



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024 – 7:00 PM
CITY HALL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

David Eady – Mayor
Mike Ready – Councilmember
George Holt – Councilmember
Jim Windham – Councilmember
Jeff Wearing – Councilmember
Erik Oliver – Councilmember

APPOINTED/STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Andrew – City Manager
Marcia Brooks – City Clerk/Treasurer
David Strickland – City Attorney
Mark Anglin – Police Chief
Steven Hathorn – Municipal Court Judge
Cheryl Freeman – Municipal Court Solicitor

ELECTED OFFICIALS NOT PRESENT:

Laura McCanless – Councilmember

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

1. The meeting was called to order by Marcia Brooks, City Clerk. Ms. Brooks administered the oath of office to Steven Hathorn, Municipal Court Judge.
2. **Organizational Meeting**
 - a. The Honorable Steven Hathorn administered the Oath of Office to Mayor David S. Eady, and Councilmembers George Holt, Mike Ready, Erik Oliver, Jeff Wearing and Jim Windham.
 - b. The Honorable Steven Hathorn administered the Oath of Office to David Strickland, City Attorney, Cheryl Freeman, Municipal Court Solicitor, Marcia Brooks, City Clerk/Treasurer, and Mark Anglin, Police Chief.
 - c. **Jeff Wearing made a motion to appoint Erik Oliver as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2025. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).**
3. **Erik Oliver made a motion to accept the Agenda for the January 6, 2025 Mayor and Council Organizational Meeting and Regular Session. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).** (Appendix A)
4. **Erik Oliver made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).**
5. **Mayor's Report**

Mayor Eady announced that the January Work Session is moved to January 21, 2025 due to the MLK, Jr. Holiday. He also encouraged attendance at the MLK, Jr. Celebration Oxford College will hold at Old Church on January 22, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

He informed the Councilmembers about the change in price for powerline tree trimming by Burford Tree. The contract price has increased by 6.5%.

Erik Oliver made a motion to amend the agenda to include a vote on the Burford Tree contract. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).

Erik Oliver made a motion to increase the total amount paid to Burford Tree for powerline tree trimming in FY 2025 by 6.5%, changing the total from \$50,000 to \$53,250. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).

Mayor Eady announced that Asbury Street Park has been voted the best park in Newton County by readers of Covington News for 2025.

The Police Department will be holding a Community Meeting January 9, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

6. Citizen Concerns

Erik Oliver expressed concern about cleaning up the growth along the sewage easement from W. Clark Street to the arch bridge on the trail.

7. 2025 Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) Trees Across Georgia (TAG) Grant (Appendix B)
A motion was made by Jim Windham to authorize Mayor Eady to accept the TAG Grant for 2025. The motion was seconded by Erik Oliver. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).

8. Task Order from Carter & Sloope for Issuance and Management of a RFP for Smart Meters (Appendix C)
A motion was made by Erik Oliver to authorize Mayor Eady to accept the Task Order from Carter & Sloope. The motion was seconded by Mike Ready. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).

9. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application (Appendix D)
A motion was made by Erik Oliver to authorize Mayor Eady to contract with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) to apply for the grant. The motion was seconded by Mike Ready. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).

10. Code of Ordinance amendment – Section 12-20 – SECOND READING/APPROVAL (Appendix E)
A motion was made by Erik Oliver to accept the second reading of the amendment to City of Oxford Ordinance 12-20 and approve it as final. George Holt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).

11. City Hall Landscape Proposal (Appendix F)
Mike Ready made a motion to approve the City Hall landscape proposal from Shades of Green Permaculture. Erik Oliver seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jeff Wearing asked if Public Works will have to do a lot of work to maintain the design once installed. Mayor Eady stated the intent of the design was to make it low maintenance. Mr. Wearing also asked if mulch would be placed around the trees to keep them looking good. Mayor

Eady stated no mulch around the trees is contemplated. Plants will replace the mulch that is used now, and the water hose piping will be replaced. Mr. Wearing stated he just wants it to continue to look nice in the coming years after the investment is made by the City. Erik Oliver added that the trees will need to be periodically fertilized.

Mayor Eady stated that Public Works could take on those responsibilities or a contract for maintenance could be executed. He suggested that the City Council approve the plan and get some clarification from the vendor on what level of maintenance is needed, then address that issue in a future work session.

The motion carried (5/1) with Jim Windham voting Nay.

12. **Invoices (Appendix G)**

The Mayor and City Council reviewed invoices paid in December 2024 for \$1,000 or more.

13. **Executive Session**

None

14. **Adjourn**

Jim Windham made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 p.m. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (6/0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brooks
City Clerk/Treasurer