

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE

CITY OF OXFORD

REGULAR MEETING

March 18, 2008

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, March 18, 2008, in the court room 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  
 David Bennett- Chief Operating Officer  
 Randy Russell- Director of Solid Waste  
 Randy Barber- Building Department  
 Lynn Robbins – Superintendent of Elec Dept  
 Al Hope – Personnel Director  
 Mike Martin– Chief Oxford Police Dept  
 Jerry Johnson- Chief of Oxford Fire Dept

AGENDA:

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

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The PD steering committee met this morning and added Judith Thompson as a co-chair with Ron Hipp and Whitney Byars. Banner designs were finalized, one contains the City of Oxford logo, and they will be displayed in the City and on the UM campus. The University and the City will host about 60 media representatives during the first week of June and the committee believes that this visit will give a more specific focus the arrangements for the week of the debate. Committee representatives, along with University officials, met with area media this week to update them on these initial developments.

As you all know, Shephard Smith of Fox News broadcast from the steps of City Hall last week. This brought a bit of excitement to our citizenry, who have Billy Lamb, Bob Opalko, Arledia Bennett to thank for coming in over the weekend to help set up phone and computer lines and the RSVP building for all their needs.

Lisa Carwyle and I were able to observe the Mississippi Ethics Commission in its meeting here last week in the Chancery Building. In addition to some of their cases, we were able to hear a summary of legislation under consideration that will serve to strengthen the authority of the Commission itself, which I view generally as a very positive thing. I did not notice any local infractions while they were in town.

I have received word of impending retirement from two very valuable and long-time city employees this week, one of which the board will discuss tonight. We'll have time to give them both a proper send-off, and I simply want to say tonight that these changes are, as they are for us all, inevitable, but still difficult, for the individuals, their departments, and this board.

- MINUTES:** It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Taylor to authorize the approval of minutes for March 4, 2008 and the special meeting on March 13, 2008. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ACCOUNTS:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize the approval of all City accounts including the electric department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- CHANGE ORDER:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the change order deduction for Phase II of Oxford Lafayette Fields in the amount of \$105,882.80. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ASHWORTH COMMONS:** Tim Akers came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to discuss the appeal by Ashworth Commons of the Planning Commission decision regarding the denial of a site plan for property located on the northwest corner of Anderson and Anchorage Roads. The applicant has agreed to comply with the new tree mitigation ordinance which was not in effect at the time of their site plan.
- It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Taylor to accept the site plan with the new provisions and landscape plan as presented to the board of aldermen tonight and approved by the Planning Department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- RECYCLING BINS BID:** It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Howell to reject the bids received for the recycling bins and to readvertise. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to approve the request to forward local and private bill to legislature reauthorizing the City's contribution to Economic Development in the amount of \$55,000.00 a year

for four years. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

- CODE OF ORDINANCES:** This was the second reading and public hearing of the ordinance adopting the new code of ordinances. The third reading and vote will be at the next meeting.
- ARKANSAS PROPERTY:** Pope Mallette came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to report on the Arkansas property owned by the City. The lawsuit has been dropped by the people claiming rights to the land. The next step, assuming the board declared it surplus property, is to either advertise for the sale of the property or get three appraisals.
- TRANSIT BUSES:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the purchase of six transit buses for LOU Transit on state contract. The cost of the buses is \$393,014.00. MDOT will pay for eighty percent of the cost and the other twenty percent, \$78,603.00, will be divided between the three entities, the City, the County and the University. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:** This was the first reading of the proposed ordinance change to the Land Development Code regulating the use of accessory structures. The public hearing and second reading will be at the next board meeting.
- PARKING ANALYSIS:** Tim Akers came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to request permission for Mayor Howorth to sign the contract with Carol Walker, Inc. for a parking analysis site visit in the amount not to exceed \$1,700.00. The aldermen discussed the contract and decided to wait and work on other parking options first.
- SCANNING DOCUMENTS:** It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize Mayor Howorth to sign contract with Medir Government Solutions for scanning of Planning Commission documents in the amount not to exceed \$11,300.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- GROVE HILLS PHASE I:** It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Howell to accept the maintenance of water, sewer and streets of Grove Hills Phase I on Molly Barr Road. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- FARMER'S MARKET:** It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize Mayor Howorth to pursue grant application for a farmer's market building. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

- CDBG GRANT:** It was moved by Aldermen Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2008 CDBG Public Hearing. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- TRANSFER STATION:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to increase the tipping fee at the Oxford Transfer Station from \$33.20 to \$35.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- FIREWORKS:** It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize up to \$4,000.00 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- FIRE CHIEF RETIREMENT:** Oxford Fire Chief, Jerry Johnson, came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to discuss his plans for retirement. He expects his official retirement date to be May 31, 2008. He will submit a formal letter at a later date.
- NNDDA NATIONAL K-9 CONFERENCE:** It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize one officer to attend the NNDDA National K-9 Conference and training in Jackson, MS on March 31-April 4, 2008 with a cost of \$875.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- RESIGNATION:** It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Howell to authorize the resignation of Eric Woodall in the Solid Waste Department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ADVERTISE:** It was moved Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Taylor to authorize the advertisement for a laborer in the Solid Waste Department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- AGENDA ITEM:** It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Fisher to add as agenda item number twenty-nine, "Accept resignation of Ray Sockwell". All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ADVERTISE:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Taylor to approve the internal advertisement for a full time police patrol captain. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

- EXECUTIVE SESSION:** It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Howell to consider executive session for personnel issue. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Antonow to go into executive session. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- REGULAR SESSION:** It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Antonow to go into regular session. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- DEMOTION:** It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Antonow to affirm the previous decision of the demotion in the Oxford Fire Department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- DISCIPLINARY ACTION:** It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Antonow to accept the recommendation of the Human Resource Director regarding disciplinary action of two Solid Waste Employees. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- PROMOTION:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the promotion of Joey Gardner from Lieutenant to Captain in the Fire Department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- RESIGNATION:** It was moved by Alderman Fiserh, seconded by Alderman Oliver to accept the resignation of Ray Sockwell effective January 1, 2008. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ADJOURN:** It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Patterson to adjourn the meeting sine-die. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

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Richard Howorth, Mayor

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Lisa Carwyle, City Clerk

