

**City of Xenia  
City Council Meeting Minutes  
August 14, 2003  
Executive Session  
6:00 p.m.**

The Xenia City Council met on August 14, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, with the following members present: Dr. Lee G. Esprit, Jr., Patricia L. Felton, Dr. Eric V.A. Winston, William R. Miller, Lawrence W. Gordon, John T. Saraga and Phyllis A. Pennewitt.

Motion by Vice President Esprit, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to go into an executive session to discuss Personnel Matters and Labor Negotiations. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

The City Council convened in executive session in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall, with the same members present. They discussed Personnel Matters - Labor Negotiations.

**Regular Session  
7:00 p.m.**

The City Council reconvened in regular session on August 14, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, with the following members present: Dr. Lee G. Esprit, Jr., Patricia L. Felton, Dr. Eric V.A. Winston, William R. Miller, Lawrence W. Gordon, John T. Saraga and Phyllis A. Pennewitt.

Pastor Anna Brooks, AHOP, gave the invocation after which all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Councilman Gordon, seconded by Vice President Esprit, that the July 17, 2003, meeting minutes be approved as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Winston, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Abstain: Felton, Miller  
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Mayor Saraga, seconded by Councilman Winston, that the July 24, 2003, meeting minutes be approved as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Felton, Winston, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Abstain: Esprit, Miller  
Nays: None motion carried.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS.** Mr. O'Neal Williams, Lexington Avenue, commented on the length of time it takes for police officers to respond to his calls. President Pennewitt asked the City Manager if he would like to respond. Mr. Percival said he would like to speak with the Chief of Police regarding the issue before making any comments. He added this was the first he has heard of the problem. He then asked Mr. Williams for his telephone number so he could contact him in the future.

Mayor Saraga believed Mr. Williams' problem was a result of a communication challenge. He added that the police officers visit the area of Lexington Park, especially after dark, approximately every 20 minutes. He appreciated Mr. Williams' comments.

Councilman Gordon said he had heard from others that the police department's response times were lengthy in that area, and he had already planned on discussing the issue with the City Manager on Monday. He assured Mr. Williams that the matter would be taken care of.

Councilman Winston said Mr. Williams referred to other people that have problems with the Police Department. He would like the City Manager to speak with Mr. Williams and the other residents that have experienced problems at the same time to get the problems resolved.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.**

•**Traffic Commission.** Councilwoman Felton said she has received several letters of interest to fill the vacancy on the Traffic Commission. She has chosen Helen Jo Noval, a lifelong resident of Xenia, to fill the vacancy. Ms. Noval has signed both the Memorandum of Understanding and the Authority to Release Information. She added that the background check by the Police Department had not been received to date.

Motion by Councilwoman Felton, seconded by Councilman Gordon, approving the appointment of Helen Jo Noval to the Xenia Traffic Commission, the term expiring January 8, 2005, pending the receipt of a satisfactory background check. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

•**Greene County Regional Planning Commission.** Councilwoman Felton reported the last meeting of the Greene County Regional Planning Commission was held in July, which she has already reported on.

•**Board of Zoning Appeals.** President Pennewitt reported two hearings were held on July 28, 2003. One variance request was for the property at 124 West Main Street (Kentucky Fried Chicken), which was approved for an additional wall sign. However, a smaller version of the sign was approved and not the originally requested size.

The second variance request was for the property at 100 Country Club Drive (Faith Community United Methodist Church). Two requests were reviewed: one for an exit sign, which was approved, and the second for an additional sign, which was denied. She reported the Church would be bringing back a modified additional sign variance request in August. As she is a member of the church, she declared a conflict of interest at the meeting and did not participate in the discussion, nor did she vote to break the tie. Due to her conflict of interest, she has asked Councilman Winston to preside over the church's hearing at their August meeting.

Councilman Gordon asked the anticipated opening date of the Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC). Councilman Winston said the restaurant should be ready to open in November, as they gave a three-month construction period. The plan includes tearing down the entire building, rebuilding the KFC, and combining the parking lots of KFC and Fifth-Third Bank.

Jim Percival informed Council that the former Ziebart building has been torn down at the corner of Columbus and Main. He said new footers are under construction, and a Dollar General store will be built there.

**REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR.** Mayor Saraga provided an overview of two events that would be forthcoming concerning the Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities (BRACA). One item is BRACA's Vice-Chair, Larry Williamson, resigned at their August 12, 2003, meeting. Mayor Saraga said he will be bringing forward a request to seek additional Board members. The second item is concerning the upgrade to Lexington Park. They have been working for quite some time on this item, and BRACA recommended approval of the proposed upgrade. Staff will be bringing it forward to City Council.

Mayor Saraga said several businesses in Xenia are suffering due to the construction on South Detroit Street. He has witnessed that the construction crew has not been working every day. Furthermore, he was told by ODOT that the bridge would be done by the end of September. He would like the bridge to be completed as soon as possible, and he would like the construction crew to work every day. He asked the residents of Xenia to patronize these businesses. In addition, he asked the residents not to vent their frustrations to City workers, as it is not a City project. Mr. Percival has asked that "Business Open" signs be made and installed so drivers know that the businesses are open.

**Collective Bargaining Agreement - I.A.F.F. Representing the Xenia Firefighters, Fire Lieutenants, and Fire Captains.** Motion by Mayor Saraga, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Xenia Firefighters, Fire Lieutenants, and Fire Captains, I.A.F.F., and wage increase retroactive to February 16, 2003, and upon notification of union ratification, authorize the City Manager to execute the contract. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes:           Esprit, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays:           Felton                    motion carried.

Vice President Esprit attended the Community Housing Improvement Strategy (CHIS) meeting that afternoon and distributed information to members of Council regarding this initiative. He provided a brief overview of the meeting, and reported that the group established the following priorities: emergency shelters and low-income rental housing. Vice President Esprit said he would appreciate feedback from members of Council before CHIS' next meeting so he could express City Council's point of view.

Mr. Percival said the Community Development Director also attends the CHIS meetings, and she would like to work very closely with Vice President Esprit and members of Council on this initiative. President Pennewitt said she is also closely involved and usually attends the CHIS meetings; however, she was unable to attend today's meeting.

Councilman Gordon said he appreciates the work his fellow Council members are devoting to the CHIS initiative. He feels they should discuss it in further detail at an upcoming work session. President Pennewitt agreed.

**•MVRPC Reorganization.** Motion by Councilman Winston, seconded by Councilman Miller, that the Xenia City Council support the reorganization of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. Discussion followed.

Councilman Winston said as a result of MVRPC's Strategic Plan, P. Michael Robinette, Executive Director of MVRPC, has made recommendations to the MVRPC organization that it be reorganized so that the Transportation Coordinating Committee and MVRPC itself will be merged into one body. That body will then be the agency that represents the transportation and economic development interests of this area.

Councilman Gordon asked if there was any mention of salaries and bonuses in the reorganization. Councilman Winston said the reorganization focuses on the organization itself and has nothing to do with salaries, etc. Councilman Gordon said at some point, he would like Council to discuss the salaries, bonus package, etc.

Vice President Esprit asked if non-governmental bodies would have a vote after the reorganization. Councilman Winston said Mr. Robinette provided Council with additional information following their August 9, 2003, special session. That information clearly shows a decrease in the number of non-governmental votes after the reorganization. Mr. Percival said the information shows there will be one non-governmental vote to every three governmental votes. When weighted voting is used, the governmental representatives' voting is based on population, but there is no change to the number of non-governmental votes. Councilman Winston further explained that the current non-governmental weighted vote is 3.8 percent; under the proposed guideline, the non-governmental weighted vote is reduced to 2.9 percent.

Councilwoman Felton said she could not support the MVRPC changes due to the non-governmental votes, non-governmental seats on the Executive Committee, etc.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: Esprit, Felton motion carried.

## REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES

### City Manager's Office

**Emergency Appropriation Ordinance for Award of Contract--Sidewalk Replacement.**  
Mr. Percival said on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, the City Clerk's Office and the Engineering Department opened bids for the subject project in the City Council Chambers at 2:00 p.m. The lowest and best bid was received from R. B. Jergens Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$207,811. After the bids were received, it was determined there was a portion of walk on Home Avenue recently installed that does not need to be replaced. Therefore, approximately 1,925 square feet of sidewalk replacement was eliminated, reducing the contract price to \$194,721. Construction is set to begin on or around August 25, 2003, and continue for approximately 1 to 1½ months.

