

Oxford Mayor and Council
Work Session
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.
Oxford City Hall
110 W. Clark Street, Oxford, Georgia
Agenda

1. **Mayor’s Announcements:** The City and AtkinsRéalis will be hosting an Open House for the 3 Trails Project on February 26 (Wednesday) at 6:30 p.m. here at City Hall.
2. **Committee Reports:** The Trees, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, and the Sustainability Committee.
3. ***Emory Street Stormwater Improvements:** During the August Work Session, the Council was informed of the flooding occurring at the corner of Emory St. and E. Wade St. Keck & Wood was authorized to create a plan to correct the situation, which is attached. This plan will address the water flow at 6154 Emory St, the angle of the sidewalk, the undersized pipe and the need for a drop inlet.
4. ***Discussion of House Bill 581:** Through the passage of HB 581 there is now a statewide floating homestead exemption for all local governments. A floating homestead is a special type of homestead exemption designed to offset or reduce increases in taxable value to the property. If Oxford chooses to opt out of the floating homestead, it must do so by a resolution filed with the Secretary of State by March 1, 2025. The opt-out process would require three public hearings.
5. ***Discussion of the Task Order (TO) from AtkinsRéalis for Pedestrian Lighting on Whatcoat Street:** Through this TO, AtkinsRéalis would revise the Whatcoat Street design plans to incorporate the street and pedestrian lighting in a similar fashion with what has been installed on Emory Street. Peach State is operating under a bid of \$620,864 with an additional \$99,000 in construction contingency. This bid includes a lighting construction allowance of \$250,000. The AtkinsRéalis \$20,000 TO is a not to exceed price.
6. ***Discussion of a Reprint of the book, Deep Running Roots, Far-Reaching Branches:** The 2014 edition was mistakenly published with several errors. There has been interest to reformat the book, correct the errors, and update the text for a new edition. Staff are putting together a meeting of Ms. Louise Eady, Ms. Lisa Dorward, Mr. Erik Oliver and Mr. Bill Andrew to discuss the parameters of the project. Staff are seeking guidance on the budget for this effort.
7. ***Discussion of Alignment for The Old Church to Hull Street Trail:** The period of performance for the \$2.2M Georgia OPB grant ends 12/31/2026. Under this grant, all grantees must expend their funds by 10/31/26 and submit their expenses by 12/31/26. Staff and engineering are concerned about the need to consider an alternate route for The Old Church to Hull Street trail.

8. ***Discussion of Improvements at Asbury Street Park:** The FY 2025 capital budget has the following items budgeted: Playground canopy and benches – \$60,000; Pavilion sound buffering – \$10,000; and Park Green repair – \$75,000. Staff are seeking guidance to proceed with these projects.
9. **Other Business:**
10. **Work Session Meeting Review:** Mayor Eady will review all the items discussed during the meeting.
11. **Executive Session:** An Executive Session could potentially be held for Land Acquisition/Disposition, Addressing Pending or Potential Litigation, and/or Personnel.

*Attachments