

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF LAFAYETTE

CITY OF OXFORD

REGULAR MEETING

April 15, 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 15, 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
 Mike Hill – Asst Chief of Oxford Fire Dept
 Hugh Stump – Dir of Oxford Conference Center

AGENDA:

It was moved by Alderman Howell seconded by Alderman Fisher 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 15 08

I wish to thank all who attended the forum at Oxford High School on so-called gang activity in Oxford. The large turnout of concerned citizens and the many people who have something to contribute to positive initiatives, and are willing to do so, demonstrate both a great strength of our community as well as a likelihood that real gang problems – violence, drug use, and other criminal and anti-social behavior – will not easily become a problem here. We appreciate Coach Howell, Chief Martin, and the other panel participants, as well as the school's ready participation. I have spoken with Dr. Webb about follow-up and we will communicate further at a later time.

A few meetings ago the board directed me to ask the County and Baptist Hospital to participate in the funding of opticom signals on Hwy 7, which will allow emergency vehicles improved access through these signal locations. The County and the hospital

each have agreed to provide 25 percent of the cost, with the City funding the rest, so we will move forward with the installation.

Last week several aldermen, city staff, historic preservation commission members, and other local preservation advocates attended the two day historic preservation conference sponsored by the Mississippi Historic Trust. The group honored Sen. Thad Cochran and Gov. William Winter for their achievements on behalf of historic preservation, as well as our own Susie Marshall, and the Oxford Lafayette Heritage Trust for its work on the L Q C Lamar house, on the agenda later tonight. Attendees met at the Powerhouse, the Depot, and in this Courtroom, and took walking and bus tours of the city. We are honored to have had this group convene here, as it is indicative of the gains so many here have made over the past several years in the area of historic preservation.

Recently I visited with Will St. Amand, who told me of the Kiwanis Club's effort to purchase a total of 9 Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs), which they eventually will place in all the local school buildings. We commend the Kiwanis Club for their civic goodwill and initiative.

Following the County's vote to withdraw from the proposed LOU Transit project, Tim Akers, Pope Mallette and I met with University officials to determine how it might be feasible to proceed with the project in light of the County's failure. You have a memo from Tim on a proposed reduction that I believe will allow us to start up this project, and I urge the board to exert leadership that will move our community forward, much as it has the past seven years.

MINUTES: It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Baker to authorize the approval of minutes for April 1, 2008. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

ACCOUNTS: It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Howell to authorize the approval of all City accounts including the electric department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

Alderman Fisher recused himself from the meeting at this time.

OXFORD LAFAYETTE
FIELDS:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Baker to accept the \$500,000.00 donation from FNC for the naming rights to Oxford Lafayette Fields. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

Alderman Fisher returned to the meeting at this time.

ARBOR DAY: It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to adopt the following proclamation for Arbor Day. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

- OXFORD HOUSING BOARD:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to appoint Dr. Michael Landon to another term to the Oxford Housing Board. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- SOUTH 13TH STREET:** Charles Walker came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to request the City consider vacating a portion of unopened South 13th Street. The fourth lot south of Johnson Avenue is the lot in question, unopened South 13th runs through the lot. Pope Mallette stated to declare the property surplus the City would need to obtain three appraisals. Mayor Howorth suggested more time to receive advice from counsel and the board will reconsider the request at a later meeting.
- ORDINANCE 2008-4:** It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Patterson to adopt Ordinance 2008-4, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS THAT REGULATE THE USE OF ACCESSORY STRUCTURES, LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI". 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.
- REZONING:** This was the first reading of a proposed rezoning ordinance from Single Family Residential to Multi-Family Residential for property located on Private Road 3086. The public hearing will be at the next board meeting.
- BUILDING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION:** It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize the building official to attend the Building Officials Association Summer Conference in Gulfport, MS on June 8-13, 2008 with a cost of \$842.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- LQC LAMAR HOUSE:** Jim Pryor, representing the Oxford Lafayette Heritage Foundation, came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to discuss the ownership and management of the LQC Lamar House. The Heritage Foundation is requesting the City consider establishing a framework by which the City could take ownership of privately owned historic properties that are to be open to the public for their education and general benefit. There is a need for permanent continuous stewardship of these properties, which include LQC Lamar House, Burns Belfry Building and Cedar Oaks Mansion. They suggest the historic properties be placed under the Oxford Convention and Visitors Bureau.
- The LQC Lamar House is scheduled for dedication on June 8, 2008. There are two easements that the

City will have to accept before the City accepts the LQC Lamar House. It is best to wait until the project is complete before the City accepts the easements.

