

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE

CITY OF OXFORD

REGULAR MEETING

May 1, 2007

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 Howorth at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, 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
 Jon Fisher – Alderman Ward VI
 Dr. Bill Baker- Alderman At-Large

Mayo Mallette PLLC – Of Counsel
 Lisa Carwyle – City Clerk
 Tim Akers- Director of Planning
 Randy Barber – Director of Building Department
 David Bennett – Director of Public Works
 Al Hope – Personnel Director
 Steve Bramlett– Chief Oxford Police Dept
 Jerry Johnson- Chief of Oxford Fire Dept
 Randy Russell – Superintendent of Sanitation
 Billy Lamb – Superintendent of Bldg & Grnds

AGENDA:

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

At times the mayor's office is busy with ceremonial functions, and this recently has been the case. While this capacity may seem to be a hum-drum matter of simply showing up, usually I am moved at these events by the evidence of so much volunteer work and good will that has gone into so many different aspects of community life and to such positive effect.

The dedication Saturday of the LOU Boys and Girls Club was a great moment, revealing just a bit of the enormous volunteer effort and charitable

giving that have now created a terrific facility that will help hundreds of boys and girls in Oxford, and ultimately the community, in a lasting way. I thank the board of aldermen for the temporary help provided through the use of the Old Armory space, and we thank the advisory board, people like Dickie King and Jan Robertson, and the donors, such as Jim and Donna Barksdale and Mick and Molli Kolassa, and the many volunteers and role models who have helped the LOU Boys and Girls Club to its speedy success.

The recent state-wide Garden Club convention held here and the Arbor Day ceremony this past Friday represent many more people who are working to promote and protect trees and natural beauty, which has become so important. Recent writing by Bill McKibben that I've shared with the aldermen outlines how it will be communities – not nations or states – that will win the war over environmental disaster.

A more somber ceremony took place Saturday night before last, a candlelight vigil for victims of drunk driving at 1st Baptist Church. Meeting the families of these victims only fortifies my notion that we need to ask the State legislature to enact stiffer penalties for drunk driving. We are, by the way, omitting the second reading of proposed alcohol ordinance amendments so the board may have time to deliberate these changes and their ramifications more fully. We will take up the second reading and hearing at our next regular meeting.

Finally, I had the chance to meet with Fahed Abu-Akel, the Palestinian-American moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA), who encouraged us to take a more active role in establishing relationships with foreign students in our community as a way of promoting international peace and economic development. I have told Michael Johanson at the Croft Institute that we will work with them and the International Student Association to do just that.

MINUTES: It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Taylor to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting on April 3, 2007. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

ACCOUNTS: It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to approve all City accounts including the Electric Department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

ARBOR DAY: It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Howell to adopt the following resolution recognizing Arbor Day.

NATIONAL GUARD
MEMORIAL:

Students from the Univeristy of Mississippi came back to the board of aldermen to present their idea for an actual plaque honoring the National Guard for the “battle of oxford”. The Mayor thanked them and asked a committee work on the possible idea of a memorial.

ORDINANCE 2007-7:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to adopt Ordinance 2007-7, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5 OF THE CITY OF OXFORD’S CODE OF ORDINANCES, ADDING ARTICLE III: KEG REGISTRATION, SECTIONS 5-40 THROUGH 5-50.” Said Ordinance is recorded in Book 7 of the City of Oxford Code of Ordinances. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

ALCOHOL ORDINANCE
CHANGES:

This was the first reading of proposed changes in the Alcohol Ordinance. City attorney, Pope Mallette, read through the changes. It was announced it was available on the website for the public to view.

SMOKING BAN ORDINANCE:

This was the second reading and public hearing of the proposed amendment to the smoking ban ordinance which would ban smoking from City parks. There was no comment made from the public.

Mayor Howorth recused himself from the meeting.

THOMPSON HOUSE:

Howorth and Associates came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to request the use of approximately 13 inches of the City’s right of way to build a stairwell which would take you down to commercial retail space once the building is renovated.

It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the Thompson House to use the City’s right of way to construct a descending stairway. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

Mayor Howorth returned to the meeting at this time.

YOCONA INTERNATIONAL
FOLK FESTIVAL:

Kathy Kemp came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to request \$10,000.00 of tourism dollars for support of the Yocona International Folk Festival. The festival would be held on July 21-August 2, 2007. The Mayor thanked them for their report.

