

**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**August 13, 2009**  
**Executive Session**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The Xenia City Council met in an Executive Session on August 13, 2009, at 6:00 p.m., in the First Floor Conference Room, City Hall, with the following members present: John Caupp, Dale Louderback, Jeanne Mills, Patricia L. Felton, Phyllis A. Pennewitt, and Dennis R. Propes.

William R. Miller was absent.

Motion by Councilwoman Mills, seconded by Mayor Pennewitt, to meet in Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Caupp, Louderback, Mills, Felton, Pennewitt, and Propes

Nays: None                      motion carried.

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters.

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

At 7:07 p.m., the Xenia City Council adjourned their Executive Session and convened in Regular Session in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, with the following members present: John Caupp, Dale Louderback, Jeanne Mills, Patricia L. Felton, Phyllis A. Pennewitt, and Dennis R. Propes.

William R. Miller was absent.

President Propes explained the meeting started late because Council had an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters prior to the Regular Session. Council is working hard with everyone involved in an attempt to mitigate some of the lay-offs as best as possible. Hopefully, there will be some good news in the next few weeks in that regard.

**INVOCATION:** Carol Lynne Usher, Prayer Coordinator for Heart to Honduras, gave the invocation after which all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Councilwoman Mills, seconded by Mayor Pennewitt, to approve the July 23, 2009, Executive/Regular Session minutes as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Caupp, Louderback, Mills, Pennewitt, and Propes

Abstain: Felton

Nays: None                      motion carried.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**Donation from Key Club.** Mayor Pennewitt noted Key Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Xenia. Key Club members then presented a \$100 check to the Xenia Parks and Recreation Department for playground equipment. Mayor Pennewitt thanked the Key Club for their

donation. Ms. Carman introduced the Key Club members present. Mayor Pennewitt introduced Councilwoman Mills, the chair of BRACA, and invited her to join them in the photo that was to be taken. She asked how the money was raised. Ms. Carman said the Key Club has a very successful garage sale every summer at Xenia High School and donations they received from everyone in the county were incredible. The money raised is used for things like the playground equipment and helps pay for members to attend the annual convention in Columbus. Mayor Pennewitt said she can attest to the hard work done by Key Club members. Members have helped with the Rail & Arts Fest and were there at 6 a.m. on both days putting up tents and tables and they were still there at 6 p.m. They were so blessed to have young people with so much energy and desire to help. The Key Club made her day! (Applause followed.) Ms. Carman said Mayor Pennewitt and her husband were also diligent workers at the Rail & Arts Fest. They hope the heat will not be so intense this year at the event. Key Club members will be at the Rail & Arts Fest on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, and they hope everyone attends the event.

Councilwoman Mills thanked the youth of the city for wanting to take the time to do this. They always hear about how youth sit around and play video games, but these young men and women do not do that. Through the Parks and Recreation Department, Key Club members also helped with the Christmas Event, Easter Egg Hunt, Spirit Day, and various other BRACA events. She thanked the members for all the things they have done and for all the things they will do in the future. (Applause followed.)

**Certificate of Appreciation from National Guard.** President Propes said in May, he and Mayor Pennewitt attended a “Call to Duty” ceremony for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 107 Calvary located in Xenia. He presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Pennewitt that the Ohio National Guard 2<sup>nd</sup> 107 Calvary Regiment prepared thanking her for her support. (Applause followed.) Mayor Pennewitt said she was truly surprised. President Propes noted Mayor Pennewitt said she did not know anything about the presentation on tonight’s agenda. They have been keeping it a secret from her. Mayor Pennewitt said the “Call to Duty” ceremony was one of the most touching events she attended. She spoke to a group of reservists who were leaving for war. The event was attended by their spouses, children, parents, and friends. It was so heartwarming to see people gather together but she knew they were experiencing such sorrow to see their loved ones leave. She could not recall what she said in her speech, but she remembered thinking the soldiers looked too young to go to war. After her speech they thanked her for what she said. There really is love in the world today and a caring attitude. Sometimes we are hesitant to express our feelings. She said she received the plaque with much pride and will hang it on her wall at home when she retires. (Applause followed.)

**Presentation of Ford Road Contract A Improvements.** Mr. Percival said for the last year, staff detailed specific improvements that are needed at the Wastewater Treatment Plants. They are almost ready to begin with the Contract A improvements. He asked Jason Tincu, Utilities Manager, to discuss the details of what they are doing, particularly at the Ford Road WWTP.