TRANSIT GRANT:

Tim Akers came before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to discuss the Transit grant. The County has pulled out of the LOU Transit Authority. The City met with the University to discuss ways to resurrect the transit system to go forward without the County participation. Both parties were agreeable to finding a way to proceed with the transit authority. They are looking to reduce the operation budget by ten percent. Mr. Akers has talked to McDonald Transit and recommends a twenty percent cut in the service and a reduction of one vehicle. The authority is working on the logo for the buses and the RFP for the management services.

EMERGENCY MANGEMENT:

It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Fisher to authorize Mayor Howorth to sign the Interlocal Agreement between the City and County regarding Emergency Management. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

CRIME PREVENTION
TRAINING:

It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize one officer to attend Crime Prevention Training on April 21-22, 2008 with a cost of \$60.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

WATER SUPPLY
SHORT COURSE:

It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize one employee to attend the Water Supply Short Course in Starkville, MS on May 19-21, 2008 with a cost of \$410.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

BUILDING & GROUNDS
MAINTENANCE
BUILDING:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to accept the low bid from Southwide construction with the alternate in the amount of \$136,632.80 for the Building & Grounds Maintenance Building. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

RECYCLING BUILDING:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to accept the low bid from Southwide Construction for the Recycling Building with alternates in the amount of \$129,158.45 and to amend the recycling budget by deducting salaries by \$20,000.00 and increasing capital outlay by \$20,000.00. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

THE RETREAT AT WELLSGATE:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to approve the final plat for the Retreat at Wellsgate. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

UNIVERSITY AVENUE:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Oliver to grant permission for the contractor on University Avenue to work after 7:00 p.m. and on Sundays, if needed. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

EL-SOHLY LABORATORIES:

El-Sohly Laboratories, Inc. sent a request for a tax exemption on \$724,617.00 in value for a new building and equipment. The request stated they would create 2-6 new jobs. After discussion the board requested we gather more information regarding a proposed policy and bring it back at a later meeting.

ARKANSAS PROPERTY:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize payment of mileage to the City Clerk for travel to the Arkansas

property. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

- FIRE CHIEF:** It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Patterson to appoint Mike Hill as the new Fire Chief with a salary of \$58,772.86. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- PROMOTION:** It was moved by Alderman Patterson, seconded by Alderman Fisher to approve the promotion of Jamie King to Captain in the Police Department with a salary of \$39,351.52 and to also advertise internally for a lieutenant. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- DISPATCHER:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Antonow to authorize the employment of Howard Schultz as a dispatcher with the Police Department with a salary of \$25,673.19. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- PATROL OFFICERS:** It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Patterson to authorize the employment of Ira Weaver, David Robertson and Johnny Sossaman as police officers with the Police Department. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION:** It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Fisher 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 Antonow, seconded by Alderman Fisher to go into executive session. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- REGULAR SESSION:** It was moved by Alderman Howell, seconded by Alderman Antonow to go into regular session. All the aldermen voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.
- SUSPENSION:** It was moved by Alderman Antonow, seconded by Alderman Oliver to suspend an employee in the Solid Waste Department for ten days without pay with the recommendation of the Human Resource Director and Department Head. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

TERMINATION:

It was moved by Alderman Oliver, seconded by Alderman Patterson to terminate an employee in the Building & Grounds Department upon the recommendation of the Human Resource Director and Department Head. The vote was as follows:

Voting Aye – Baker, Oliver, Patterson
and Fisher

Abstain – Antonow, Taylor and Howell

Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

RECESS:

It was moved by Alderman Baker, seconded by Alderman Fisher to recess the meeting until Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Oxford Park Commission offices. All the aldermen present voting aye, Mayor Howorth declared the motion carried.

Richard Howorth, Mayor

Lisa Carwyle, City Clerk