

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2010 – 5:30 P.M.
OXFORD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA SESSION
OXFORD CITY HALL – COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Oxford met at the above-mentioned time and place. 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, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Howard Herring, Sr., Commissioners Walter Cantley, Robert B. Williford, Sr., Jackie Sergeant, 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.

AGENDA SET

The Board set the agenda for the November 9, 2010 Regular Session.

DISPOSITION OF K-9 DISCUSSED

Chief John Wolford explained that this animal has medical problems and cannot be trained again. He is suggesting ownership be transferred to Sgt. Lynne Curl, trainer, for \$1.00. The City may be out

of the dog business, although one dog remains in the department. This animal was bought by citizens; the other dog was bought by one of the officers.

SALE OF FIRE ENGINE #10 DISCUSSED

MPT Herring stated that in a Public Safety Committee Meeting this morning the Stem Volunteer Fire Department talked about its need for another truck. They are in a position to offer the City \$70,000 for Engine #10; financing can be secured. CM Donham spoke with the School of Government, and it is possible for the City to do a direct sale to a non-profit that will use the truck for a public purpose. A Resolution will need to be passed stating the terms of the sale and authorizing the city manager to move forward. The Public Safety Committee recommended the sale to Stem. The funds will be placed in the General Fund. The manufacturer of the truck sets its value between \$60,000 and \$80,000.

Commissioner Williford stated he leans toward the sale to Stem because of mutual aid, making this a win/win for all.

REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION FOR CAPITAL ITEMS IN THE FY2011 BUDGET DISCUSSED

Commissioner Sergent stated the amount being requested is \$491,331, but the amount on the itemized list is some \$28,000 less. The explanation is that because the latter amount is one-third the cost of a dump truck coming from the Water Fund. Commissioner Sergent questioned why, then, is this not on the itemized list. CM Donham stated this is because this money won't be borrowed. Commissioner Sergent again asked why, then, is this amount included in the Resolution. CM Donham stated he understood the difference of the money in the Water Fund is not being borrowed upon. Commissioner Sergent stated she was unable to follow the logic. If you are not borrowing the money from the Water Fund, why include that amount in the Resolution?

CM Donham stated this money is not being borrowed from the Water Fund but from a financial institution. Commissioner Sergent asked why, then, it was included in the Resolution but not on the itemized list? CM Donham stated he thought the figures from Finance Director Steve McNally were correct, to which Commissioner Sergent stated that the total on her list does not align with the total on the Resolution.

Mayor Woodlief stated Commissioner Sergent brought up a good point and asked Commissioner Currin and FD McNally to get with Commissioner Sergent for an answer to her question.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE RALEIGH STREET PROJECT DISCUSSED

Commissioner Harris asked PD Hart the purpose of these services, to which PD Hart stated this is the administrative service for administering the grant. The company hired will assist her; also assisting in the process will be CE Thomas and CM Donham, all providing a close watch on the process.

Mayor Woodlief stated that with the amount of money involved in this grant, it is always wise to have someone providing professional services. The funding for professional services is included in the grant. Commissioner Sergent asked PD Hart if she felt she would be receiving quality assistance, to which PD Hart answered in the affirmative.

INSIDE CITY SERVICES COSTS FOR THORNDALE COUNTRY CLUB DISCUSSED

Mayor Woodlief stated he wished to get a consensus from the Board at this time for the city manager to meet with Thorndale and to put the polices already in place in effect for Thorndale effective January 1. Commissioner Cantley stated that at the last meeting the manager was instructed to meet with Thorndale and report back the outcome. CM Donham stated some type of decision as to what the City wished to do would need to be reached before he could negotiate with Thorndale.

The Mayor rephrased his statement to say that he wished this Board to give permission to the city manager to speak with Thorndale management (Mr. Lytton) to determine what services would be changed there that are already in place. The consensus was that the manager would proceed with the discussion and that Thorndale would pay for inside services effective January 1, 2011.

MPT Herring stated he appreciated the Board's effort in finally putting this issue to rest. Commissioner Sergent stated she would like CM Donham to share with Thorndale the information he has worked up.

APPOINTING A CURATOR FOR THE CITY HALL BUILDING DISCUSSED

Mayor Woodlief stated he would like for the Board to appoint him to this position for a period of eight years. The Mayor stated that In the past six years he has accumulated quite a bit of items that otherwise would have been gone. Mr. Ragland and Tommy Marrow shared a lot of things with him in reference to Oxford, particularly Mr. Ragland in his last six months. Along with the next item [the City's 200th birthday], the Mayor stated there are a lot of things to be done, and he wished to be the one to get them done.

The Mayor stated that the expense in this position would be once in a while asking for a frame. He pointed to the newly framed picture of Main Street that was framed at the office. He has in his possession thousands of other such pictures. Right now the Mayor is looking for other information on Oxford pertinent to the City's 200th birthday. This item doesn't need to appear on the Agenda if the board on this evening would appoint him Curator.

