

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE

CITY OF OXFORD

REGULAR MEETING

April 1, 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, April 1, 2008, in the court room of City Hall when and where the following were present:

Richard Howorth – Mayor
 Pat Patterson – Alderman Ward I
 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
 Hugh Stump – Dir of Oxford Conference Center

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:

Board Report 04 01 08

The two Pathways consultants, who spent three days in Oxford, provided some useful information to commission members, our own engineers, MDOT officials and citizens, all of which will be very helpful in using our Phase II project resources more efficiently, and in making Oxford and more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community.

One of their preliminary recommendations is to bike-lane, which means to three-lane to automobile traffic, University Avenue – something I will not recommend to the board unless Neel Schaffer and our own engineers advise me to do.

Construction began today on University Avenue street/ sidewalk/ utilities rehab and relocation project. We also met today with AT & T officials about their participation in this project, and I am more confident of this possibility, which may occur in conjunction with our work, than I had been in previous meetings with the board.

The compensation committee met March 27. I have no idea what they discussed, but want the board to know they are at work.

Chief Martin brought Josh Downs of End-to-End to meet yesterday and explain their delay on filling our order for parking ticket technology, which is now months overdue. I will spare the details, only to relate that he said he would have a work agreement sometime this week to provide the service within 60 days, which will have to be acceptable unless the board instructs otherwise.

The Mississippi Hills Cultural Heritage meeting last week seemed to prove beneficial, and I am glad the group was able to meet at the Oxford Conference Center.

We have had a couple of staff meetings lately to discuss planning and management of Oxford-Lafayette Fields. Fairly soon I believe we will need to hire a turf specialist/maintenance director, so we have met with Kleb, then Randy Russell and Billy Lamb, to knock around ideas related to the possibility of combining mowing and maintenance labor and equipment. We want to be sure to avoid a cost redundancy. We also need to be patient in our discussions about how this new facility is managed and its relationship to the Oxford Park Commission, and I believe some of our board will need to meet with OPC counterparts soon to pursue this matter.

The presidential debate committee met this morning and continues to make plans for the community during the September debate. One of the things they are suggesting is to join onto the University's banner display by having "Welcome to Oxford" banners in the city which incorporate the debate logo. They are exploring banner sponsorships to offset the banner costs.

A public forum will be held at Oxford High School this Thursday evening at 7:00pm for an open discussion regarding reports and speculation on so-called gang activity in our schools. Metro-Narcotics Commander Searn Lynch, Chief Mike Martin, and School Resource Officers' Captain Phillip Zampella will be present along with school officials Brian Harvey, Charles Dotson and Ulysses Howell. We encourage parents, children, and interested citizens to come to this open session.

This concludes my report.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Taylor to authorize the approval of minutes for March 18, 2008 and the special meeting on March 25, 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.

PROCLAMATION:

It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Taylor to adopt the following proclamation declaring Jr. Auxiliary Week. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

PROCLAMATION:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Fisher to adopt the following resolution declaring May as Bike Month. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

BISC GRANT:

Megan Taylor came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to discuss the BISC Grant. The City received an earmark and is required to fill out the grant information to receive the money. This is for the City and University to jointly initiate a program for young adults that do not attend the University of Mississippi similar to the BASICS program that is available to University of Mississippi students.

**COUNTY TAX
COLLECTION:**

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize Mayor Howorth to sign the contract with the County regarding the collection of motor vehicle and motor home tax. All the aldermen present voting aye, with reluctance, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

Alderman Fisher recused himself from the meeting at this time.

FNC PARKING LEASE:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Baker to authorize Mayor Howorth to sign the lease agreement with FNC for the leasing of parking spaces and naming rights to the park across from FNC. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

Alderman Fisher returned to the meeting at this time.

