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MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011 – 4:30 P.M.
OXFORD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' QUARTERLY UPDATE MEETING
OXFORD CITY HALL – COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Oxford met at the above-mentioned time and place for a quarterly update meeting. All members of the Board and local news media were notified of the same as well as the purpose of the meeting.

Present were: Mayor Al Woodlief, Commissioners Robert B. Williford, Sr., Walter Cantley, Jackie Sergent, Danny Currin, Ron Bullock, and Calvin Harris, Jr. Present also were City Manager Mark

Donham, City Clerk Donna B. Hosch, and City Attorney J. Thomas Burnette. Absent was Mayor Pro Tem Howard Herring, Sr.

Mayor Woodlief called the meeting to order.

Moving the April Regular Meeting to Monday, April 11, 2011

There was consensus of the Board that the Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2011 will be moved to Monday, April 11, 2011 per the request of Commissioner Cantley who will be unable to attend on April 12th.

Discussion on the evaluation of the Annex II building

CM Donham stated it will be an expense to get this building in shape because of major work needing to be done. The architect evaluating the building suggested it be torn down. CM Donham thinks it a good idea to keep the building a couple of years and see if any alternatives come about. If the building is torn down, there would be a space where the building stood and it may look empty. CM Donham's recommendation is that if the building is to be used for storage that we be careful and that space not be made available to outside parties. The building will be kept secure.

Mayor Woodlief stated that the building was built in 1920 and occupied for use in 1923. Kenny Manning, Building and Grounds Supervisor, will make sure that minor repairs are made. He hopes the building will be kept to the same standards as other properties. Commissioner Sergent stated perhaps a big remodel can be done as things get better. Commissioner Harris asked how much of the \$20,000 allotted for renovations was left, to which BGS Manning stated approximately \$17,000. CM Donham stated this money would be returned to the Fund Balance.

Commissioner Sergent added that she appreciated the work on the report and hoped that before making a decision in the future to tear down the building that someone would look at the report to see if there is a reasonable way to sure up the building rather than tear it down. CM Donham stated it will be important to define the use of the building.

Discussion on \$6,000 for an IBT Study

Commissioner Cantley stated that Henderson is in the driving seat on this project and suggested that they pay half of the money and Oxford pay the other half. CM Donham stated City Engineer Larry Thomas attended the meetings on this project, and IBT approval would be required if we want to expand the water treatment plant. CE Thomas stated this study would take about 40 hours' worth of work. Commissioner Cantley's point was well taken in that when Creedmoor was dropped from the Study, there was no rebate and no comment as to why there was no decrease in price. CE Thomas felt that there should be negotiations. Also, changes have probably been made to the IBT for which we are paying but don't know about.

CE Thomas stated Henderson just signed the Study; it's been going on for the last two years and will probably go on for another two years. CM Donham stated the application must be submitted by the end of this calendar year, and that any agreement with Creedmoor must be made by that time. The City has been given a usage estimate from Creedmoor, and we can supply this to the group doing the Study. CM Donham stated the Board could authorize him to negotiate a price up to \$6,000.

Mayor Woodlief stated he would first like to know what Henderson would be willing to pay. Commissioner Sergent stated if Creedmoor was in the Study in the beginning, was then pulled out and the price didn't shift, then the thing to say would be "thank you" because there is, in essence, no change to the contract from when we entered into it initially. CM Donham stated this could be an option. CM Donham stated there will be additional cost of having to make sure all the appropriate information is included by adding Creedmoor back in. Whether that is \$6,000 or not CM Donham doesn't know. The group indicated some environmental work also needs to be done. The Mayor stated CM Donham needs to start at the point indicated by Commissioner Sergent – Creedmoor being taken out without any adjustment to the price.

Mayor Woodlief asked CE Thomas how long it would take to get an answer from the group, CE Thomas stating he didn't think it would take too long. A special meeting should probably be set up with Henderson in the next few days in order not to slow the process. The Mayor indicated the letter from Henderson to start making plans for budget, etc. has not yet been received. CM Donham stated all the needed information should be in by the upcoming retreat. The Mayor stated he feels Creedmoor will contribute one-third of the cost.

Discussion on No Parking signs

David Parker on Prospect Avenue has asked that we put up no parking signs on his side of the street. On the weekends people visiting the rest home park on the street instead of in the parking lot and block his driveway. Additionally, this makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through. CE Thomas stated he and Commissioner Bullock have looked at this, and parking is taking place on both sides of the street. CE Thomas feels the best approach would be to go to the rest home to ask them to ask visitors to use the parking lot, even though he is not sure how well this will go over.

The Mayor asked would painting the curb all the way up past Mr. Parker's driveway help. Drivers are not breaking the law by parking on the street, but they are if they are blocking his driveway. Also, this is a safety issue if emergency vehicles cannot get through. CE Thomas stated there are signs on the other side of the street, but they are being blocked by trees. If they are moved, they might actually be out too far. Commissioner Harris stated the City cannot trim the trees since the trees are on personal property. Commissioner Bullock stated he would approach the nursing home first and then paint the curb.

