

COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2021

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commissioners Meeting was held virtually in a Zoom Meeting Room on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6 pm. The public was provided call in information for the purpose of listening, watching, and participating in the meeting, notice of which was posted on the bulletin board and the town website. President Pepe called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Attending the meeting were Commission President John Pepe, Commissioner Gordon Fronk, Commissioner James Jaramillo, Police Chief Pat Maxwell, Public Works WW Superintendent Matt Ozman, Town Manager Cheryl Lewis, and Town Attorney Lyndsey Ryan. Multiple residents, including Brian and Julie Wells, Tom Bixler, Jane McCarthy, Phyllis Rambo, Dale Benson, and others were in attendance.

Commissioner Fronk led a prayer in memory of former Commissioner, neighbor, and dear friend, Carole Abruzzese's recent passing. The service will be held this week with a reception to follow at the OCC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Jaramillo motioned to approve the April 13, 2021 meeting minutes, Commissioner Fronk seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Fronk motioned to file the March 2021 report of disbursements for audit, Commissioner Jaramillo seconded the motioned, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Matt Ozman, WW Supervisor, provided the following: Public works has started ditch cleaning on JL Thompson Drive from Riverview to East Pier St. Public works has cleaned out Caroline Street ditch of all debris. The grant funded stormwater Project at the Baseball field, along with the ditch modifications at Market and Pier St. are stabilized and nearing 100 percent completion, awaiting some final planting. The main lift station transfer switch 1 month inspection was completed and is performing normally. Inspection was done by vendor Kirshner Environmental. Public works jetted out sewer mains on Mill Street and Pork Alley per routine maintenance program. Over the weekend Ozman was alerted for a power outage on Saturday night by Chief Maxwell. This was a down power line on Market Street that knocked out power to Banks's lift station, on call employee responded to check out lift station operation, and water tower #1 communications. Public Works is continuing to work through the operations of the new WWTP system.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Patrick Maxwell gave a brief update for the Police Department: It has been busy with the nice weather, especially at the newly opened businesses and park/beach areas. Chief and Commissioner Jaramillo delivered ice cream to the Talbot County 911 Center, in support of their efforts, provided by the Town Commissioners and the Oxford Police Department. Officer Phillips completed additional training this past month. Commissioner Pepe inquired as to when the speed trailer would be set up for the season. Maxwell stated it was being charged and he would be starting with placement at the town park. Pepe also stated the Ferry would back in service in the coming week.

FIRE COMPANY

Report for the period 3/24/2021 thru 4/27/2021, as provided by Chief Graham Norbury: Fire/Rescue: 11 total calls, 4 in first-due area, 7 mutual aid. Of these calls, 1 was a working fire and most others were minor in nature, 145 miles traveled, 62 member responses, 30 hours worked. Medical: 19 total calls,

13 patients transported and 6 citizens assisted (i.e. lift-assists, accidental medical alarm activations), 266 miles traveled, 79 member responses and 75 hours worked.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Pepe expressed appreciation for the time and effort that Town Manager Lewis has put into the Beach Strand Coastal Resilience effort, a cutting edge project to be implemented for the sustainability of the Beach and protection of the Strand infrastructure from sea level rise, storm damage and tidal erosion. He stated that he felt the worse thing the town could do, would be to do nothing. With the funding assistance from state and federal entities, the town would be taking proactive steps and if the project works at 50%, we will be 50% ahead of the game. If nothing else, we will stabilize the beach and possibly increase the beach area over time. Commissioner Jaramillo agreed and motioned that the Commissioners move forward with the current Beach Strand Coastal Resilience design. Fronk seconded the motion and stated his appreciation for Lewis's knowledge of and ability to articulate the process for the development of this concept. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Lewis informed the Commissioners that in working with the OCC, a plan had been developed to auction off the three abandoned boats and trailers currently housed at the Public Works facility, where they can be viewed through the fence. The OCC will be setting up online bidding for the boats prior to the live auction date of May 22, 2021. Pre bids and proxy bids can be placed in advance of the auction. Commissioner Pepe and Captain Tom Bixler will then auction the boats live on Facebook. There will also be limited reserve seating at the OCC. The results of the auction will be formalized at the Commissioner's May 25, 2021 regular meeting. Proceeds from the auction will be placed in the R Gordon Graves Scholarship Fund for future community service scholarships.

President Pepe inquired as to the progress on re-stripping of the trailer parking. Lewis stated that the work is scheduled and as requested by resident Toby Frey, several spaces will be identified near the water tower as trailer parking only.

NEW BUSINESS

Attorney Ryan explained that Ordinances 2102 through 2106 would bring the town's currently enforced building codes from the 2016 version to the 2021 versions produced by the International Code Council: Ordinance 2102 – 2021 International Building Code; Ordinance 2103 – 2021 International Residential Code; Ordinance 2104 – 2021 International Energy Conservation Code; Ordinance 2105 – 2021 International Existing Building Code; and Ordinance 2106 – 2021 International Property Maintenance Code. Ryan stated that the adopting ordinance for each of these codes includes adaptive language to align with the town's processes and standards, board of appeals, grass heights, etc., Titles for each ordinance were read into the record:

Ordinance 2102 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, AS MODIFIED BY THE MARYLAND BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY THIS ORDINANCE, AS THE BUILDING CODE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH

Ordinance 2103 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD TO ADOPT THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE FOR ONE-AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS, AS MODIFIED BY THE MARYLAND BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY THIS ORDINANCE, AS THE RESIDENTIAL CODE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH

Ordinance 2104 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE, AS MODIFIED BY THE MARYLAND BUILDING

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY THIS ORDINANCE, AS THE ENERGY CONSERVATION CODE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH

Ordinance 2105 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE, AS AMENDED BY THIS ORDINANCE, AS THE EXISTING BUILDING CODE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH

Ordinance 2106 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, AS AMENDED BY THIS ORDINANCE, AS THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE OF THE TOWN OF OXFORD, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH

Commissioner Fronk motioned to introduce Ordinances 2102 through 2106 as read, Commissioner Jaramillo seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion carried. The ordinances will be available on the town website and a public hearing will be held at the regular Commissioners meeting on May 25, 2021 at 6 pm.

LETTERS AND REQUEST

None presented.

ATTORNEY

No further business was presented.

TOWN MANAGER

Lewis provided a brief update on current CDC COVID recommendations.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Fronk complimented the assistance he recently received from the Public Works staff.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Julie Wells expressed her enthusiasm for the Slippery Eel skiff that has recently been returned and reconditioned by Commissioner Pepe and Captain Bixler.

Being no further business, Commissioner Jaramillo motioned to close the meeting, Commissioner Fronk seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Lewis, Town Manager