



NORTH CAROLINA
GRANVILLE COUNTY
CITY OF OXFORD

Oxford City Hall – Commissioners’ Board Room
300 Williamsboro Street
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OXFORD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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 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 Thomas Burnette.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodlief called the meeting to order. Prayer was given by William Johnston, City Chaplain. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED

COMMISSIONER WILLIFORD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

- A) Meeting Minutes of the November 30, 2009 Agenda Session, the December 7, 2009 Public Hearing, and the December 8, 2009 Organizational Meeting
- B) Monthly Financial Report by Finance Officer Steve McNally
- C) Approval of Second Annual NC African American Cultural Fest as requested by Phyllis Coley to be held on Saturday, April 24, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. preceded by a parade from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.
- D) Ordinance adopted to rescind *Chapter 2: Administration § 2-27 Propositions Must Be Seconded* of the City Code of Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE TO RESCIND CHAPTER 2: ADMINISTRATION
§ 2-27 PROPOSITIONS MUST BE SECONDED
OF THE CITY OF OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, the City of Oxford has received and reviewed information from the North Carolina Institute of Government regarding modern parliamentary practices; and

WHEREAS, based on said information, the Board of Commissioners for the City of Oxford has determined that it should be no longer necessary for a proposition to be seconded as currently required by *Chapter 2: Administration § 2-27 Propositions Must Be Seconded*;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Oxford, North Carolina that the textual portion of *Chapter 2: Administration § 2-27 Propositions Must Be Seconded* is hereby deleted from the City of Oxford Code of Ordinances. For codification purposes, the enumerated portion of said section is hereby reserved for future use.

Adopted this 12th day of January 2010.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joetta Harb of 6047 Pine Town Road addressed the Board on the subject of cyber sweepstakes establishments, one of which she will open on February 1st at S&J on Lanier Street. Ms. Harb felt it was unfair to impose a \$500 'fine' per machine. People state that there is nothing in Oxford, and she felt it's because Oxford won't let people have anything here. A 'fine' per machine is understood, but \$500 is simply too much. Ms. Harb did not have great knowledge about these types of establishments, but she felt that she would give it try since it was legal. If the effort failed, then she would stop. The Mayor corrected Ms. Harb in that the increase is in the privilege license and that this is not a 'fine' but a fee.

Constance Lue of 100 Garden Park Drive, Apartment 11, addressed the Board. Mrs. Lue stated that about two weeks ago the last apartment in her complex was rented, and she felt these types of complexes were a good business opportunity for someone in Oxford. The Mayor added that renters needed to be at least 55 years old and that grandchildren could only stay 3-4 days per visit at the complex.

John K. Nelms of Oxford addressed the Board. Mr. Nelms stated he wished to speak about the airport authority but would reserve any questions for the discussion to follow. He informed the Board he served on the airport authority for 26 years and that it did not cost the City at all to run the airport during his tenure.

MAYOR'S YARD OF THE MONTH

Mayor Woodlief presented this month's award to Ruth Ann Carter for the overall attractiveness of her yard at 103 Pine Tree Drive. He stated that the YOM sign will be placed in her yard and a picture of the yard will be published in the Oxford Ledger.

QUARTERLY GRANVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JAY TILLEY

Executive Director Tilley stated it has been a great start to the new year. He is working with six active projects, and there are six or seven more that are not dead but not very active at this point. Requests from five sources for information have not netted any call backs. ED Tilley acknowledged that this is not a whole lot for good times, but it's an improvement for slow times. Even though Granville is fairing better than neighboring counties, unemployment is hovering at 10 1/2%. In trying to fill his open administrative position, ED Tilley stated he's come to realize the quality of people in the community.

One of the two recent Israeli companies looking at Granville County decided to purchase in Franklin County. The other, Shalag, will locate here. They will be in town next week to begin their transition into the building and to begin their hiring process; their hope is to be operational by early summer. ED Tilley stated Shalag is an aggressive organization, and he believed they would accomplish their summer goal.

Mayor Pro Tem Herring asked if the community could be privy to the types of jobs which will be available and credentials needed for those jobs. Shalag will meet with the Employment Security Commission and other representatives and the community college will set up training opportunities. There has been discussion about pre-employment seminars for the community to learn what types of jobs will be available. Shalag is an advanced manufacturing organization where calibration and critical thinking will be key.

Commissioner Williford asked if local contractors are being used for the plant renovations. ED Tilley stated Shalag has used some local contractors but they have standard contractors, with some of these sub-contracting locally. Shalag found that if they had of used local contractors for some of their work, these contractors would have had better knowledge about local rules, etc, which would have eliminated some problems.

ANNEXATION ORDINANCE ADOPTED FOR 115 W. QUAILRIDGE ROAD (LOT #2A)

MPT HERRING MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THIS ORDINANCE. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

ANNEXATION ORDINANCE ADOPTED FOR 104 WOODLAND DRIVE (LOT #16)

MPT HERRING MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THIS ORDINANCE. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

NEW WATER AND SEWER RATES ADOPTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011

Commissioner Cantley, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, stated reasons why the Committee was recommending the raising of these rates. Basically, sales of water and sewage have decreased the last three years with the request for conservation efforts. Utility rates have not increased for several years while our revenues have decreased and expenses have increased. Costs for water from KLR are going up at a rate of 5-6% each year, and other operating costs are on the rise.