MS BUILDING OFFICIAL
CONFERENCE:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize one employee to attend the MS Building Official Summer Conference on June 18-22, 2007 in Bay St. Louis MS with a cost of \$860.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION:

Tim Akers reported on the proposed historic districts. The Oxford Lafayette Preservation Alliance has formed and presented the proposed districts to the Historic Preservation Commission. The group also proposed the formation of a second Historic Preservation Commission to govern the Downtown Historic Preservation District. The group is working to address the issue of existing districts. There is now a moratorium on demolitions and new construction in the proposed districts. There are three categories of projects who may obtain permits during the moratorium: 1) Any project which needs to be completed due to a threat to public safety. 2) Planning Commission or Board of Aldermen approval already obtained. 3) Projects that are within the present Historic Preservation Districts.

BELK PROPERTY:

The City of Oxford and the Belk's had received appraisals of two pieces of property on Jefferson Avenue to consider swapping the property to better utilize an entrance to the City's public parking lot. It was discussed that the property swap would need to be delayed until the moratorium related to the Downtown Historic Preservation District was lifted.

HOME DEPOT DRIVE:

It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Antonow to continue the item of considering the sale of property off Home Depot Drive until the next meeting. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

Mayor Howorth leaves the meeting at this time.

UNIVERSITY AVENUE:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize the advertisement for the widening of University Avenue. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tem Howell declared the motion carried.

DANIELS-WILLIAMS
SPORTS COMPLEX:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract with Daniels-Williams Engineering for design and construction engineering of the sports complex. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

MINI-EXCAVATOR:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize advertisement for a mini-excavator. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

EMERGENCY PURCHASE:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize the emergency purchase for replacement guard rails on the box culvert on South Lamar. The emergency is due to public safety. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

WINDSOR FALLS:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the approval of final plat for phase 1B of Windsor Falls Subdivision. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

GROVE MEADOWS:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to approve the final plat for Grove Meadows Subdivision. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

GARBAGE TRUCK:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Taylor to accept the low bid for a rear loader garbage truck from Ingram Equipment in the amount of \$126,126.55. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

OPC QUARTERLY REPORT:

Kleb Johnson came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to present the quarterly report.

CONFERENCE CENTER
OFFICE ADDITION:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to approve the low bid of \$41,298.00 from David Smith Construction, Inc. for the office additions at the Oxford Conference Center, pending approval of the Oxford Tourism Board. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

FIRE ACT GRANT:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize Chief Johnson to apply for the FIRE Act grant. He is applying for a ladder truck and an operational grant. The ladder

truck is estimated at \$700,000.00 and the operational grant at \$125,000.00. The City's required match would be ten percent of total grants awarded. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING:**

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize a fire department employee to attend the Certified Emergency Services Administrative Professional Level 1 on May 21-23, 2007 with a cost of \$270.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

TAXI PERMIT:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Taylor to authorize a taxi permit for Barry Magee. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

RESERVE OFFICERS:

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Baker to approve Antino Zampella, Jr., David Alm, Jack Skipworth and Gary Tippitt as reserve police officers. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

STORM CONFERENCE:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Taylor to authorize three officers to attend the STORM Conference in Vicksburg, MS on May 1-2, 2007 with a cost of \$315.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

SOLID WASTE:

It was moved by Alderman Taylor, seconded by Alderman Baker to authorize the employment of James Herod, Chuckie Miller, Eric Woodall, and Ted Taylor as Solid Waste Laborers. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

TRANSFER:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize the transfer of Dedrick Crockett from Wastewater Operator I to Water Service Technician I. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

UTILITY LOCATE:

It was moved by Alderman Taylor, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize the employment of Robert Williquette as a utility locate worker. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

DISPATCHERS:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the advertisement of part time dispatchers. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

WASTE WATER
OPERATOR I:

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the advertisement for a Waste Water Operator I. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

RETIREMENT:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to accept the retirement, with regrets, of Owen Conner from the Water Department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Patterson to consider executive session for litigation regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant site, the sale or lease of land regarding the fire station property and a possible water system. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Fisher to go into executive session. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Fisher to go into regular session. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT
PLANT:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Baker to authorize the Mayor to finalize payment and execute documents for the transfer of property for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

WATER SYSTEM:

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Baker to authorize the Mayor to ask for an Attorney General Opinion regarding a possible water system purchase. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

STREET OPERATOR:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize advertisement for a Street Operator I. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Pro Tempe Howell declared the motion carried.

ADJOURN:

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

Richard Howorth, Mayor

Lisa Carwyle, City Clerk