

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.**  
**OXFORD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA SESSION and PUBLIC HEARING**  
**OXFORD CITY HALL – COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM**

The Board of Commissioners for the City of Oxford met at the above-mentioned time and place to hold a Public Hearing and to set the agenda for the Regular Meeting to be held September 13, 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 Al Woodlief, Mayor Pro Tem Howard Herring, Sr., Commissioners Robert B. Williford, Sr., Walter Cantley, Jackie Sergent, Ron Bullock, and Calvin Harris, Jr. Present also were City Manager Mark Donham and City Clerk Donna B. Hosch. Absent were Commissioner Danny Currin and City Attorney J. Thomas Burnette.

Mayor Woodlief called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC HEARING – TO RENAME A PORTION OF WEST McCLANAHAN STREET TO PENN AVENUE  
AS REQUESTED BY PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

Mayor Woodlief declared the public hearing open.

Bobby Balmer of 115 W. McClanahan Street addressed the Board on behalf of Nell's Flowers. Mr. Balmer stated he would not want the renaming to cover their side of the street because of the monetary issues of unnecessary business expense of business cards, invoices, etc. He felt that if the renaming is allowed, it will open a can of worms for other churches. Mayor Woodlief stated the renaming would stop at Broad Street, and the Board is not looking to set a precedent. The street was originally named Penn Avenue and was changed for whatever reason.

Reverend Willie Darby representing Penn Avenue Missionary Baptist Church addressed the Board. Rev. Darby stated he has spoken with Planning Director Cheryl Hart, and she indicated the staff's position is to rename the street from Broad Street all the way around the curb to Hillsboro Street. The Church has no objections to this, although this may drag the renaming out a little longer for proper notifications, etc. to be sent out. The Church does want to have the portion of the street they requested renamed back to Penn Avenue. A letter from Carl Marshall Smith was sent to the Board, the only resident who owns property on the street other than the Church. He is in favor of naming the street back to Penn Avenue. Mr. Smith remembers when the street was Penn Avenue, and it seems to be a great mystery as to how it was changed over to West McClanahan Street.

After some discussion, the Board agreed West McClanahan from Board Street to Lewis Street should be renamed Penn Avenue, as recommended by the Public Works Committee, with the portion of the street at the intersection of Lewis and Hillsboro Streets to be renamed Penn Avenue Extension.

Mayor Woodlief declared the public hearing closed.

**RENAMING A PORTION OF WEST McCLANAHAN STREET TO PENN AVENUE AS REQUESTED BY  
PENN AVENUE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH APPROVED**

COMMISSIONER HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RENAMING WEST McCLANAHAN STREET FROM BROAD STREET TO LEWIS STREET AS PENN AVENUE AND RENAMING THE PORTION OF THE STREET AT THE INTERSECTION OF LEWIS AND HILLSBORO STREETS AS PENN AVENUE EXTENSION. ALL VOTES WERE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE; THE MOTION PASSED.

The Board set the Agenda for the September 13, 2011 Regular Meeting.

**OTHER ISSUES**

Directional sign at City Hall. Mayor Woodlief stated that the sign at the driveway into City Hall has become faded and rusted. It will cost approximately \$320 to redo. \$100 of this can come from the Water Fund since they have more people in the building and the remaining \$220 can come from the General Fund. The cost from another vendor would be twice this amount. Commissioner Cantley stated that since monies would come from the Water Fund, the issue should go through the Public Works Committee. Commissioner Sergent asked if the issue needed to be voted on this week since she has not seen the sign. Could the sign be looked at and then voted on at next week's Regular Meeting? The Mayor stated that the sign is with the vendor in Bullock.

MAYOR PRO TEM HERRING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SIGN BEING REDONE WITH THE MONIES TO BE DISBURSED AS ABOVE.

Commissioner Harris stated that jobs have been cut, and it seems unfair to redo the sign simply because it is rusted and needs sandblasting. Commissioner Cantley restated that the issue should go through committee and that this is a simple decision – to fix the sign or not to fix it. Commissioner Williford stated that the County has one of these signs and that it's an important aspect for them.

