item on the agenda was the Consent Agenda. He stated they were going to remove from the Consent Agenda and vote separately on two resolutions, Resolution No. 2020 – 110 – Resolution condemning the structure located at 312 W. Oak Street and Resolution No. 2020- 117 – Resolution awarding the bid for concrete purchases for FY 2021 to Webb Concrete and Building Materials.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution No. 2020 – 106 – Resolution condemning the structure located at 414 W. Oak Street.

Resolution No. 2020 – 107 – Resolution condemning the structure located at 415 Alice Street.

Resolution No. 2020 – 108 – Resolution condemning the structure located at 329 Alice Street.

Resolution No. 2020 – 109 – Resolution condemning the structure located at 74 Gwin Street.

Resolution No. 2020- 111 – Resolution awarding the bid for traffic striping and pavement marker purchases for FY 2021 to Ozark Striping.

Resolution No. 2020 – 112 – Resolution approving the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget.

Resolution No. 2020 – 113 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an extension agreement with Republic Services for solid waste collection and disposal.

Resolution No. 2020 – 114 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with CDG Engineers & Associates for engineering design services for the bridge replacement on Friendship Road over Choccolocco Creek in the total amount of \$222,590.00.

Resolution No. 2020 – 115 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Calvin Wren Munroe Jr. Architect LLC for architectural services for a new storage facility at Choccolocco Park.

Resolution No. 2020 – 116 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with Morris Building Constructors, Inc. for the construction of a new storage facility at Choccolocco Park in the total amount of \$425,328.00.

Resolution No. 2020- 118 – Resolution awarding the bid for guardrail purchases for FY 2021 to Alabama Guardrail.

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Council Member Gardner made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Resolution Numbers 2020-106 through 2020-109, Resolution Numbers 2020-111 through 2020-116 and Resolution Number 2020-118. The motion was seconded by Council Member Henderson; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Gardner, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none; abstentions: Council Member Hubbard. The motion carried and the Consent Agenda, Resolution Numbers 2020-106 through 2020-109, Resolution Numbers 2020-111 through 2020-116 and Resolution Number 2020-118 were approved.

Resolution No. 2020 – 110 – Resolution condemning the structure located at 312 W. Oak Street.

Mike Roberts, Inspections Department, asked the Council to make Resolution No. 2020-110 effective thirty days from this date.

Council Member Henderson made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-110 to be effective thirty days from this date if the repairs have not been started. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gardner; 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 Resolution Number 2020-110 was approved.

Resolution No. 2020- 117 – Resolution awarding the bid for concrete purchases for FY 2021 to Webb Concrete and Building Materials.

Council Member Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-117. The motion was seconded by Council Member Henderson; and on call of the roll the following vote was recorded: ayes: Council Members Hubbard, Waits, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none; abstentions: Council Member Gardner. The motion carried and Resolution Number 2020-117 was approved.

Council Member Henderson stated that Oxford Fest would be taking place on the first Saturday in October and encouraged everyone to attend and to wear masks and social distance during the event.

Mayor Craft thanked the Performing Arts Staff for their work dismantling and transporting the recently acquired carousel to Oxford.

Council President Spurlin stated they needed to set a public hearing for October 13, 2020, to consider a zoning request from Jigneshbhai Patel to rezone property located at 1209 Humphries Street from Neighborhood Shopping Center (NSC) to Planned Development 2 (PD-2).

Larry Sims addressed the Council concerning property he owned at 214 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Pinecrest Avenue and stated he had received a letter from the City concerning the property. He stated he would like to clean up and secure the property and then come back to the Council with a plan for the property. He stated it would probably take 1 to 2 months for him to get back to the Council with a plan for the renovation of the property. He stated he had a mortgage on this property with a balance of \$33,000.

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Council President Spurlin stated the Council had not received any documentation concerning the condemnation of this property. He stated he had spoken to Mike Roberts, Inspections Department, about this property and he thought currently they wanted the outside of the property cleaned up and to have the property secured.

Mr. Sims stated that the only problem he had with the notice were the timelines in the letter but he had only just received the letter because it had gone to an inactive previous address.