The Mayor stated that all items already in City Hall are cataloged, except for those belonging to him. Commissioner Bullock asked what would the Mayor do as Curator that he doesn't do now. The Mayor answered that if he is not Mayor, there would be nothing he could do [to catalog/save historic items and events]. The Mayor stated that as Curator he would still need to come before the Board for anything he wanted to do. Curator and Mayor are two separate positions.

Commissioner Williford asked if an office would need to be provided, to which the Mayor answered that the office space required is already available in City Hall. Commissioner Williford asked how this position would tie in with the HPC, the Mayor stating he has spoken with the HPC as well as the Historical Society.

The Mayor asked for the consensus of the Board. Commissioner Cantley asked why the matter could not wait until next week's Board meeting, to which the Mayor answered that he did not see this as being a big enough matter to be placed on the Agenda; this could be decided on this evening. Commissioner Williford asked the Mayor what he felt he would accomplish in this position, to which the Mayor answered that he would be able to collect old records and photographs, for example, that would otherwise disappear. Commissioner Currin stated this should be put off until the next meeting in order to give everyone a chance to understand the position of a curator. Commissioner Sergent felt this a reasonable suggestion and it sounded like the Mayor would be well suited for the job. In addition, he is offering to do something that will be of benefit to the City. However, Commissioner Sergent suggested taking a few minutes for the Mayor to produce a bullet list of curator responsibilities.

The Mayor again asked what the Board wanted, to which MPT Herring stated he felt the Board was in agreement with a curator position but that they don't quite understand the duties and responsibilities. He suggested the Mayor send an email to the Board, adding that there is no one more qualified to fill this position.

THE CITY OF OXFORD'S 200th BIRTHDAY DISCUSSED

The Mayor stated that in five years and two months the City would be 200 years old. To plan an event for this cannot be put together in six months or a year or two years. A committee should be appointed to raise money for a celebration, other towns this size spending from \$50-\$75,000. Monies would be asked from the Board for a five year period to contribute to the celebration. Monies would also be solicited from private sources. As to the exact date of the anniversary, the library has this type of information tied up right now. Hopefully, a celebration would take place on a Friday or Saturday, there would be some type of logo, and Danny Finch has offered to be the Earl of Granville. The Mayor stated that the Earl of Granville festival was one which had a full-time office for planning their celebrations. Trying to gather military entertainment and other government officials, for example, will take this much time to plan.

Commissioner Williford asked if the Mayor, as Curator, would head this. The Mayor stated a chairman for a committee needed to be appointed, and pointed out that all kinds of things can be done to raise money. Commissioner Williford agreed with the Mayor that it would take a good five years for this type of celebration to be planned. The Mayor stated it does not require money to hire someone to head this committee since help is available within the City. Important is having the right person as chair who can bring in funding.

The Mayor stated this committee would form and begin work January 1, 2011. MPT Herring stated the Mayor is asking the Board for its permission to establish the committee, to which the Mayor

stated this item did not need to be placed on the Agenda if the Board would commit to it tonight. The Mayor stated he has been with the City 25 years; Tom Ragland had been with the City 35 years. The Mayor wished the information between him and Tom to continue and not to be lost. The Mayor stated that when looking around, one sees many items that have been saved as the result of Donna Hosch, Tanya Weary, and him. Very little money was spent by the City. MPT Herring stated that the majority of the Board was in agreement with the Mayor forming a committee for the 200th birthday.

OTHER – PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE DISCUSSED

Commissioner Currin asked how public comment works, and the Mayor explained the process. The Mayor stated that if someone has not signed in to speak or if he sees someone in the audience who he knows did not, he asks that person if they wish to speak. The Mayor also allows the audience, at a point in the meetings, to speak on items not on the agenda.

Mr. Eddie McCoy was stated as being a good example of someone who speaks but is not on the sign in sheet. Commissioner Currin stated that at a previous meeting Mr. Lytton was required to sign in as were others but Mr. McCoy was not and he was allowed to address the Board. Commissioner Currin stated this made the meeting look unprofessional.

MPT Herring shared with the Board that Eddie McCoy, better than anyone, has a pulse on what is going on in the City. Commissioner Currin stated he did not feel Mr. McCoy should be allowed to tell the four new commissioners how to do their job. Commissioner Sergent stated she understood these points. However, there have been a number of occasions when she has been in the audience, the Mayor invited commentary, and she was happy to be able to comment without being on the sign in sheet. For many people, protocol can be stifling. Commissioner Sergent finds it a nice trait of City meetings to be able to speak without being on the sign in sheet.

The Mayor stated he judges whether audience conversation is friendly or hostile and cuts conversation off if necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

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