Councilwoman Felton asked Mr. Percival to first explain where the money is coming from for the improvements since the city is having a cash flow problem. Mr. Percival said anything that is utilities related, such as water, wastewater, or sanitation, comes from the Utilities Fund. In this specific case, the Contract A Improvements at the WWTP will come through the Sewer Plant and Trunk Fund, which is the Sewer Capital Improvement 665 Funds. Most of the improvements will be funded through the Ohio Water Pollution Control Fund. He asked the

current interest rates. Mr. Tincu responded that the current rate is about 4.25% on a 20-year loan, which is a very attractive rate on a low interest loan.

Mr. Tincu said over the last 24 months, and subsequent to the completion of the *2008 Facility Master Plans* for the Ford Road and Glady Run Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs), a series of improvement phases were recommended to deal with current and future regulatory compliance, infrastructure and service capacity deficiencies within the WWTPs. Contract A is vital for (1) the City of Xenia and surrounding watersheds' environmental health and well-being; and (2) the City's sustainable development. He realizes the city's financial situation, but when they look for economic development and growth, it is critical that they have infrastructure that is able to be maintained, that can service all that capacity, and that they have the ability to propose the land and services to all those companies. It is critical that they rehabilitate infrastructure in a timely and responsible manner, which is a key piece of the presentation. They must also maintain regulatory compliance with state and federal law.

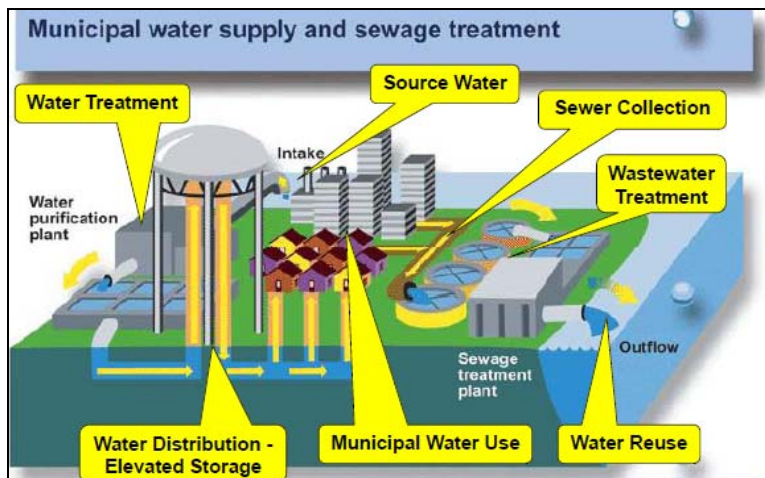
Mr. Tincu said he would be joined in his PowerPoint presentation by Jamie Gellner from Hazen and Sawyer, the firm hired in March 2009, to spearhead this design project. Mr. Gellner is a professional engineer and project manager from Hazen and Sawyer's Cincinnati office who has worked with city staff for the last six months to help develop this project.

### Ford Road WWTP Contract A Improvements

#### Outline:

- Background – The Ford Road WWTP and its role in the city's water infrastructure.
- Summary of recently completed improvements at the Ford Road and Glady Run Facility Master Plans.
- Upper Little Miami River Watershed and its relation with phosphorus.
- Motivating factors/drivers for this improvement project.
- Design details of the three phases of this project.
- Cost Estimates/Funding/Schedule
- Council Requested Action
- Questions

The graphic below was presented to Council last month and depicts the flow and processing of water throughout the city. They will discuss the end of the process chain tonight, which is wastewater treatment, specifically at the Ford Road WWTP, 779 Ford Road in Xenia Township.



**Master Plan.** The Ford Road WWTP was built in 1969 and has a design flow of 3.6 million gallons per day and a rated hydraulic peak of 12 million gallons per day. The facility was last upgraded in 1999, mainly to deal with hydraulic deficiencies. In 2007, the city contracted with Malcolm Pirnie from Columbus to create a roadmap for the next 20 years of sustainability and regulatory compliance with regard to the Ford Road and Glady Run WWTPs.


