



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Via Teleconference**

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

David Eady – Mayor
George Holt – Councilmember
James Windham – Councilmember
Lynn Bohanan – Councilmember
Jeff Wearing – Councilmember
Laura McCanless – Councilmember
Avis Williams - Councilmember

APPOINTED/STAFF PRESENT:

Matt Pepper – City Manager
Marcia Brooks – City Clerk/Treasurer
C. David Strickland – City Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Wilhite (Oxford Baptist Church), Laura Gafnea (Oxford College), Nick Cole, Michael McQuaide

1. The meeting was called to order by the Hon. David Eady, Mayor.
2. Invocation – Kevin Wilhite, Oxford Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Laura McCanless made a motion to accept the Agenda for July 6, 2021. Avis Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).**
(Attachment A)
5. **Laura McCanless made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda for July 6, 2021. Avis Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).**
(Attachment B)
6. Mayor's Announcements
Mayor Eady shared that Newton County's vaccination rate for COVID-19 is around 25%. He implored the residents of Oxford to set the example by getting vaccinated.
7. **Planning Commission Recommendations/Petitions**
None.
8. **Citizen Concerns**
Nick Cole mentioned that the property west of the U.S. Post Office is for sale and asked if the Council has given any thought to purchasing the land. Mayor Eady stated that the seller had approached the City about purchasing the land but their asking price was well

above what the City is willing to pay for it. Mr. Cole stated that in five years could be worth double what the owner is asking for now.

9. **Newton County Bicentennial Proclamation** (Attachment C)

James Windham made a motion to sign the Newton County Bicentennial Proclamation. Laura McCanless seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

10. **Amendment to the Official Zoning Map** (Attachment D)

A public hearing was held concerning this matter prior to the last City Council Work Session. The proposed change applies to properties on the East side of Emory Street from East Clark Street to Wentworth subdivision. The Planning Commission is recommending that a change in zoning designation for these properties from R-7.5 (Town Center) to R-20 (Residential). The owner of the property at 912 Emory Street has asked that their property remain zoned as Town Center.

Laura McCanless made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission to change the zoning designation of the specified properties to R-20 (Residential) with the exception of the property at 912 Emory Street, while will remain zoned as Town Center. Avis Williams seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

11. **Annual Audit Services Invoices** (Attachment E)

The City of Oxford issued a Request for Proposals in May 2021 for annual independent audit services. Three proposals were received. Staff recommends that the City Council award the five-year contract for annual audit services to the lowest bidder for the five years combined, Mauldin & Jenkins, for a total of \$106,000.

Jeff Wearing made a motion to award the five-year contract for audit services to Mauldin & Jenkins. George Holt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

12. **Utility Connections for Oxford College Modular Units Project** (Attachment F)

Oxford College will be installing modular units for their overflow student enrollment for the next two years. It is the policy of the City to hire contractors to perform electrical work for such projects to ensure that all permitting and procedures are handled correctly. Oxford College will reimburse the City for the costs. Two bids have been obtained for labor and for materials. Staff recommends awarding the contract for labor to Over and Under Contractors, Inc. for \$9,200.00 and the contract for materials to Gresco for \$10,624.80.

Avis Williams made a motion to the contracts as recommended by staff. Laura McCanless seconded the motion.

Discussion:

George Holt inquired about the difference between the Gresco and Anixter contracts for the materials, and why the higher bid is being recommended. It is his understanding that the

Anixter bid does not include all the materials that are needed. Matt Pepper confirmed that his understanding is correct.

The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

13. **Invoices** (Attachment E)

James Windham asked what period of time the Bureau Veritas charges are for. Matt Pepper advised that it covers charges for the month of April 2021. Mr. Windham recommended that the City Council evaluate their performance and charges before renewing their contract. Mayor Eady stated that this issue could be discussed during the July City Council Work Session.

Laura McCanless stated that there is still standing water near Richardson Street on Wesley Street where some work had recently been done. Mayor Eady advised that staff members will follow up with Jody Reid to check on the status of the work.

George Holt asked about the status of the water line work on the common driveway known as East George Street. Mayor Eady advised that he had not had an opportunity yet to discuss the issue with the property owners.

14. **Executive Session**

None.

15. **Adjourn**

James Windham made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Jeff Wearing seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (7/0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Brooks
City Clerk/Treasurer