There is \$185,000 budgeted in 601-5352-3223 CDBG/Revolving Loan Fund for the Home Avenue sidewalk construction project. An appropriation of an additional \$1,858 is needed for this portion of the contract. The remaining portion of the contract (\$7,863) involves replacing some curb and gutter along Bellbrook Avenue. The funds for that work will come out of 665-1332-3290 Sewer Maintenance.

He respectfully requested passage of the attached ordinance as an emergency, appropriating \$1,858 for the Home Avenue sidewalk project in 601-5352-3223 and a motion awarding the contract for Sidewalk Replacement - Home Avenue to R.B. Jergens of Vandalia, Ohio, in the amount of \$194,721 and authorize the City Manager to execute same. The reason for the emergency is to allow for the construction to start as early as possible.

Councilman Winston presented ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 03-04 TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilman Winston, seconded by Councilman Miller, that the rules requiring the reading of an ordinance at two consecutive meetings be dispensed with and this ordinance be placed at once upon its passage. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Winston, seconded by Councilman Miller, that Ordinance Number 03-38 be now passed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Vice President Esprit, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to award the contract for Sidewalk Replacement - Home Avenue to R.B. Jergens of Vandalia, Ohio, in the amount of \$194,721 and to authorize the City Manager to execute same. Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Felton said there was already a mess in that area due to other construction, and the property owners have been inconvenienced for quite some time. She felt this project should be done while the road is already being blocked off for the bridge project. Ms. Warner said construction will start by the end of August. Mr. Percival said this project will be done in conjunction with the bridge project.

Mayor Saraga asked if this project included both curbs and sidewalks. Mr. Percival said this project includes sidewalks, driveway approaches, and some curb retrofit, but not a significant amount. Councilwoman Felton said sidewalks are included, except for new sidewalks that do not need to be replaced. Mr. Percival agreed.

President Pennewitt said several homes on Home Avenue just before Monroe Street do not have sidewalks at all. She asked if sidewalks would be built in front those homes. Ms. Warner said sidewalks would be installed on the east side of Home Avenue up to the fish and bait business.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

**Emergency Ordinance for Purchase of Pipe & Appurtenances for Glady Run WWTP.** Mr. Percival said the City is recommending this project be completed as an emergency due to the poor condition of the Heat Exchanger Unit. The Heat Exchanger heats the primary sludge from the Primary Clarifiers producing water and gas. Gas produced by this unit can be very dangerous and explosive. In the past few months, staff has identified many leaks and repaired them. The heating unit is currently being operated only two days per week to reduce the potential for hazardous condition. This problem causes a real threat to the health and safety of the City employees.

With the EPA's ever-stringent limits, the City has to review its processes and search for ways to decrease loading. The cost of Gas and Electric to process this Primary Sludge through the Heat Exchanger is \$1200 per month (\$14,400 per year), which does not include parts and maintenance of this equipment. In an effort to reduce loading and plan for the future, the City is proposing a Primary Clarifier Bypass be installed, which will be installed in-house with the help of the Maintenance Crew and Wastewater Crew. The cost of this project will equal about one year of operation for the Heat Exchanger.

The City has \$110,000 in the Capital Budget (665-6715-5599--Glady Run 2003 Upgrade) that was budgeted to replace the Heat Exchanger this year. Mr. Percival would like to use this funding to pursue their goal of Primary Clarifier removal and Screening upgrade instead of replacing the Heat Exchanger.

Mr. Percival respectfully recommended passage of an emergency ordinance waiving competitive bidding and authorize the City Manager to execute the purchase of pipe and appurtenances for the Bypass Line at Glady Run WWTP from E. J. Prescott, Inc., of West Carrollton, Ohio, in the amount of \$13,751.60.

Councilwoman Felton said \$110,000 has been budgeted, and she would like to know what the balance would be used for. Mr. Percival said the money is in the "Improvements-Other" line item, and he did not know what else that money was budgeted for. He said he would check on this and report back to Councilwoman Felton.