- **Roadmap for next 20 years**
- **Phased plan**
  - Aging equipment and infrastructure
  - Regulatory compliance
  - Tighter P limits in 2013
  - Long-term reliability
  - \$13M total
  - 5 phases A-E



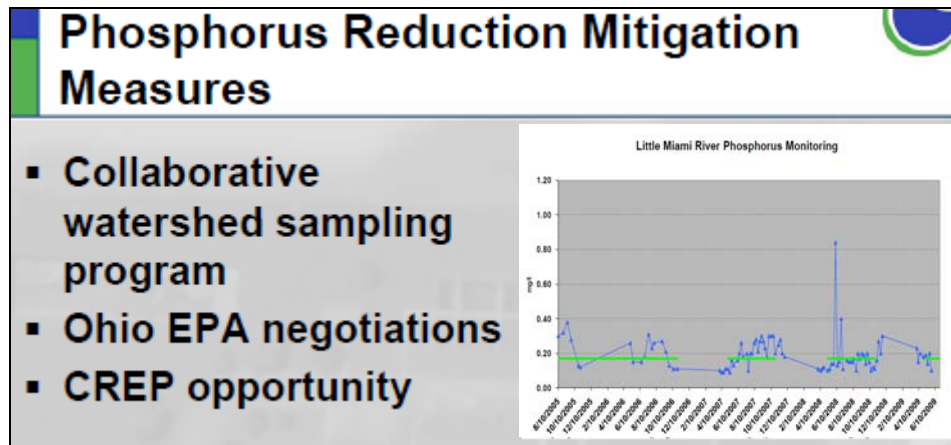
In 2002, the USEPA implemented a TMDL, which is a mass based loading allocation across all the wastewater plants in a watershed. One of the major concerns in a watershed is phosphorus because of all the agricultural and development in residential neighborhoods that are really causing havoc on the watershed, as well as downstream in the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Zone. The Little Miami River flows into the Ohio River, which goes into the Mississippi River and directly into the Gulf of Mexico. If you think about the United States, that is strictly an agricultural region. A lot of nitrogen and phosphorus is coming down that watershed. If there are too many nutrients in a watershed, it promotes algae growth. Algae growth then decomposes and the micro bacteria use up all the oxygen and deplete the watershed of oxygen for fish and wild life. The USEPA is working through state agencies to try to curtail that phosphorus and nitrogen load.

## Phosphorus Limit in 2013

- **Upper Little Miami River Watershed**
- **Current limits at both plants – 1 mg/l**
- **Becomes  $\leq 0.5$  mg/l in 2013**
  - Plant improvements required



The WWTPs across the basin includes the Montgomery County Eastern Regional Plant, the Greene County Plant, which includes the Beaver creek and Sugar creek plants, and the two Xenia facilities.



These efforts have been aimed at mitigating any future reductions at the WWTPs. Staff is fine with 1 part per million (ppm), but they are trying to get out of the .5 ppm because it will cost everyone on the watershed money. They are participating in a collaborative watershed sampling program, along with Greene and Montgomery counties, to evaluate the industry and phosphorus levels aimed at meeting the TMDL targets of the watershed, which is .17 phosphorus in the stream for two consecutive years at the bottom end of the watershed. For six to eight weeks in the summer months, they are collecting samples at the lower end of the watershed to evaluate how all the reductions upstream of that point are affecting the industry and water quality standard. They were below the target in 2008, but they need to have two consecutive years. The data for 2009 was analyzed today and they are at .2 for their median, so they are close. They are hopeful that through the rest of this season, they can get that industry target down to meet the second consecutive year requirement. From there, they can petition the EPA and state that they have met their goal, now back off on the .5 ppm standard. They met with the EPA on July 15<sup>th</sup>, along with Montgomery and Greene counties, to discuss possibly pushing that limit back to 2018, thus buying themselves a five-year time frame to see how all the reduction efforts in the watershed are working. Let's not jump into this .5 ppm when they don't know what all the reduction measures are doing.

A CREP is a **C**onservation **R**eserve **E**nhancement **P**rogram through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). They are proposing about \$90 million coming from the USDA to come into the Little Miami River Watershed to promote conservation and enhancement projects to the agriculture community. They can buy a 200' easement next to a stream or watershed, take that property out of production, put in some grass strips, and compensate that farmer for that land through those funds. They can then provide a buffer strip between the watershed and any phosphorus and nitrogen that is applied to the field. They are aggressively pursuing that.

