

5/25/2021

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: May 25, 2021  
TIME: 6:38 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, May 25, 2021, at approximately 6:38 o'clock p.m. Council President Spurlin called the meeting to order.

Ron Allen, City Attorney, was present.

Alan Atkinson, City Clerk, was present.

Pastor Trull Hill, 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 May 11, 2021 meeting. Council Member Henderson 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, Henderson and Spurlin; nays: none. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Craft presented the following proclamation to Jaelyn Willis, EMACC and president of the Junior League of Anniston-Calhoun County.

Proclamation – Human Trafficking Awareness:

**WHEREAS**, I-20 is THE most heavily trafficked stretch of interstate in the U.S. The 140-mile stretch between Birmingham and Atlanta is known as the ‘sex trafficking super highway.’ With Oxford being

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between Atlanta and Birmingham, along with the Talladega NASCAR Speedway touching our city, Oxford is the major city where tourists and media to stay and visit.

**WHEREAS, human trafficking** is a form of modern-day slavery in which victims are forced to work in various forms of exploitation, including debt bondage, forced marriage, labor and commercial sexual exploitation, that are induced through force, fraud or coercion. The City of Oxford, Alabama is committed to becoming a TraffickingFree Zone ensuring that our community is prepared to recognize signs of human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS,** due to its isolating nature, many individuals are unaware that trafficking exists in their neighborhoods. The first step in eliminating human trafficking in our community is to educate others. We must work diligently to ensure that all front-line industries are aware of this issue and how to spot it.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Alton Craft,** Mayor of the City of Oxford, Alabama, do hereby proclaim that we will continue our efforts to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of our children and vulnerable adults, and mitigate the associated public safety, economic, and health risks to our community, in collaboration with the Child Trafficking Solutions Project, the U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking, and other anti-human trafficking organizations by, **COMBATING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION OF OUR TEAM AND THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF A ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY AGAINST ANY ACT WHICH MAY SUPPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING** and ask ALL citizens of the City of Oxford join us in promoting a shift away from the culture of tolerance toward human trafficking.

***SIGNED this 25th of May 2021.***

Mayor Alton Craft

Ms. Willis stated the Junior League had recently shifted their focus to human trafficking and awareness since this had become a known issue and crime occurring all around the United States. She stated they were advocating for awareness and education to help combat human trafficking. She stated the U. S. Institute Against Human Trafficking provides training for organizations. She stated they had created the Human Trafficking and Crimes Against Children Task Force to combat and educate concerning Human Trafficking.

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

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CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution No. 2021- 67 – Resolution authorizing the purchase of real property located along a vacated portion of Ross Street in the total amount of \$2,000.00.

Resolution No. 2021- 68 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute and agreement with Randy Henson for the cutting and gathering of hay at Choccolocco Park

Resolution No. 2021- 69 – Resolution authorizing the City’s participation in the FY2022 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

Council Member Henderson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Resolution Numbers 2021-67 and 2021-69. 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 the Consent Agenda, Resolution Numbers 2021-67 and 2021-69, were approved.

Council Member Henderson stated he wanted to commend the Parks and Recreation staff and other various staff members and numerous volunteers for the work of hosting the Gulf South Conference Tournament, the OVC Tournament, the State High School Girls Softball Championships and the National Junior College Championship Division II at Choccolocco Park. He stated there had been a lot of positive comments about Choccolocco Park. He congratulated the high school seniors who will be graduating Thursday night.

Mayor Craft stated the staff have done a great job with all the tournaments at Choccolocco Park. He stated that he had heard comments from the participants that they felt the people of Oxford had wanted them to be here and had welcomed them. He stated he appreciated the community support. He stated a new record had been set for attendance at the High School Softball Tournament.


Council President Spurlin stated they needed to set a public hearing for June 8, 2021 to consider a condemnation at 316 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

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 7:00 o’clock p.m.

APPROVED  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
OXFORD, ALABAMA

  
Chris Spurlin, Council President

AUTHENTICATED:

  
Alan B. Atkinson, City Clerk  
May 25, 2021: Regular Meeting