Mayor Saraga asked if City Staff has been in danger all this time while the anaerobic digester has been in use. Mr. Percival said the anaerobic digesting process does create gases and heat, and it did blow up back in the 70's. Correcting a safety problem is important, but he felt it was also important that the City would be saving \$14,000 per year.

Councilman Miller presented ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT FORMAL BIDDING WITH E. J. PRESCOTT, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,751.60 FOR THE PURCHASE OF PIPES AND APPURTENANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilman Miller, seconded by Vice President Esprit, that the rules requiring the reading of an ordinance at two consecutive meetings be dispensed with and this ordinance be placed at once upon its passage. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Miller, seconded by Vice President Esprit, that Ordinance Number 03-39 be now passed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Gordon, Miller, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

**Change Order No. 1 for Building Repairs to Glady Run WWTP.** Mr. Percival said when the old roof was removed on the Raw Pump building, it was discovered the top blocks have holes in them and, if not sealed, rain water will enter the block wall and proceed into the building. The Change Order would let the on-site roofing company, Neibert Enterprises, Inc., install a metal flashing down the wall and cover the top blocks, which would seal the blocks from the weather. Neibert Enterprises, Inc., provided a quote for materials and labor in the amount of \$3,000. Funds remain in line 655-1336-5599 to cover this required work to complete the repairs

to the building. Mr. Percival respectfully requested approval of Change Order No. 1 to cover the additional expenses involved in repairing the Gladly Run Raw Pump building, and authorize the City Manager to execute the contract with Neibert Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$3,000.

Motion by Vice President Esprit, seconded by Councilman Miller, to authorize the City Manager to execute Change Order No. 1 to contract with Neibert Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$3,000 to install metal flashing around the top of the Gladly Run Raw Pump building to seal the concrete blocks from the weather. No discussion followed.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

**Emergency Ordinance to Place an Income Tax Levy on the Ballot at the General Election on November 4, 2003.** Mr. Percival gave a presentation on the City's revenue needs. He discussed the following topics:

- Continued rising costs versus revenue that is not rising as quickly
- No Xenia City Income Tax Increase since 1991 (last increase was for additional firefighters and police officers; costs for safety services have increased from \$5,423,013 in 1992 to \$9,632,472 in 2002)
- Additional Needs (some major Capital Improvement needs are the Communications Center, improvements to Fire Station 1, completion of the Downtown Streetscape project, Parks and Recreation improvements, and normal equipment purchases and replacements)
- Streets, Curbs, and Sidewalks (total estimated cost to improve all streets in the City over a 15-year period is \$15,445,997)
- Cost Cutting Measures (reduction in personnel, 20 percent of health insurance premiums to be paid by new employees, health insurance co-pays and deductibles have been changed)
- How much money the City needs to meet current Operating and Capital needs (to meet current Operating and Capital needs and accomplish the street program, the City needs to generate an additional \$1.5 million per year)
- A .0025 increase in the Income Tax will generate the additional \$1.5 million needed per year (advantages and disadvantages of this income tax increase were presented)

Councilman Gordon presented ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 718.01 et. seq. TO PLACE ON THE BALLOT AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2003, A PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 880.03 OF THE XENIA CODIFIED ORDINANCES, IMPOSITION OF DIRECT TAX, AND SECTION 880.04 OF THE XENIA CODIFIED ORDINANCES, IMPOSITION OF WITHHOLDING TAX, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING CURRENT CITY SERVICE LEVELS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilman Gordon, seconded by Mayor Saraga, that the rules requiring the reading of an ordinance at two consecutive meetings be dispensed with and this ordinance be placed at once upon its passage. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Gordon, Miller, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Gordon, seconded by Mayor Saraga, that Ordinance Number 03-40 be now passed. Discussion followed.

Mayor Saraga complimented the City Manager on his briefing. He also complimented staff and Council members that have been working with the focus group. He informed the citizens that the City has made numerous budget cuts and additional cuts will be made. He assured the citizens that they will receive good roads in return for their investment. In addition, the proposed Income Tax Levy would secure the City for the next five to seven years. He realizes this is a decision not to be taken lightly by any citizen. He encouraged any citizen to call the City if they have any questions about the budget.