Mr. Gellner continued with the specifics of the design project. He noted Mr. Tincu mentioned the roadmap that was created as part of the master planning process for each of the WWTPs. Mr. Tincu and his staff have been working very hard to re-prioritize and look at the improvements that are necessary from that roadmap. Contract A improvements are the first and most crucial of the improvements and are absolutely needed in order to reliably operate the

plants and to meet some of the current regulatory requirements, particularly at the Ford Road WWTP. The three basic pieces of improvements that are part of Phase A include the following:

### Phase A Improvements - Drivers

- **Biosolids Storage**
  - 120 days required (have 30 now)
  - Permit compliance hindered by current solids capacity
- **Effluent Aeration**
  - Dissolved oxygen concentration for permit
- **Outfall Headwall**
  - Poor structural condition
  - Stream erosion

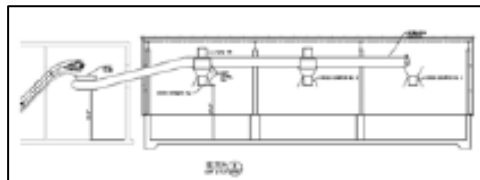
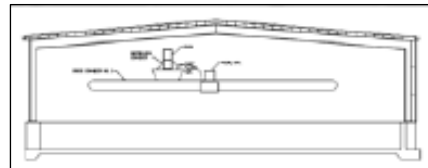




They are moving back improvements to the outfall headwall to allow for some other improvements that are being funded through the stimulus package and others to restore part of the stream bank in that area.

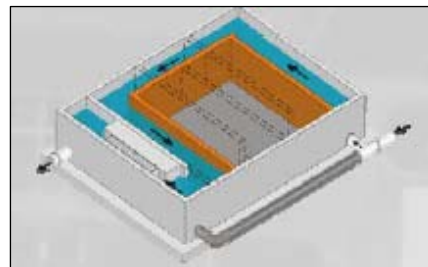
### Biosolids Storage

- Additional solids storage capacity
- Covered
- Belt conveyor system



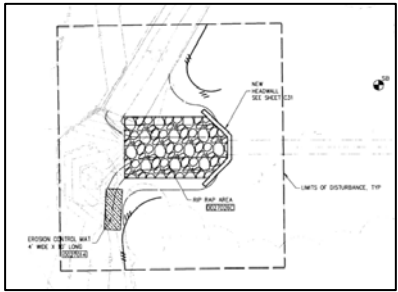
### Effluent Aeration

- Diffusers / Blower
- Modifications within existing tanks
- UV storage building
  - Eliminates safety issue



### Outfall Headwall

- Interfaces with stream modifications
- Existing in poor condition
- Move back from stream bank



Mr. Tincu continued with the presentation. A few weeks ago, he asked for Council’s approval for the Stream Restoration Project, which is specifically grant funded – no cash will be needed. The Stimulus Project is another piece, which will mean no cash out of the city’s pocket – it is grant funded. Backing up that outfall is just buying themselves an insurance policy on any future erosion issues.

### Cost Estimate / Schedule

- DEFA submittal – end of July
- Bid – November 2009
- Construction through summer 2010
- \$2.2M – all DEFA funded

**Ohio EPA** Div. of Environmental & Financial Assistance  
 50 West Town Street, Suite 700 Columbus, OH 43215 (614) 644-2798

Chris Korleski, Director Air Land Water Pollution Prevention Public Information

#### Water Pollution Control Loan Fund

Wastewater	Storm Water	Nonpoint Source	Linked Deposits	Technical Assistance	WRRSP Resources
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The Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) provides financial and technical assistance for a wide variety of projects to protect or improve the quality of Ohio's rivers, streams, lakes, and other water resources. Planning, design, and construction assistance is available for both public and private applicants.

[2009 WPCLF Program Management Plan](#)

Agency Links: Public Participation, Offices & Programs, Small Business Assistance  
 Division Links: DEFA Forms & Publications

The project will be completely funded with OEPA’s Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) funds at a current rate of 4.25% or 4.5% over 20 years and will equate to about \$175,000 from the Sewer Fund per year. The first payment for this project will be made in 2011, which is the same time another project will be paid in full.

### Future Phases?

- Operations staff evaluating consolidation of phases
- Defer >50% of total capital plan
- Focus on improvements for regulatory compliance with 2013
- Design in 2010/2011



Motion 1 - Waive the second reading and approve as an emergency an Ordinance transferring \$4,100.00 from account 665-1331-55305 into account 665-6450-53607 for the Contract A Project (Ford Road WWTP) PTI Fees.

