

**CITY OF LYNDON
CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016**

The Caucus Meeting was called to order by Susan Barto at 6:00 p.m. Those present: Jim Baker, Betsy Kramer, Kelly Kramer, Carla Nalley, Becky Ricketts, Cathy Robertson, Mardy Sidebottom and City Attorney, John Singler. Chief Throneberry from Graymoor-Devondale Police Department and a several guest were also present.

Mayor Barto began by calling on Dr. Mark Weber to speak who is a resident on Oxford Woods Ct. He was upset that the City did not communicate the installation of the fence at Romara Place with homeowners. He stated he was offended and felt the City wasted money.

Oleg Sayakov, also homeowner of Oxford Woods, recently replaced his privacy fence and because of fence at Romara he cannot have it sealed because they cannot get behind it. He also feels City wasted his tax money. He asked why it was approved. The Mayor informed him a few years ago in an initial meeting with HOA a fence was brought up but the homeowners did not want the fence so it was agreed to try a berm. Holly trees were then planted then someone began cutting tree branches back to create a pass through. The City doesn't know who did this but security cameras are going to be installed to solve problems such as these and other vandalism taking place. The Mayor also mentioned during at least one event at Romara, those who reserved the park facility didn't have enough parking spaces in the lot provided because it was full. The renters had to park in the grass. Mr. Sayakov felt there should be a different way to resolve an issue other than installing a fence. The Mayor stated it was discussed in previous meetings that protection for both sides was the main focus therefore a fence was installed. Mayor Barto also explained it was a unanimous council decision to install the fence.

Betty Weber asked why neighbors are not informed of events taking place. The Mayor told her events are listed on our website. The City does not personally inform neighboring streets of any event in Robsion or Romara. Further discussion was taken place regarding parking.

Council Member, Cathy Robertson spoke up, saying she believes the City has been a good neighbor to Oxford Wood. On several occasions, the City has moved events from Romara to Robsion Park to be mindful of neighbors. Also, the City has closed Oxford Woods Ct., without being required to do so, to keep motorists from parking on their street during city events at Romara. Further discussion was held. Mr. Sayakov said he feels the fence was retaliation on their neighborhood with Ms. Weber agreeing. Council member Carla Nalley said that was not the intent and she was sorry they felt that way. She mentioned her daughter and son-in-law live next to Robsion Park and would welcome a fence at Robsion. She defended her decision on the fence because the berm of trees obviously did not work. Mr. Sayakov continued to question the intent.

Mr. Sayakov accused the City of having closed meetings. Several council members spoke up and said all meeting are open to the public, inviting them to come to future meetings. Dr. Weber voiced it was ridiculous that he should have to come to all meetings to make sure the City doesn't pass something to hinder the best interest of his neighborhood. Further discussion was held.

Eric Knapp, president of Oxford Woods HOA, believed the fence looked nice although he wished for more communication with the HOA to try and resolve the issue together to avoid having two fences next to each other. He said he is embarrassed by the actions of some of the neighbors, including vandalizing trees and the new fence.

Bill Brooks, who lives on Oxford Woods bordering Romara and is on HOA board, commented he has a gate but uses the front entrance to Romara when he visits. He asked for clarification of what is being rented, the facility or the whole park. The Mayor answered his question saying that the facility is reserved and the park is still open to public. He wished City would've communicated better with HOA on the reasons to put up new fence so they could answer their residents when questioned.

Betsy Kramer said the fence was not put up to punish anyone and the issue with the kids pool on the park property was brought up. Ms. Weber stated she was the one who had the pool out on a few occasions. It was brought to her attention the liability of the City having that on the property. Ms. Weber said when she was approached by a city maintenance person she took it down immediately. The lack of communication was once again discussed.

The same points were repeated over and over. Mr. Sayakov asked for the fence to be taken down.

Rob Gwaltney, resident of Oxford Woods on west side, informed council when he moved in the HOA told him he could not have a gate in his fence. He also said he would've like to have known about the fence installation along with everyone else and that all sides of Romara should have a fence as well to treat everyone equally.

Eileen Muench, 8406 Oxford Woods, inquired if they took their fences down wouldn't it be a bigger liability? The Mayor said in her opinion once City installs surveillance cameras it would not be a bigger liability.

City Attorney John Singler explained that all those who want to speak have stated their concerns and the city council will move on to other items on the agenda. Mr. Sayakov then demanded to remove the fence. The Mayor explained the council must discuss at a Caucus meeting. Discussion was held. Mr. Singler then asked if any council member would like to put removing fence on agenda for Monday. No council member voted to do so. Mr. Sayakov said it was bureaucracy. Mr. Singler explained that it was a unanimous vote to install the fence and the council doesn't wish to discuss it any longer. Betsy Kramer spoke up and said she would like to discuss it further at the next Caucus. The Mayor stated it will be further discussed at October Caucus Meeting.

The council moved on to opening the snow removal bids. As Mr. Singler was opening bids Mr. Sayakov approached and continued to talk about the fence issues, getting into personal spaces and interrupting. Mr. Singler asked him to back up. Mr. Sayakov tried to video conversation saying he was being talked to rudely. Mr. Singler explained to him he was out of order and the council was moving on to other topics.

Mr. Singler read off the bids from GMP and Brownsboro Lawncare. Approval will be on agenda for next Monday night.

Mayor Barto talked about the concert last Sunday with "Take Two & Co." and she listed the items on the agenda for Monday.

Discussions were held regarding getting quotes for surveillance cameras and a petition received by Wood Rd. property owners for speed humps. The list will be looked over to validate 75% approval by property owners. Once that is determined the City Engineer will do a traffic study. The Mayor also reported the Benjamin road closure is in process and will take about 3 more months.

Cathy Robertson inquired about the timeline of two cd's. The Mayor told her one was 12 months and the other was 18 months. The Mayor also told her a program through KLC is working with City to get better interest rates.


Ms. Robertson also reported neighbors have approached her about two issues. One, the cars parked at the corner of Ormsby and Lagrange Rd. Chief Throneberry of Graymoor-Devondale Police stated he has talked to Partridge Meadows and was supposed to hear back from them after they researched it. He mentioned to them about putting up "No Parking" signs and will visit them again. The second issue is whether the City was going to pave the other sections of partially paved roads. The Mayor explained the paving project is done for this year. The engineer inspects roads every year to determine if they are structurally sound.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.



Susan Barto, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stacey Woodward, City Clerk