

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.
OXFORD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA SESSION
and PUBLIC HEARINGS
OXFORD CITY HALL – COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Oxford met at the above-mentioned time and place for public hearings and to set the agenda for the Regular Meeting to be held February 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 300 Williamsboro Street. 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 Alvin Woodlief, Mayor Pro Tem Howard Herring, Sr., Commissioners Robert B. Williford, Sr., Walter Cantley, Jackie Sargent, 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.

Mayor Woodlief called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES LOCATED ON W. INDUSTRY DRIVE
AND PINE TREE ROAD**

Mayor Woodlief declared the public hearing open.

No one from the audience wished to speak. There were no questions or comments from the Board.

Mayor Woodlief declared the public hearing closed.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES LOCATED ON COLLEGE STREET
AND THE OUTER LOOP**

Mayor Woodlief declared the public hearing open.

Sam Crews addressed the Board. Mr. Crews stated that in a meeting last week it was mentioned that manufacturing would get a pass on annexation because of the poor economy. Why is manufacturing getting a pass and not the struggling, small businesses? Mayor Woodlief stated that Mr. Crews' question would be answered by mail.

Mr. Crews stated it was also mentioned that manufacturing may be given a pass because of a 40-year old handshake agreement. He wished to know if this includes one manufacturer, all manufacturers, and does it go into perpetuity. Mayor Woodlief answered that Mr. Crews would be answered by mail by the attorney and city manager.

Mr. Crews stated it was mentioned that this annexation is being done to fill gaps. Is this certain gaps or all gaps? Mayor Woodlief stated this is to fill all gaps for contiguous properties.

Alice Moore, Manager of Master Woodcraft, addressed the Board. Ms. Moore stated she wished they would not have to be annexed because their business has fallen down because of losing business to China. At one time they employed about 25 people, and they are now down to five. Ms. Moore stated the Board received a letter from Ms. Greenberg stating that if business did not pick up, it would be possible that they would have to close their doors. They are, however, hoping for business to pick up.

Commissioner Sergent reiterated the comment she made a month ago that she supports annexation with a measured approach and that every business has its particular issues. We owe it to ourselves, the businesses, and the residents of Oxford to look at the entire picture before moving in any one particular direction. Commissioner Sergent stated it breaks her heart to see the amount of business that has left Master Woodcraft and gone to China. If we have a business still producing this kind of work, she would like to support it. Commissioner Sergent made it clear she is not supporting Master Woodcraft over somebody else, but she felt the properties should be looked at together rather than making a decision piecemeal.

Commissioner Williford asked if the Annexation Committee has discussed this annexation. Commissioner Harris [Chairman of the Annexation Committee] stated this had already been scheduled for annexation, the Mayor adding that the entire Board has already agreed to proceed with these two annexations. MPT Herring stated that it was understood any annexations in the future would be looked at. Commissioner Sergent stated that the Board could still meet before voting on this annexation to put it in the context of all other potential properties. Asking the Board to vote without discussion on this annexation makes the vote on this a more important vote. Commissioner Harris asked for direction on meeting on this annexation, to which the Mayor stated he would conclude the public hearing and then ask for comments from the Board.

Mayor Woodlief declared the public hearing closed.

PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED BY ROBERSON, McDUGLE, AND LEATHERBERRY

MPT Herring requested that these individuals be given more than three minutes to speak on their issues. There was a meeting at Mr. McDougle's house with the Army Corp of Engineers to talk about a ditch on Mr. McDougle's and Mr. Leatherberry's property. The issue has been coming up before this Board for about 15 years, and it is about time to put the issue to rest. MPT Herring stated he believed these gentlemen will want to give an oral history of their issues.

BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 PAYABLE TO PARAGON CONSULTING

CM Donham stated that the Paragon and Microsoft softwares are having a conversion problem. In order to get the privilege license system working properly, it will cost an estimated 20 hours or \$3,000. Finance Director McNally worked with the company to have this cost split equally between them and the City. The Finance Committee recommended moving forward with this amendment.

CM Donham stated adding this feature was not in the original contract. Commissioner Sergent stated it seems like at this price if the company delivers a product, it should function the way it is supposed to. Commissioner Cantley stated this should have been included in the original scope of the work. CM Donham stated moving to the Microsoft environment would make the software more user friendly.

Commissioner Currin stated that the Committee didn't like doing this and agreed this should have been caught in the beginning. Commissioner Currin stated he thinks this was Paragon's mistake but that he didn't think there is any other choice. Mayor Woodlief stated he felt the company should not be paid until after the work is completed.

Commissioner Sergent asked if it is possible to have some kind of agreement that with the settlement of this issue, there will be a responsibility for future problems to be taken care of. Mayor Woodlief stated this is normally the case. Commissioner Cantley stated that in the future the scope should be clearer.

OTHER – PROPERTY ON SPRING AND MAIN STREETS

Commissioner Cantley asked the status on the Spring/Main Street house as he continues to be beat to death on this. Planning Director Cheryl Hart stated on October 20th, the foundation was repaired; on October 28th, the chimney was repaired. Since that time, the homeowner has been dealing with contractors. In a conversation with the owner on Friday, the owner stated she is eager to have the work done. What's left to do is repairs to the roofing, some woodworking, and painting – items that were on the COA that was approved in August or September.

Commissioner Cantley asked if this timeline would have been approved for anyone else. Mayor Woodlief stated there probably are others in this situation, but their property is not as visible and nothing is being done on it. Complaints have come in on houses that don't look near as bad as this one on Spring and Main Streets.

ADJOURNMENT

WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, MPT HERRING MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.
ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THE MOTION CARRIED.