Commissioner Sergent stated that if people are parking where the curb is painted, in her opinion it is because there has been no negative consequence to them for doing so. If Chief Wolford can ask

one of his folks to go by and write a few tickets, then maybe this would turn things around. Fire Chief Earnest Bess stated he will drive the area. Mayor Woodlief stated he also feels that PD should write a few tickets to see if this helps.

Commissioner Williford suggested that the nursing home inform their visitors of the no parking areas in their newsletter. Commissioner Currin stated there is a new administrator who is very nice, and he feels she would do a good job of getting the word out. With her being new, she may not be aware of this problem. Consensus of the Board is that CM Donham speak with the rest home. The Mayor asked FC Bess to look at the situation prior to the city manager's visit so that he can weigh in on the needs of his vehicles.

Discussion on traffic at Credle School

Mayor Woodlief stated that when school gets out, traffic backs up from College Street all the way back to the orphanage – traffic is actually stopped in the middle of the road. Because of this being a safety issue, the Mayor asked PC Wolford if anything could be done. PC Wolford stated a number of adjustments have been made, but it can be looked at again.

Discussion on Yield to Pedestrians signs

Mayor Woodlief stated we have never had good luck with these signs staying put. The State says they don't like these signs being put in five gallon buckets with cement, because this causes a problem with liability if they are hit. We ordered pipes and they weren't strong enough for the signs. CE Thomas has come up with spring-loaded pipes that will work at a cost of \$250. In order to help downtown, the signs need to be placed where the transfer trucks won't hit them. Possible locations would be two on Main Street and one each on College and Hillsboro Streets. CE Thomas added that the courthouse would be a location also as one has always been there.

Commissioner Williford asked if we need to paint the crosswalks wider as is done in other cities. The Mayor stated the new signs are more reflective than the other signs and asked that PC Wolford and DOEDC Director Tanya Weary ask merchants to watch and see if license numbers can be gotten from those who hit these signs. CE Thomas suggested placing just one sign for now to see how it works before the other pipes are purchased.

The crosswalks were just painted last year, stated CE Thomas, and he hopes that they will be able to repaint these every year. The thermoplastic paint can be purchased, but it is an expensive item and we cannot put this down since it involves heating. Commissioner Sergent stated that if this thermoplastic paint is in our plans, then it would have to be done. CE Thomas stated that if the NC calming plan is adopted and the DOD began putting medians in the streets, then all this goes away. Putting signs in the median means little chance of them getting hit.

Review of the Offender Focus Initiative project

PC Wolford stated that last March 17 offenders were brought into this project, all being the most prolific offenders in the City. Every single one has been charged or is back in prison for another crime with the exception of one girl. These individuals did not reoffend a little; they reoffended a lot. Many have pending cases in superior court for felony distribution of drugs, robbery, and burglary. Currently, eight are in jail pending charges. Three have been shot and recovered and their reputation elevated to a higher level.

PC Wolford stated they knew going into this that the challenges would be pretty significant. The success of the project depends upon how one looks at it. A lot of time was spent on the project, and PC Wolford still feels it was worthwhile. One of the primary purposes was the focus on repeat offenders who kept repeating. The outcome was not one which was preferred, but the participants were given every opportunity to do better. The greatest challenge was on the job side – we could not come up with employment for more than a few of these individuals, even on a part-time basis. There were a lot of challenges, but we didn't have the resource side set as we would have liked. The best that could be done was done. PC Wolford stated they will try this again, but not this year. Next time focus will be on the less aggressive, younger offenders.

The Mayor stated this is always asked for by the ministers in the community. This is well documented by the PD, and maybe a brochure or flyer of the results can be presented. This will pretty well answer our attempts to try to help these individuals. PC Wolford stated the downside was the odds of success being low based on trying to work with offenders pretty well into the system. This project was modeled after cities with many more resources than Oxford. This was done strictly with law enforcement resources and community volunteers, so the only monies spent were in terms of labor. If we don't become offender-focused in some way, PC Wolford stated we are simply blowing smoke every day. This project did, however, get the attention of the district attorney's office and the US attorney's office.

PC Wolford said there were good results from citizens helping with this project. There was a lot of goodwill, but we just didn't have the resources to get a lot of people involved; and he could not spend that much time himself on the resource side. There were a lot of people interested.

Commissioner Sergent stated Highpoint is involved in a project such as this. She is proud of PC Wolford's effort to try to bring this to Oxford and does not feel that since the results are not what we hoped for – the offenders seeing the light and readdressing their behavior – important social change is never easy. When trying to do a total shift from how to deal with crime and how to make changes in offenders' lives, this is also seismic. It's going to be hard, and she hoped PC Wolford would not give up on this as it can make a difference. Maybe as the economy changes, we can look for more resources to assist with this program.

The Mayor stated everyone in the country is going through this. He hoped that the community would be able to see that Oxford simply doesn't have the resources to fight this. PC Wolford stated the police department has changed the way it approaches crime in the City.