An antiquated wastewater drainage system is causing us to treat flood water that is seeping into our drainage pipes. A rough estimate to fix drainage problems could exceed \$7 million. Repairs need to be made but need to be paced as our revenues rise and other funding means are sought.

Raftelis has determined, says Commissioner Cantley, that Oxford must raise its water and sewer rates to minimize losses and make sure it is able to continue expected services. Recommendations for new rates are as follows: an increase of 5% for the next two years and 4% for the following three years for water. Sewer rates would increase 17% per year for the next two years.

COMMISSIONER CANTLEY MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE RATES AS STATED.

Commissioner Sergent stated she was not able to attend the Public Works meeting because she was out of town. She stated she reviewed the report from Raftelis and had questions. Accepting the rates could be done, but Commissioner Sergent did not recommend doing so until taking another look at the long term situation. She questioned if a substitute motion could be made to accept the rates for the first year and then discuss some of her concerns for the following years. Commissioner Sergent questioned how water rates are formulated and stated she was interested in looking further at the approach rather than giving an across the board increase.

Commissioner Cantley stated this had been discussed at length with Raftelis and increasing the rates in the manner proposed would allow the City to make annual payments on the water plant. If adopting the rates was postponed or delayed in any way by the City,

Commissioner Cantley felt it would give cause for Raftelis to perform the study again. The current study will allow time for the departments to adjust and make plans.

COMMISSIONER SERGENT MADE A SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO ADOPT THE RATES FOR THE FIRST YEAR AND REVISIT THE METHODOLOGY FOR CALCULATING THE RATES FOR THE REMAINING YEARS. COMMISSIONERS SERGENT AND HARRIS VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONERS HERRING, WILLIFORD, CURRIN, CANTLEY, AND BULLOCK VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE. THE MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONER CANTLEY'S MOTION TO ADOPT THE STUDY AS PRESENTED WAS RESTATED. COMMISSIONERS HERRING, CANTLEY, WILLIFORD, CURRIN, AND BULLOCK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONERS SERGENT AND HARRIS VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE. THE MOTION PASSED FIVE TO TWO.

**DONNA B. HOSCH, CITY CLERK AND J. THOMAS BURNETTE, CITY ATTORNEY
SWORN TO OFFICE**

District Court Judge S. Quon Bridges gave the oath of office to Donna Hosch as City Clerk and to J. Thomas Burnette as City Attorney.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – PHYLLIS COLEY FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL NC AFRICAN
AMERICAN CULTURAL FEST**

Ms. Coley of Durham, North Carolina addressed the Board, thanking them for approval of the first Cultural Fest last year. The date for the second Fest has been changed to April 24th with a parade from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and the event from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Ms. Coley asked for the same services as last year – police, fire, and power. She was advised to speak with the County since the remodeling of the library may have affected the power lines. Ms. Coley asked for a Proclamation from the Mayor and that a copy of this Board's approval be sent to the County for their information.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,725.00 FROM THE SALE
OF SURPLUS METERS ON GOVDEALS.COM**

COMMISSIONER CANTLEY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AMENDMENT TO INCREASE REVENUES TO THE WATER FUND. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE; THE MOTION PASSED.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

ACCT NO.	DESCRIPTION	INCREASE	DECREASE
30385040	Sale of Surplus Prop	\$5,725.00	
30399000	Approp. Fund Balance		\$5,725.00

**JIMMY BRUMMITT RE-APPOINTED TO VANCE-GRANVILLE-HENDERSON-
OXFORD AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

Mayor Woodlief stated that Mr. Brummitt previously felt that circumstances would prevent him from serving another term, at which point the Mayor asked the Board to consider CM Donham for the appointment. Mr. Brummitt has, however, determined that he would be able to serve. The Mayor asked that CM Donham be appointed ex-officio member with no voting rights.

COMMISSONER WILLIFORD MADE A MOTION TO RE-APPOINT JIMMY BRUMMITT TO THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WITH CM DONHAM AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE; THE MOTION PASSED.

**PRIVILEGE LICENSE FEES INCREASED FOR CYBER SWEEPSTAKES
ESTABLISHMENTS**

Commissioner Currin stated that the Finance Committee met with MPT Herring and Commissioners Williford, Bullock, and Cantley in attendance. The Committee agreed with the recommendation of the Mayor to set the fee for these establishments at \$500 per machine. The City will set a policy by which the establishments would report new or changes in machines.

The establishments which are currently operating would not be affected by this increase until their licenses are up for renewal. It was clarified that the current privilege license fee for these establishments is \$50.00 per year.

COMMISSONER CURRIN MADE A MOTION TO INCREASE THE PRIVILEGE LICENSE FEE FOR CYBER SWEEPSTAKES ESTABLISHMENTS TO \$500.00 PER MACHINE. COMMISSIONERS HERRING, WILLIFORD, CANTLEY, CURRIN, SERGENT, AND BULLOCK VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE; COMMISSIONER HARRIS VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE. THE MOTION PASSED BY A SIX TO ONE VOTE.

ADJOURNMENT

WITH THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, COMMISSIONER WILLIFORD MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE; THE MOTION PASSED.