Mike Roberts, Inspections Department, stated if Mr. Sims would take two weeks to clean up the outside of the property, the inside of the property and secure it then they could come back and look at the situation. He stated it would take a month to six weeks to get this possible condemnation before the Council.

Sloan Wilson, Oxford EMS, addressed the Council concerning the financial status of Oxford Emergency Medical Services. He stated that to pay the past due financial responsibilities and to provide a safety net they would need an appropriation or loan of \$1.5 million. He stated they would also need a monthly subsidy of \$100,000 per month to cover expenses, payroll and update equipment. He stated that without financial assistance Oxford Emergency Medical Services would be forced to stop operating at the end of this month. He stated they project that they can only guarantee payroll to their employees through the end of September. He stated that if the City cannot provide financial assistance then Oxford Emergency Medical Services would have to stop operating on or about September 30. He stated on behalf of the employees that they knew the City Council and Mayor had stood behind them 100 percent through these difficult financial times. He stated they understood that the City may not be able to keep throwing money at an entity that is so broken it cannot be fixed. On behalf of the employees of Oxford EMS he thanked the Council for their support.

Council President Spurlin thanked Mr. Wilson for the update on the financial status of Oxford Emergency Medical Services. He asked Tom Dixon, Health Care Authority, if Oxford EMS ended services on September 30<sup>th</sup> then would the Health Care Authority be able to commence emergency health care services on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tom Dixon, Health Care Authority of the City of Oxford, stated that he believed they could provide emergency health care services by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Council President Spurlin asked Mr. Dixon if the current employees of Oxford EMS would be given a chance to seek employment with the Health Care Authority of the City of Oxford.

Mr. Dixon stated that the current employees of Oxford EMS would be given a chance to seek employment with the Health Care Authority of the City of Oxford.

Council President Spurlin stated that the Council needed to decide whether to continue to appropriate or loan funds to Oxford EMS or whether to ask the Health Care Authority of the City of Oxford to begin providing emergency health care services by October 1<sup>st</sup> and for the Health Care Authority to allow current employees of Oxford EMS to seek employment with them. He stated this is not a decision that should be taken lightly. He stated the current board at Oxford

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EMS had been charged with reporting to the Council whether Oxford EMS was a financially viable entity. He stated from the reports they continue to get that it seems Oxford EMS is going further in debt and the challenge is getting greater to meet their payroll and offer emergency medical services. He stated the Council wanted to make sure the citizens were receiving the very best emergency medical services available. He stated Mr. Dixon had stated the Health Care Authority could begin providing emergency health care services by October 1<sup>st</sup>. he stated they had to decide whether to ask the Health Care Authority of the City of Oxford to begin providing emergency health care services or to continue to invest money in Oxford EMS.

Council Member Henderson stated he would not be in favor of loaning Oxford EMS \$1.5 million. He stated based on the information provided tonight he would not support additional funding of Oxford EMS and could support the Health Care Authority providing emergency health care services to their citizens.

Council Member Waits stated he agreed with Council Member Henderson.

Council Member Hubbard stated she agreed with Council Member Henderson.

Council Member Gardner stated he agreed with Council Member Henderson.

Council President Spurlin stated to Sloan Wilson, Oxford EMS, he hoped he would relay to the Oxford EMS employees that they appreciated the job they had done taking care of the citizens and hoped they would take advantage of applying with the Health Care Authority. He stated he regretted that they could not continue to provide the funding to Oxford EMS to remain operational. He asked Tom Dixon to make the board of aware of this decision and to take the necessary steps for the Health Care Authority to begin providing emergency health care services by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Council President Spurlin stated the Council would be adjourning into Executive Session to discuss the possible sale or purchase of real property and asked Ron Allen, City Attorney, to certify said purpose of the Executive Session.


Ron Allen, City Attorney, stated he did certify that the Council was adjourning into Executive Session to discuss the possible sale or purchase of real property.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Member Hubbard made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss the possible sale or purchase of real estate. 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 Council adjourned into Executive Session at approximately 7:21 o'clock p.m.




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APPROVED  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
OXFORD, ALABAMA

  
Chris Spurlin, Council President

AUTHENTICATED:

  
Alan B. Atkinson, City Clerk  
September 22, 2020: Regular Meeting