Motion 2 - Approve a purchase order for \$15,100.00 from account 665-6450-53607 to the Ohio EPA via the Treasurer, State of Ohio for the Contract A Project (Ford Road WWTP) PTI Fees.

Councilwoman Mills presented an ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 09-13 TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009, AND DECLARING IT TO BE AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilwoman Mills, seconded by Mayor Pennewitt, 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. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Caupp, Louderback, Mills, Felton, Pennewitt, and Propes  
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Mills, seconded by Mayor Pennewitt, that Ordinance Number 09-53 be now passed. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Caupp, Louderback, Mills, Felton, Pennewitt, and Propes  
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Mayor Pennewitt, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to authorize the City Manager to execute a purchase order in the amount of \$15,100.00 from account 665-6450-53607 to the Ohio EPA via the Treasurer, State of Ohio, for the Contract A Project (Ford Road WWTP) PTI Fees. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Caupp, Louderback, Mills, Felton, Pennewitt, and Propes  
Nays: None motion carried.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** President Propes explained the procedures for audience comments and invited anyone who wished to speak to come forward.

Jackie Fuller, 223 Roselawn Drive, Xenia said she hoped the improvements Mr. Tincu discussed would not cost [the taxpayers] anything [in addition to what they are currently paying in sewer rates] and that she would get something out of it. She thanked Councilman Louderback for his efforts to get Greene CATS to make an additional stop on their flex route. According to an article in the newspaper, the change will benefit the residents of the Walter Sellers Apartments as many of the tenants are handicapped. It was her understanding that the change had not happened yet, but she applauded Councilman Louderback for his efforts and wished him success. Councilman Louderback thanked Ms. Fuller for her comments. Ms. Fuller said during times when we hear about cuts to our services, it is nice to hear that we might be getting something extra. Regarding the City's recent Operating Levy renewal effort, there still seems to be a lot of misunderstanding about passage of Issue I. There was an editorial in the August 11<sup>th</sup> Xenia Gazette that people asked her questions about. For some reason, they think she would know the answers, but she does not. She promised them she would find out why these cuts are still

necessary even after passage of Issue I. Hopefully, Council will be able to help her and some of our listening audience with their confusion. She understood this issue was first presented to the taxpayers in 1979. Mr. Percival said the levy was first passed in 1959. Ms. Fuller noted that was 50 years ago. At that time, it was presented as a temporary measure to finance the operation of the city over a five-year period. At the end of the five years, apparently it was put on the ballot as a renewal levy. Obviously, over the last 50 years, it has been renewed ten times. She asked if there were other cuts made in city services over those 50 years, or if this the first time they have had to resort to cuts in services. President Propes said cuts were made in 2003.

Mr. Lewis noted the format for audience comments was not a question and answer time for Council. If Ms. Fuller would like to make a statement, that should be made now. This is not the forum for bantering back and forth. Ms. Fuller said she was not trying to banter back and forth; she was trying to get some answers. Mr. Lewis said he completely understood, but right now is not the format for that venue. He appreciates and supports what she is trying to do; however, there is a precedent for audience comments. Ms. Fuller asked how Mr. Lewis proposed she get answers to the citizens who passed Issue I and who will be paying for it.

Mr. Percival said the presentation he made at the previous Council meeting is on the city's website. It is very specific about what the Renewal Levy was for, what it does not do, and the cuts that need to be made regardless of whether the Renewal Levy passed or not. If citizens have questions, they should view his presentation on the city's website. After viewing that presentation, if they have further questions, they can call him any time at (937) 376-7230 or e-mail him. His e-mail address is on the city's website. He will be happy to answer any questions. Ms. Fuller clarified there would have been even deeper cuts had Issue I not passed. Mr. Percival said that was correct.

A lady came to the podium to distribute packets to Council entitled, "Let's Give a Chance to the Youth of Today to Prosper Tomorrow." She said her partner got cold feet at the last minute and will be unable to speak to Council this evening; therefore, she will speak for her. She introduced Teresa Henry, 1033 Jasper Avenue, who has been a Xenia resident for most of her life. Ms. Henry has dedicated her life to her two loves, cooking and helping youth reach become positive, contributing citizens by helping them reach for their dreams. Last year, together with other concerned residents, a non-profit organization known as the East End Community Organization was founded and Ms. Henry is the current President. She is Ms. Henry's volunteer administrative assistant, a former Xenia resident, currently residing in Yellow Springs.