Councilman Gordon said the word "tax" currently brings a feeling of madness to citizens. He has given a great deal of thought to this proposed tax. There have been so many cuts to the City's budget, not including cuts in the State's budget that have affected the City's budget, that the City simply does not have the cash to repair the streets. In addition, the City has to have money to operate. This Income Tax Levy is in the best interest of the City. He would be voting "yes", and he hopes the citizens will vote yes in November.

Councilman Winston commented on how the focus group came together. The computer at the Greene County Board of Elections was asked to come up with the names of two voters in each voting precinct in the City. This allowed the group to be strictly at random. He assured the citizens that the details of the levy will be provided over the next several weeks, which will show there is clearly a need for these additional funds so the City can "stay ahead of the game" and continue to provide quality services to the citizens of Xenia.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

**Items for the City Manager's Office.** None.

**Finance Director's Office**

**Schedule of Bills:** Mr. Bazalak presented for payment of bills totaling \$223,761.98.

Motion by Vice President Esprit, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to approve payment of bills totaling \$223,761.98. Discussion followed.

Councilman Gordon asked that the City's Supervisors and Managers utilize Xenia businesses whenever possible.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

**Items for the Finance Director's Office.** None.

**Law Director's Office**

**Second Reading of Ordinances.** Mr. Saunders presented ORDINANCE TO FACILITATE COMPETITIVE RETAIL NATURAL GAS SERVICE TO PROMOTE NATURAL GAS SAVINGS, LOWER COST NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES, AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN NATURAL GAS CONSUMERS, AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT AN OPT-OUT NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND ARTICLE XVIII SECTION 4 OF THE OHIO CONSTITUTION; DIRECTING THE GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS; AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH AN AGENT FOR SUCH PURPOSES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY and it was read for a second time.

Motion by Mayor Saraga, seconded by Vice President Esprit, that this ordinance be placed at once upon its passage. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Gordon, Miller, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Mayor Saraga, seconded by Vice President Esprit, that Ordinance Number 03-41 be now passed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Gordon, Miller, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

Mr. Saunders presented ORDINANCE TO FACILITATE COMPETITIVE RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE TO PROMOTE ELECTRICAL SAVINGS, LOWER COST ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES, AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN ELECTRICITY CONSUMERS, AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT AN ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND ARTICLE XVIII SECTION 4 OF THE OHIO CONSTITUTION; DIRECTING THE GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION

TO THE ELECTORS; AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH AN AGENT FOR SUCH PURPOSES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY and it was read for a second time.

Motion by Councilman Winston, seconded by Councilman Gordon, that this ordinance be placed at once upon its passage. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Winston, seconded by Councilman Gordon, that Ordinance Number 03-42 be now passed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays: None motion carried.

**Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions.** None.

**Items for the Law Director's Office.** None.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DISCUSSION.** Councilwoman Felton appreciated President Pennewitt serving on the committee that looked at the income/property tax issue. She hates property and income taxes, but in this instance, it is the best economical decision of the City. The City is trying to plan ahead, especially to make the City a viable place for economic growth and development. She acknowledged that it is an election year, but she did not base her decisions on those types of issues. She asked the citizens to call her, the City Manager, or any Council member with any questions they have so they can research the issue and get the answers they need.

Councilman Miller thanked Country Joe's and The Frame Shop for hosting the Toast of the Town that evening. He apologized for not being able to attend the event that evening. He thanked the Chamber of Commerce for increasing the awareness of Chamber members. The Chamber now has a website that is very easy to access that lists the Chamber members. Regarding the Income Tax Levy, Councilman Miller said there is a specific need and a specific goal outlined, and he will support it.

Councilman Gordon finally had the opportunity to visit the open house at Country Joe's. It is astonishing what they have accomplished. They now have a patio in the back, a huge selection of coffees and teas, and a framing shop.

