



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025 – 6:30 PM
OXFORD CITY HALL**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Andrew – City Manager
Marcia Brooks – City Clerk/Treasurer
Mark Anglin – Police Chief
David Strickland – City Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Hopkins (NCWSA), Kate Verity (Covington News), Art Vinson, Laurie Vinson, Nick Cole.

Agenda (Attachment A)

1. The meeting was called to order by the Honorable David Eady, Mayor.
2. **Laura McCanless made a motion to accept the agenda for the February 17, 2025 Special Called Meeting. Mike Ready seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).** (Attachment A)
3. **Mayor’s Report**
None.
4. **Citizen Concerns**
None.
5. **House Bill 581 Resolution to Opt Out of the Statewide Floating Homestead Exemption** (Attachment B)
Mike Ready made a motion to approve the House Bill 581 Resolution to Opt Out of the Statewide Floating Homestead Exemption. Laura McCanless seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Erik Oliver asked Mayor Eady for his opinion. Mayor Eady stated that he believes in home rule and feels that the City should be able to manage its property tax revenue based on

market factors. He also stated that the City can provide relief to citizens and incentivize home ownership while still maintaining its ability to meet its financial obligations. He is in favor of opting out.

George Holt stated that everything Mayor Eady said can be done if the City opts in. Mayor Eady stated that opting in would impose an artificial restriction on the City's ability to receive revenue through property taxes.

Laura McCanless understands why Covington and Porterdale feel comfortable considering opting in since they have many commercial properties to help buffer the effect. If the new legislation imposes a 5-acre minimum on properties, no one in Oxford would benefit from opting in.

Jim Windham stated that this law appears to be a return to the 1950s and 1960s when properties were taxed at the amount they were purchased for. He believes it is one more thing the State wants to take out of the control of the cities.

Jeff Wearing expressed his opposition to State control of cities.

Erik Oliver stated he feels ambivalent about the issue but will support his fellow Council members.

The motion carried (6/1) with George Holt voting Nay.

6. Other Business

None.

7. Executive Session

None

8. Adjourn

Jim Windham made a motion to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brooks
City Clerk/Treasurer