The East End Community Organization has an immediate need for the following:

- 1) Donations of clothing for a free back-to-school clothing give-a-way.
- 2) A banner bearing the name of the organization.
- 3) Space to hold food fundraising activities.
- 4) Copy machine paper for running flyers to share with the Xenia community.
- 5) A van to transport the kids.

Material or monetary donations will be accepted and all donations are tax deductible. Please help us to help the youth of Xenia. We love these children, as we know you do too. They want to continue to show children that we care. Please take the time to read about the organization and call (937) 270-1424 if you can assist or lead them in a direction to receive assistance. The East End Community Organization is in the process of gathering information from Xenia youth

about the positive and creative outlets they would like to have. In the near future, they would like to see an ongoing weekly teenage summit in order to (1) put their first board in place by October 2009 to be a voice for the teenagers; and (2) to address those concerns accordingly. They need a building for the youth to convene in order to develop potential and long-term sustainability for their continued development. They would like a commitment from businesses and organizations of Greene County that care about the future of our children. They can exhibit their commitment by donating the following: staplers, binders, folders, file cabinets, markers, pens, pencils, tables, chairs, a copy machine, copy paper, and office space that can be sectioned to accommodate four meeting rooms. In exchange, until they can afford to pay rent, their youth will provide cleaning services to those responsible for providing those services. She asked for a round of applause for the youth of Xenia. (Applause followed.)

President Propes noted a young Boy Scout was in the audience and invited him to come to the podium. He asked if the Boy Scout was working on his civic badge. Mr. Dotson introduced his son, Brandon Dotson. Brandon is now a second class Boy Scout working on his first class Boy Scout. They are here today to experience government. Brandon will present a report to his scoutmaster, based on what is discussed at this particular meeting, to help him receive his Merit Badge for Citizenship in the Community. Council welcomed Brandon and gave him a round of applause. Councilwoman Mills noted Brandon will be starting 7<sup>th</sup> grade and thanked him for attending the meeting.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**Traffic Commission:** Councilman Caupp said the XTC met on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and discussed the following:

- Removal of a stop sign at W. Third and S. Galloway Street, which will be coming to Council for approval.
- No outlet sign will be erected on Drake Drive, as people turn left onto June Drive, to alert drivers that there is no access to Progress Drive at the end of June Drive.
- Curbing along the north and south sides of Center Street will be painted yellow for a length of 20' on both sides of the street at the corner where it intersects with Cincinnati Avenue (by the Corner Restaurant) to bring that intersection into compliance with the city ordinance.
- The stop light at Kinsey Road and N. Detroit Street has issues. The City Engineer assured Commissioners they will monitor the situation when school begins in a few weeks to ensure the timing is correct to keep traffic from backing up as school buses exit.

President Propes asked what warranted removing the stop sign at W. Third Street. Councilman Caupp said, according to the City Engineer, the stop sign did not meet warrants. President Propes asked what prompted the discussion. Councilman Caupp said he did not know. One of the Commissioners made the motion and XTC passed the motion. President Propes said it is the only stop sign on W. Third Street. Many children live on that one-way street and it will become a drag strip. Councilman Caupp said if President Propes is concerned, he can voice his concerns when the recommendation comes before Council. President Propes said he will vote against the removal of the stop sign and will count on other members of Council to do the same.

**Greene County Regional Planning Commission:** Councilman Caupp said the Commission did hold a meeting this month, which was the third meeting this year. The major topic of discussion was zoning. Sugarcreek Township is undergoing extensive changes in their

ordinances and zoning. Those changes were reviewed by the Commission and are now moving forward. The changes will go back to Sugarcreek Township for approval. There was some opposition at the meeting against quite a few of the things they want to do. One of our surrounding communities just redid a lot of their zoning, which he would like our City Planner to review since some of that is being reviewed by the Design Standards Committee. Reviewing what was done [by those communities] may possibly save the Committee some work.