Mayor Saraga said the National Mayors Conference has decided to designate the month of September as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month." One out of ten Americans have been diagnosed with this type of cancer; one in four die. The good news is from 1990 to 2000, the number of Americans with Prostate Cancer has been reduced by nearly 30 percent. Greene Memorial Hospital has a great cancer department that provides awareness training and screening. Mayor Saraga then proclaimed the month of September in the City of Xenia as "National

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month." He would provide information on Channel 10 and in the media about this type of cancer. Mayor Saraga said the campaign against Breast Cancer will begin in October. He said a lot of money and effort is put into these campaigns, but he is greatly rewarded by meeting survivors of these and other types of cancer. The campaigns are starting to make a difference in America, but the battle is not over yet. He encouraged everyone to see their doctors, read the literature, visit Greene Memorial Hospital, etc.--*it could save your life.*

Mayor Saraga agreed with Councilman Gordon's previous statement regarding patronizing Xenia businesses. He felt it was imperative for the citizens of Xenia to support local businesses whenever possible. Money spent in the City eventually comes back to benefit the citizens of Xenia by providing jobs, and benefits the City in the form of Income Taxes paid.

Vice President Esprit attended the Toast of the Town at Country Joe's that afternoon. He informed those present that he supports the proposed Income Tax increase for all the reasons previously stated by his fellow Council members. He commended everyone who was involved and participated in the Focus Group.

President Pennewitt said the Xenia City Council members have had to make some very difficult decisions regarding the City's financial situation. She encouraged every citizen not to hesitate to call City Hall with any questions they may have regarding the proposed Income Tax increase. She assured the citizens that Council has spent a great deal of time reviewing and studying the facts before they came to this decision. She does support the action that Council has taken on this issue.

President Pennewitt attended a special private home showing at Stonehill Village in Beavercreek last week. She also attended the retirement of Dr. Bud Schindler last Friday and the hiring of Dr. Roy Lowrie as the Superintendent of Dayton Christian Schools. Dr. Schindler beared many personal sacrifices when he accepted his position with Dayton Christian Schools, all because of his commitment to his Christianity and his Savior and to help raise children in a Christian way.

President Pennewitt attended the groundbreaking ceremony at Wise Manor Section 2, which is a Greene Metropolitan Housing Authority (GMHA) project consisting of 11 homes. For information on the GMHA programs, citizens should call 376-2908 or 429-7736.

Councilman Winston thanked the Council for their vote regarding the MVRPC Reorganization. He defined MVRPC for the benefit of the citizens. The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission is a metropolitan planning organization that is mandated by Congress. MVRPC's responsibility is to receive and issue dollars for transportation in a broad area as defined, which is Miami County, Greene County, Montgomery County, and portions of Clark County and Preble County. It is important for the City of Xenia to be a part of this organization, and the City does play an important role in its governance. Furthermore, he strongly encouraged Greene County businesses and non-governmental agencies to participate as well.

Councilman Winston acknowledged the major power outage in New York and other areas. He was in Brooklyn, NY, in 1965 and was caught in the '65 Blackout. Back in 1965 and again today, the people of New York have remained calm during the crisis.

Councilman Winston said it was the end of summer, but the beginning of football season. He said Xenia High School football begins with a scrimmage next Tuesday evening, and he wished the team well during the 2003 season.

Councilman Winston said the First Church of the Nazarene will have 'Biker Sunday' next Sunday, and they expect over 200 bikers to attend their church services next Sunday.

Councilman Gordon congratulated the City Manager on his ram's recent Grand National Champion achievement. Mr. Percival said he and his family have been raising Shropshire sheep for over 30 years. This past Monday, the National Shropshire Show was held at the Ohio State Fair. Out of 260 sheep from all over the country, his ram won Grand National Champion. This is his family's first Grand National Championship win in over 30 years of business. He is extremely pleased with this accomplishment. Applause followed. Furthermore, the Premier Breeder and Reserve Champion Steer were also from Greene County.

**ADJOURNMENT.** Motion by Councilman Winston, seconded by Councilman Gordon, to adjourn the meeting. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes:           Esprit, Felton, Winston, Miller, Gordon, Saraga, and Pennewitt  
Nays:           None                    motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

James E. Freeman, Clerk  
Xenia City Council

Phyllis A. Pennewitt, President  
Xenia City Council