ORDINANCE 2008-3:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to adopt Ordinance 2008-3, "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE FOR THE CITY OF OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE; AND PROVIDING WHEN SUCH CODE AND THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE." Said Ordinance is recorded in Book No. 7 of the City of Oxford Code of Ordinances. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

OXFORD CONVENTION
AND VISITOR'S BUREAU:

It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Patterson to accept the audit of the Oxford Convention and Visitor's Bureau. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

ELI MANNING AND PATRICK
WILLIS DAY:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Taylor to adopt the following proclamation declaring April 12, 2008 as Eli Manning and Patrick Willis Day. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

LOU TRANSIT:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to amend the budget for FY 2008-2009 Section 5311 Rural General Public Program grant application to the Mississippi Department of Transportation to include a handicap bus pending recommendation from the Board of Supervisors and the University of Mississippi. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Fisher to allow for a per diem to be paid to the LOU Transit Authority members, pending approval of the Board of Supervisors and the University. The vote was as follows:

Voting Aye – Patterson and Fisher

Voting No- Baker, Howell, Taylor and Antonow

Mayor Howorth declared the motion failed.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURES:

This was the second reading and public hearing of a proposed ordinance change relating to the use of accessory structures. Mr. Jeff Astir came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to voice his support of the proposed ordinance. Mrs. Laura Bradley also came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen in support of the proposed ordinance. The third reading and vote will be at the next board meeting.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize Mayor Howorth to sign the contract between the City of Oxford and the University of Mississippi for the non-infrastructure portion of the Safe Routes to School grant program in the amount of \$35,000.00. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

TRAINING:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Howell to authorize one electric department employee to attend training at Pickwick State Park with a cost of \$73.00. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

**OXFORD SUBSTATION
BIDS:**

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to accept the low bid from Aubrey Silvey in the amount of \$985,000.00 for the rebuild of Oxford Substation. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

QUARTERLY REPORT:

Randy Barber, Director of the Building Department, came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to present the quarterly report for the Building Department.

TRAVEL:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the travel of Mike Hill to Vicksburg in the amount of \$343.00. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

MAJOR INCIDENT PLANNING:

It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize three employees to attend Major Incident Planning, School Shootings

on June 1-5, 2008 in Lawrenceburg, TN with a cost of \$1,326.92. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

K9 TRAINING:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize the travel of Sean Eylar and Kevin Houston to attend K9 training in Cleveland MS on April 7-10, 2008 with a cost of \$240.00. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

K9:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to accept the retirement of K9 Breston and replace with K9 Major. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

TAXI DRIVER:

It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Taylor to approve Sallie Brown as a taxi driver. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

TAXI DRIVER:

It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Antonow to approve Ricky Surrette as a taxi driver. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

RESERVE:

It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Antonow to approve Chris Harland as a reserve for the Oxford Police Department Reserve Division. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

ANAYLYTICAL TECHNIQUES:

It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Taylor to authorize Mike Moore to attend Training in Analytical Techniques in Columbus, MS on April 15-16, 2008 with a cost of \$135.00. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

TOW POLICY:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize the amendment to the Police Department police-ordered tow policy. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

SOLID WASTE LABORER:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Taylor to approve the employment of Perry Slack as a Solid Waste Laborer with a salary of \$19,288.65. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

TRANSFER:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize the transfer of Greg May from assistant inspector to firefighter/rdo effective June 1, 2008. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

- RETIREMENT:** It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Baker to accept the retirement of Jerry Johnson as Fire Chief, effective May 21, 2008, with regrets. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ADVERTISE:** It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the advertisement of a engineer in the Public Works Department. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION:** It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Patterson to consider executive session for personnel issue and potential litigation. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Howell to go into executive session. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- REGULAR SESSION:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to go into regular session. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- DISCIPLINARY ACTION:** It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Patterson to approve the disciplinary action recommended by the Human Resource Director and Department Head of two employees in the Electric Department. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- SUSPENSION:** It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Patterson to suspend an employee in the Public Works Department without pay for thirty days with the recommendation of the Human Resource Director and Department Head. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ADVERTISE:** It was moved by Alderman Fisher, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the internal advertisement for a Fire Chief. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- ADJOURN:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to adjourn the meeting sine-die. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

