

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE

CITY OF OXFORD

REGULAR MEETING

December 7, 2004

6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Oxford, Mississippi, was called to order by Mayor Richard Howorth at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, in the courtroom of City Hall when and where the following were present:

Richard Howorth - Mayor  
Pat Patterson - Alderman Ward I  
E.O. Oliver - Alderman Ward II  
Janice Antonow - Alderman Ward III  
Ulysses Howell - Alderman Ward IV  
Preston Taylor - Alderman Ward V  
Richard DeVoe- Alderman Ward VI  
Dr. William "Bill" Baker - Alderman At-large

Mayo Mallette PLLC - Of Counsel  
Lisa Carwyle - City Clerk  
Randy Russell - Supt. of Solid Waste Dept.  
David Bennett- Public Works Director  
Colbert Jones - Planning & Zoning  
Al Hope- Personnel Director  
Hugh Stump - Dir of Oxford Conference Center  
Lynn Robbins- Supt of Electric Dept  
Billy Lamb- Supt of Building and Grounds  
Steve Bramlett - Chief of Police  
Bo Ragon - City Shop Foreman  
Kleb Johnson - Director of Parks & Rec

AGENDA:

It was moved by Alderman Howell seconded by Alderman Antonow, to adopt the agenda for the meeting. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Board Report 12 07 04

I have reported in a memo to the aldermen my conversation with Bruce Jenkins of the Mississippi Wildlife Commission regarding complaints of deer in the city limits. While I will not go into much detail here about that conversation, because there have not been any successful deer eradication programs in other Mississippi municipalities, and because it is lawful and more safe to hunt and kill deer outside the city limits, which would serve to diminish much of the population inside the city limits, my recommendation is to abandon this method of deer eradication and continue to listen to other proposals.

We have had an inordinate amount of rainfall recently, which frequently means, among other things, a spike in calls to City Hall about erosion and flooding areas. While our natural topography invites many of these problems, some others are linked to development that is poorly planned or executed, or both, on the part of the developer. I have talked to Colbert and David about some of these specific problems to see what punitive measures may be exacted in instances where ordinances are not clear, and will be talking with counsel.

The Miss. Economic Council caucus, with Director Blake Wilson, visited here last Friday. It is energizing to hear Blueprint Mississippi discussed, and to see that so many different business leaders throughout the state are developing a clear and vision about Mississippi's future.

Thanks to Hugh, Al, Paula and others for making the employee Christmas party successful this year. It's nice to be able to enjoy something other than work with you all.

Recently I had an opportunity to visit with Zach Chandler, and have reported to aldermen in more length about that. I am glad to see the leadership we now have at Baptist Hospital interacting with members of the Oxford-Lafayette County community, the medical staff, and elected officials in ways that I believe can only enhance prospects for healthcare here.

Last week I had lunch with new Whirlpool plant manager Dickie Walters and financial manager John Kazyak (who has been previously employed at the Oxford plant). It's good to meet these people and hear about Whirlpool's continuing ambitions to prosper in Oxford.

I have neglected over the last two meetings to thank Mike Martin for his bravery and professionalism in the capturing of a bank robber recently. Sometimes we tend to take for granted why our community is as safe as it is, and acknowledgment must be given to Mike and the many other law enforcement and safety officers who make it so.

Finally mention must be made of the recent deaths of two notable people – Richard Elliott, mayor of Oxford for 16 years, who led with poise and good common sense, and Larry Brown, the most notable writer to come from here since William Faulkner. Larry was an Oxford firefighter for 19 years, and such a gifted and good-hearted man.

This concludes my report.

