

May 20, 2024

The Town Council of the Town of Oxford met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 2024. Rusty Hoaks, Jim Deckard, Tina Coffman, Terry Zink, and Larry Barnard were present. Town employees and department heads present included Clerk-Treasurer, Deanna Sutherlin, Training Clerk Linda Ralston, Utility Clerk Hope Dunning, Assistant Superintendent Kurt Lord, John Stone from the Utility Department and Marshal Aaron May. Guests included Richard Burton, Sharon Barnard, Ana Horn, Tina Porter, Karen Barnard, Shirley Johnson, Don Johnson, Kathie Cox, Reagan Hall, Shirley Zink, Brandi Muller, Dale Muller.

Hoaks opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Meeting Minutes from Regular Session May 6th 2024 were presented and Meeting Minutes from Special Session May 13th 2024 were presented. Coffman motioned to approve the minutes, Barnard seconded, no one opposed.

Clerk's Report: Claims were submitted to the board for approval. Coffman motioned to approve the claims, Zink seconded the motion. All approved. No one opposed. The 2024 Budget was presented, Barnard motioned to approve and Deckard seconded the motion, no one opposed. The following transfers of funds were requested to move funds to the appropriate accounts:

Transfer from Water BAN Fund to Water Operation \$227,327.63

Transfer from WWT Operating to Water BAN Fund \$58,621.35

Transfer from Water BAN Fund to General Fund \$58,621.35

Coffman motioned to approve transfers, Deckard seconded the motion, no one opposed.

Tina Porter was hired as the Deputy Clerk and will begin working for the Town of Oxford on June 3, 2024.

Clerk submitted estimates for new laptops. New laptops are needed to the Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Town Marshal, and 5 board members. Coffman motioned to approve purchase of 8 laptops, Deckard seconded the motion, no one opposed.

Utility Clerk's Report: No updates at this time.

Superintendent Report: Assistant Superintendent Kurt Lord presented and stated he is ordering a new pump for the splash pad and if that works then the splash pad will be up and running close to Memorial Day. Lord reported that the two new utility workers are learning quickly and doing well. Lord gave an update on the sewer project for the Saltzman residence. Lord stated the anticipated completion date will be the end of the month of May. Lord also asked the board if utility laborer John Stone's wages could be raised to competitive pay. The board proposed \$17 an hour for Stone. Hoaks motioned to approve, and Coffman seconded the motion, no one was opposed. Lord presented an updated mowing list, Barnard motioned to approve, and Deckard seconded the motion. No one opposed. Coffman proposed a motion to purchase a new utility buggy and to pay for it out of the water and wastewater utility funds. Coffman motioned to approve and Deckard seconded the motion. No one opposed.

Marshal Report: The board proposed on the 2024 budget for Town Marshal Aaron May's salary to increase to \$61,000 base pay. Coffman motioned to approve, and Deckard seconded the motion, no one opposed. The board gave Town Marshal May approval to hire a Deputy Marshal. There was a discussion regarding children playing basketball in the streets. May gave an update regarding a crew came in and looked at the old schoolhouse to plan to remove the asbestos before tearing the building down.

Fire Dept. Report: No one from the fire department was present.

New, Outside Business Guests, Oxford Citizens & Business Guests: Coffman presented a plan to work with the Discover Oxford group to create a Park Board and the need for community involvement in the Park Board. Don and Shirley Johnson stated that they have a 6-person committee ready to begin working towards a park board and planning on where to start. Shirley suggested that the park board begin with Old Academy Park. Shirley Johnson says she plans to work with Park Designers to come up with ideas. Discussion ensued about possible park rejuvenation options such as new equipment, walking trails, etc and that a five-year plan would be developed. Discussion regarding funding, grants, 501c's etc. was brought up for consideration when developing the five-year plan and how that money will be allocated. Deckard

stated he will speak to the town attorney regarding the town's participation in helping to set up a park board. A park ordinance would also need to be written by the town attorney.

New, Outside Business Guests, Oxford Citizens & Business Guests continued: Cecil Krebs announced at the town meeting that the Oxford Federated Church will be closing at the end of 2024 and would like to donate the building to the town. A discussion regarding the possible uses for the building by the town took place. The board decided they will discuss this more in the future.

Old Business: Richard Burton brought up the large turn out for last weekend's BBQ Cook Off at the Town Square and that he feels that Discover Oxford is doing a great job in rejuvenating Oxford and getting the community involved in town events again.

Coffman thanked Linda Ralston for all she has done for the town during the transition of Clerks. Coffman announced the board would like to give Ralston her two weeks' notice and will also discuss a bonus for Ralston's help over the past year with getting the billing for the water bills caught back up and for the all the training Ralston has done with the new Clerk-Treasurer and Utility Clerk.

Around the table concerns: N/A

Coffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Deckard. Upon a roll call vote, there were five affirmatives and no negatives. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

The next regular Town Council meeting is Monday, June 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Oxford Town Hall. The public is welcome and invited to attend.

Submitted by Deanna Sutherlin
DEANNA SUTHERLIN, CLERK-TREASURER

Approved by RJ M
RUSSELL HOAKS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT/JIM DECKARD, VICE

Date Approved May 20, 2024