COMMISSIONERS BULLOCK, WILLIFORD, AND HERRING VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. COMMISSIONERS CANTLEY, HARRIS, AND SERGENT VOTED IN THE NEGATIVE. WITH THE VOTE BEING A TIE, MAYOR WOODLIEF BROKE THE TIE AND VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THE VOTE PASSED BY A FOUR TO THREE VOTE.

Carpeting and counter in the Finance Department. Mayor Woodlief stated that the carpet in Finance is 20 years old; and when it gets wet, it gives off a sickening smell. The counter is cracking and the varnish is coming off. The city manager, finance director, building and grounds supervisor met and agreed that these issues need to be fixed. There is also a moisture problem in the basement.

Two weeks ago, the special air conditioner which cools the computer room malfunctioned and liquid ran out on the floor after the unit stopped up. The building and grounds supervisor has suggested replacing this unit with a more commercial unit. Several of the ladies in Finance experience nose bleeds. The State has checked the ventilation system for mold and none was found; however, dirt was found in the filters.

Mayor Woodlief stated he would like for the Public Works Committee to consider having tile placed from the counter to the door and having someone redo the counter on a Friday afternoon. The tile would be the same as the black tile leading to the break room, and local people will be used to complete the work if possible. The building and grounds supervisor would also like to have two thick pads placed behind the counter for the ladies to stand on which will solve some of their problems. The monies for this would come from the Water Fund only.

Commissioner Cantley approved getting estimates for this work; all other Board members were in agreement.

Splash Park update. City Engineer Larry Thomas stated that bids will again go out for this project. He anticipates the bids coming back at the \$110,000 price given to the contractor. After recouping our money, the City will then put out bids for sidewalks and also address the bathroom issue. Xavier Wortham has agreed to placing port-a-potties at the park for now. Bids will be sent out to four vendors who specialize in splash parks. The cost of the bathrooms from the previous bids was way over, twice what we have in grant money.

Mayor Woodlief questioned why bathrooms are always so costly. Perhaps a local person could lay cinder blocks and bathrooms could be built from there. The Mayor stated it is ridiculous to have port-a-johns at this location. CE Thomas stated the new bids will not be opened until around Memorial Day, so there is a lot of time to look for alternatives.

Commissioner Harris asked what the procedure is when the manager is not asked to set up a committee meeting; who does the department head contact? Something needs to be done about the way this is being handled. Mayor Woodlief stated the manager needs to be contacted first, and he will instruct the clerk to communicate with the committee chair. Commissioner Harris stated that there have been several occasions where once two commissioners are contacted, the third person is left out in determining if they can attend. After some discussion about a particular meeting, CM Donham stated that if there is a problem to let him know and contacting the appropriate commissioners will be worked out.

Commissioner Harris asked who is to be contacted if someone wants a street light and it does not meet the requirements. CM Donham stated that he and the city engineer normally go out and look at these situations together. All such requests, therefore, should go to the city manager.

Mayor Woodlief stated that people are not closing the dumpsters, and this is feeding the vultures. Commissioner Williford took pictures this past weekend of the dumpster at the Health Department beside Car Quest. Commissioner Sargent stated she's spoken with the Health Department as to whether or not this is their dumpster or if it belongs to the County. She has not yet received a response. Commissioner Harris asked if there is a requirement for dumpsters to be enclosed, to which Planning Director Cheryl Hart stated they do have to be enclosed for new construction. Commissioner Williford added that complaints have come in that debris is being placed in the dumpster behind Ace Hardware. Also, a dumpster is needed at the Federal Building due to trash bubbling over in the cans on the weekend. Mayor Woodlief stated there is still a problem at the

Baptist Church. There are three cans and they look terrible on Sundays for church since it seems people are dumping trash from home into the cans.

After more discussion of the same, Mayor Woodlief asked the city manager to contact the County to see what their policy is, and he asked PD Hart or whomever to contact those who inspect the dumpsters to see if something can be done.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Donna B. Hosch, CMC, City Clerk

ATTEST:

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Al Woodlief, Mayor