

Oxford Mayor and Council
Work Session
Monday, November 18, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.
Oxford City Hall
110 W. Clark Street, Oxford, Georgia
Agenda

1. **Mayor's Announcements:**
 - a. Reminder, the City Council Retreat will be held at The Center in Covington Thursday November 21. A light breakfast will be provided from 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM. It should be wrapped up at 4:00 PM.
2. **Committee Reports:** The Trees, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, and the Sustainability Committee.
3. **FY 2024 Audit Presentation:** Mr. Sam Latimer, Partner with Rushton, will present the FY 24 audit to the Mayor and Council.
4. **Presentation by Amanda Huggins, Regulatory Compliance Specialist, Gas Dept. City of Covington:** Ms. Huggins will review a presentation on the importance of safety and public awareness of the natural gas utility.
5. ***Presentation by Chad Peden, PE with Carter & Sloope, on the Turkey Creek Basin Sewer Line:** The City's current sewer moratorium for the Turkey Creek Basin is set to expire January 1, 2025. Due to the current schedule for the improvements needed to address the inflow & infiltration into that line, particularly during wet weather, it is recommended the City extend that moratorium to July 1, 2025. Mr. Peden will review the current situation and the steps needed to ameliorate this situation.
6. ***Authorization for the Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Preliminary Engineering for the Catova Creek Trail:** The Congressional funding for this project totals \$900,000 and the City's match is \$225,000, which is currently budgeted in our FY25 Capital Budget. The total cost for the Preliminary Engineering is \$489,413.11. This MOA commits the City to pay 20% of those costs, or \$97,882.62. Please also see attached documents for the current Preconstruction Status Report and the Project Schedule.

7. ***Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend the Oxford Code of Ordinances to align with House Bill 456:** HB 456 passed the Georgia General Assembly in 2024 and requires the following changes:

Sec. 12-20. Appointment and qualifications of judge.

The Mayor and City Council are authorized to appoint a judge of the Municipal Court, who shall serve a two-year term upon appointment. Any person appointed as a judge shall possess such qualifications and shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Mayor and City Council and ~~shall serve at the pleasure of the governing authority,~~ upon appointment, shall serve until a successor is appointed, or if the judge is removed from office as provided in Code Section 36-32-2.1. Such term shall be memorialized in a written agreement between such individual and the City of Oxford.

8. ***Consideration of an Updated Oath for Oxford Police Officers:** Chief Anglin is working on the Georgia Municipal Association's Excellence in Policing Certification and is recommending the Officer's Oath of Office be updated.
9. ***Consideration of a Task Order from AtkinsRéalis for a Sign Inventory and Traffic Control Plan:** The City has \$20,000 budgeted for a "Wayfinding Plan and Design Standards – Develop and Implement."
10. **Consideration of a FY 2025 Cost-of Living Allowance (COLA) for Oxford's Hourly Employees:** Each year, Social Security bases the COLA on changes in the Consumer Price Index. For 2025, Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments will increase by 2.5%. The last COLA was 4% and was implemented on April 1, 2024, in FY 2024.
11. ***Consideration of a Resolution to Amend the City's Comprehensive Plan:** With the City's current efforts in applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for water line replacement and Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) funds for owner-occupied home renovation, it was recommended we update our Comp Plan to include language as to the importance of these projects. This will give us points on our applications. Additionally, we needed to correct an error on the smallest allowable lot size in the Town Neighborhood Character Area from .25 acres to .34 acres. A public hearing for these items was held on October 24.
12. ***Resolution to Amend our Financial Policies to allow staff to authorize legal action for the recovery of delinquent accounts:** Darnel Recovery, our collections agency, recently contacted staff for consent to file suit to recover payment on a past-due account. City staff and Mr. Strickland did not feel appropriately empowered to make this authorization and are recommending a change in our Financial Policies. Please see Section 60, the last paragraph on the attachment.
13. ***Consideration of a Resolution to Add Membership into an Additional Fund with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) – Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) First Responder Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program:** This additional coverage complies with the recently passed House Bill 451 (2024). This bill mandates

all public entities that have employed (or volunteer) first responders provide lump-sum and income replacement (long-term disability) PTSD benefits, effective January 1, 2025. Please see the PTSD Quote proposal for various monthly benefits the City may wish to consider that would be above those required by law.

14. ***Review of City Hall Landscape proposal from Shades of Green:** The City budgeted \$50,000 for this project and has spent \$5,329, leaving \$44,671 available. In addition to the costs associated with the landscaping, staff are pursuing the total costs for repairing the cistern.
15. **Other Business:** Update on Lead and Cooper water line investigations.
16. **Work Session Meeting Review:** Mayor Eady will review all the items discussed during the meeting.
17. **Executive Session:** An Executive Session could potentially be held for Land Acquisition/Disposition, Addressing Pending or Potential Litigation, and/or Personnel.

*Attachments