**MINUTES:**

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Howell to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 16, 2004. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**ACCOUNTS:**

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Taylor, to authorize approval of all City accounts. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**ITS PROJECT:**

Greg Easson came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to invite them to an ITS briefing on campus on December 10, 2004. He also updated the Board on the current status of the ITS Project. The Mayor thanked him for his report.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
BLOCK GRANT:**

A public hearing was held at the City Hall in Oxford on December 7, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. A roster of the attendees is attached. The purpose of the hearing was to obtain input from local citizens regarding the development of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public

Facilities application of up to \$450,000 for the South 18th Street Sewer Collection System Rehabilitation Project. Kurt Brummett from Three Rivers Planning and Development District discussed the application process and the CDBG guidelines. Mr. Brummett described the proposed sewer system rehabilitation project and informed the audience that over 51% of the beneficiaries will be low- and moderate-income individuals. The audience had no negative comments regarding the proposed project and the City did not receive any negative written or verbal comments prior to the hearing. The Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the resolution authorizing the submission of the CDBG application and the commitment of matching funds.

**UNDERGROUND UTILITIES  
DOWNTOWN:**

Lynn Robbins came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to present a five year plan to relocate utilities underground in the downtown business district. This is a long range plan for the electric department which could possibly cost up to twenty-three million dollars.

**GREATER OXFORD  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:**

Claiborne Barksdale with the Greater Oxford Community Foundation came before the Mayor and Board to announce an anonymous donation of \$100,000.00 they received. The donation is to be used to convert overhead electric lines to underground from University Avenue down South Lamar to the square.

**MEGAPOP:**

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Howell to authorize the Mayor to sign the Telepak-Megapop Memorandum of Understanding and the lease agreement between Oxford and Megapop, both subject to legal counsel's final approval. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**OXFORD-LAFAYETTE  
HUMANE SOCIETY:**

The Oxford Lafayette Humane Society had requested payment from the City for maintenance costs at the humane society. After discussion, the board requested that Angie Lewis, the City liaison, come to the next board meeting to discuss the expenditure.

**YOKNAPATAWPHA ARTS  
COUNCIL:**

It was moved by Alderman DeVoe, seconded by Alderman Baker to amend the 2% Tourism Budget to include the \$30,000.00 for the Yoknapatawpha Arts Council. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**MS WINTER CONFERENCE:**

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman DeVoe to approve Colbert Jones to attend the Building Officials Association of MS Winter Conference in Choctaw, MS on Dec 8-10, 2004 at a cost of \$300.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**WEST OXFORD LOOP  
SEWER PROJECT:**

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Taylor to accept the low bid from Eubank Construction in the amount of \$211,400.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried. The bid tab is as follows:

**NARCOTICS TASK FORCE  
WORKSHOP:**

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to approve Joey East to attend the Narcotics Task Force Workshop in Jackson, MS on December 13-15, 2004 at a cost of \$150.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**ANNUAL LABOR BID:**

It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Antonow to accept the low bid from B & B Utility for annual labor for the electric department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried. The bids were as follows:

**BENEFIT PLAN:**

Paula Morris and Al Hope came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to discuss the benefit plan for the city employees. There will not be an increase in the health insurance this year.

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Baker to approve the following benefit plan. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

OXFORD TOURISM  
BUDGET:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Baker to authorize the amendment of the Oxford Tourism Budget in the amount of \$19,181.40 for the custodian at the Oxford Conference Center. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

ACCOUNTANT:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman DeVoe to advertise for an accountant in the electric department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

SERVICE TECH II:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to employ Charles Joy as a Service Technician II with the City Shop at a salary of \$28,617.69. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

OXFORD POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
RESIGNATIONS:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to accept the resignation of LaSawn McWright, Karon James and Gary Chisholm with the Oxford Police Department. It was also moved to employ Travis Hitchcock with the police department at a salary of \$25,844.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

ROAD MAINTENANCE  
TAX:

The following letter was received the Lafayette County:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Baker to acknowledge the debt owed and for the City to pay it back as the money is available. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**MML MID-WINTER  
CONFERENCE:**

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Taylor to approve aldermen and counsel to attend the MML Mid-Winter Conference in Jackson, MS on January 25-27, 2004. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Antonow to consider executive session for possible purchase of property, personnel and possible litigation. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman DeVoe to go into executive session. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Baker to go into regular session. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman DeVoe to adjourn the meeting sine-die. All the alderman present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

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Lisa Carwyle, City Clerk

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Richard Howorth, Mayor