

**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, February 4, 2013– 7:00 P.M.
CITY HALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: JERRY D. ROSEBERRY, MAYOR; TERRY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEM, COUNCIL MEMBERS JIM WINDHAM; FRANK DAVIS; GEORGE HOLT; LYN PACE; COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID EADY WAS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

OTHERS PRESENT: Hoyt Oliver, Erik Oliver, Margaret Dugan, Dean Stephen Bowen from Oxford College, Chief Dave Harvey, Carol Penn, Neal Penn, Virgil Eady, Mike Ready, Anderson Wright, Attorney David Strickland, City Manager Bob Schwartz, City Clerk Lauran Willis

The Public Hearing was called to order by the Honorable Jerry D. Roseberry, Mayor.

Pursuant to Article 10, Chapter 40 of the City of Oxford zoning code, this is a public hearing of an application request from the Oxford College, Emory University to rezone a parcel of property on Emory Street, Newton County Tax Parcel #X0050-000000-015-000, from R20 (Single Family) to RR (Rural Residential).

Mayor Roseberry outlined the rules and guidelines for the Public Hearing then turned the meeting over to the City Manager Bob Schwartz to present the rezoning request from Oxford College.

City Manager Bob Schwartz presented the request from Oxford College for the rezoning of the Elizer property at 1008 Emory Street for an organic garden. The first request received from Oxford College was July 26, 2012. Since then the Planning Commission, City Council and the College have been involved in numerous discussions including a Public Hearing held on October 1, 2012 by Oxford City council. At the January 8, 2013 Planning Commission meeting the Planning Commission considered the request of the College to rezoning the property to Institutional. In reviewing the request the Planning Commission felt all members were in favor of the request but were unsure of the proper zone. During the meeting the commission considered RA, R20, Institutional, Conservation and Institutional Campus. After reviewing each zone the commission determined the best zone for the current use and future use of the property would be RR (Rural Residential). After discussing and presenting this recommendation to the college, Oxford College amended its request to RR (Rural Residential). The purpose of this Public Hearing is to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation to RR (Rural Residential).

Dean Bowen, Oxford College

I will begin by thanking the City Council and Planning Commission. This has been a nine month project up to this point and it's one of our first opportunities to work through the new zoning ordinance. We have taken an iterative approach and kept our eyes focused on what seems to be best for the community as a whole and we've come up with a good solution. The College's proposal is to use the eleven and one half acres for the teaching of organic gardening. Oxford College has a commitment of adopting sustainable practices not only in its operations but also in its teaching. What we propose to do is develop an organic garden of the extent of approximately four acres. This would allow us to take advantage of the property area Marshal Elizer cultivated as a garden for the better of fifty years which is the eastern most part of the property. We envision adding structures to the property. One will be a

single story structure that will provide shelter for tools, a small tractor, and a place to clean produce as well as a small refrigeration unit. This structure would be approximately the size of the current structure on the property which is in the process of collapsing. We want to build a small greenhouse the size of the axillary shed that is next to the farm. We would construct a couple of hoop houses which are semicircular or semi cylindrical in form to provide protection to the plants from fungus caused by rain. We anticipate having as many as a dozen intern students working on the property all the time. Classes will take advantage of the opportunities created by the organic gardening with the undertaking of class projects. This concluded Dean Bowen's presentation.

Mayor Roseberry opened the meeting for citizen concerns or comments. There were no citizen comments.

Mayor Roseberry opened the meeting for any council members concerns or comments acknowledging and accepting council member, Lyn Pace request to abstain from any vote regarding this matter due to his employment with Oxford College. There were no other council member comments.

A motion was made by Frank Davis, seconded by Jim Windham to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m. The council vote was unanimous with Councilman Lyn Pace recusing due to conflict of interest.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauran S. Willis
City Clerk