

**NORTH CAROLINA
GRANVILLE COUNTY
CITY OF OXFORD**

**OXFORD CITY HALL, BOARD MEETING ROOM,
MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2006 AT 5:45 PM**

The Mayor Pro Tem and Board of Commissioners of the City of Oxford met for an Agenda Session at City Hall, 300 Williamsboro Street at the above-mentioned time and place.

Present: Commissioner S. Quon Bridges
Commissioner Paul Kiesow
Commissioner Howard G. Herring, Sr.
Commissioner Chance Wilkinson
Commissioner Stephen C. Powell
Commissioner Robert Shope
Commissioner Robert Williford, Sr.

Absent: Mayor Alvin Woodlief, Jr.

Present also were City Manager Thomas S. Marrow and Deputy City Clerk Donna B. Hosch.

All members of the Board and local news media were notified of the time, place and purpose of the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Howard Herring, Sr. called the meeting to order.

AGENDA SET - OCTOBER 10, 2006

The Board of Commissioners set the agenda for the October 10, 2006 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Herring acknowledged audience members who are usually not present at Agenda Sessions. He stated that no actions would be taken on their concerns

on this evening; but if there were a spokesperson for the group, that person would be allowed three minutes to speak.

Dr. Joseph Melamed of 220 Gilliam Street, Oxford, NC, addressed the Board. Dr. Melamed stated his group's concern was for the historic preservation of old buildings in Oxford - they would like to see the buildings addressed as assets rather than eyesores. In other cities such as Tarboro, Hillsboro, and Salisbury, this task has been accomplished.

Dr. Melamed further stated that people are drawn to the appearance of Oxford, and ways should be identified to encourage revitalization of the older structures rather than tear them down. The group felt monies would be donated to such causes, but there is no mechanism in place for people to make these contributions.

Mayor Pro Tem Herring suggested to Dr. Melamed that his group be put on the agenda for the Board meeting next week. They should come with a plan in mind, which would probably go to the Property Committee for review.

Commissioner Bridges stated this group should meet with property owners in the neighborhoods of the abandoned structures for their input. When the structure owners let these properties deteriorate, it causes public safety issues. The Commissioner stated that the structure owners might want the City to demolish these structures, but they are not the property of the City.

Commissioner Kiesow stated he has been hearing about plans for the barn, in particular, for the past six to ten years and that nothing has yet been done. While the

City has avenues to tear down residential properties, it cannot tear down commercial properties, the barn now being property of the County.

Commissioner Shope stated there are two sides to each story. Owners of the abandoned properties should be consulted to determine why they have let the properties fall to blight and why they will not sell them. The rules should be tightened so that the City would have a more solid way to deal with derelict homeowners - an answer to the problem should be found.

Mayor Pro Tem Herring again reiterated that this group would need to come before the Board at its next meeting, that their concerns would most likely go to the Property Committee, and that the Committee would report back to the full Board.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Commissioner Kiesow announced there would be a Public Works Committee Meeting on Monday, October 9th at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kiesow gave a brief COG update, stating that a banquet was held and various awards were presented.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Mayor Pro Tem Herring adjourned the meeting.