**Board of Zoning Appeals:** Mayor Pennewitt said the July meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

**ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR:** Councilwoman Felton noted Ms. Fuller asked questions about the Renewal Levy. The current Operating Levy is based on tax valuations from 1959, which was when the levy was first passed. By law, a renewal levy can only last five years, unless voters approve the renewal for another five years. If you had a house in 1959 when the levy was passed, your rates would not increase. Her house was built in 1974, so her rate is based on her home's value in 1974. A renewal levy cannot be a permanent tax and must be renewed every five years. She asked Ms. Fuller if that answered her question. Ms. Fuller said she understood that. She asked if residents' taxes would have decreased if Issue I had failed. Councilwoman Felton said yes, and the city would have made more cuts.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Clarification on Community Development's Pay Requests for CHIP and the Mural Society.** Mr. Percival noted Councilwoman Felton had a couple of questions at the July 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting that were not addressed at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting [due to her absence.] Councilwoman Felton questioned one item on the Community Development Department's June 22<sup>nd</sup> monthly report regarding "*Process pay request for CHIP and Xenia Area Mural Society.*" He asked Community Development Director, Mary Crockett, to address Councilwoman Felton's questions.

Ms. Crockett said she was not entirely privy because she did not attend the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. There is a line item from fiscal year 2008 [101-1551-53141], which are funds that were hastily put together at the end of last year and was obviously before all of the things that happened in the city this year. These funds were in part to cover a match for an Ohio Arts Council Grant that was written by several people, including an intern from the Greene Giving Foundation and some people on the Mural Society. In early 2008, Barb Zajbel, former President of the Xenia Area Chamber of Commerce at the time, wanted to see murals in the City of Xenia, and she convened several meetings in early 2008 toward that goal. At that time, they also completed a Downtown Revitalization Plan that called for murals in the downtown. The Community Development Department met with Greene Giving, who had a shared interest in the revitalization of the downtown, to discuss what could be done jointly. Greene Giving provided an intern from the University of Dayton to the Mural Society through 2008. She met with the intern and a Mural Society volunteer after office hours to apply for an Ohio Arts Council Grant in November. That grant required a match. There was money in the Community Development Department line item for consulting/contracting. She quickly met with her manager and discussed it with Ed Marrinan in December. They thought it was worth a gamble to try to move forward to match those dollars, in part because of all the things she just stated regarding their mission, but also because it was the first step for that group to be able to apply for any future dollars from the Ohio Arts Council. In hindsight, given the city's current difficult times, she might have made other choices. She hopes the good, positive press the Mural Society has received and the good work they got from

the intern who was funded through that program last year will bear a lot of fruit for the city, which has always been her honest hope for those dollars.

Ms. Crockett said she did not know what the CHIP program part is because no General Fund dollars have gone to CHIP. CHIP is going strong and she hopes to have a good, strong report for Council in about two months. By the time the CHIP program is done, it will have served 110 families and many more individuals. They are exceeding all their grants and have been very efficient in trying to serve as many people as possible who are in need throughout the city. The CHIP program is going well, but they are definitely coming up to the last few weeks. She thought Council will be pleased when the final accounting for all those dollars will be presented in October. Almost everything is under contract.

Ms. Crockett announced that they will have a training program on August 26<sup>th</sup> utilizing CHIP funds. There are a lot of concerns about using local contractors, which is sometimes difficult under these federal programs because one of the requirements is that contractors have lead training through the Ohio EPA. The one day training would be beneficial to Xenia contractors who are interested in taking part in these programs. She hopes local contractors attend the program costing \$75.00 per person so they can become a part of the downtown work under the CHIP program. Mr. Percival explained the one-day training is for abatement of lead-based paint. For instance, if you redo a house and have to eliminate the lead-based paint, you have to be trained through the Ohio EPA. The training is \$75 per participant to become certified. Councilwoman Felton asked why they were charging \$75 per person; why can't the fee be covered under the grant. Ms. Crockett said they could discuss that. The grant will cover \$775 of the costs. They may allow Xenia contractors to attend for free, but anyone from outside Xenia will have to pay the \$75 fee. She anticipates contractors from other communities may be interested in attending the training. She would like Xenia contractors to be first and foremost. Councilwoman Felton said she was just considering the costs to the business community given the current economic conditions. She wondered if there was money to cover their registration and if the grant would allow them to do that. Mr. Percival said he did not know if there were funds in the grant to cover those costs, but they will check.

Councilwoman Felton said after she received Ms. Crockett's June 22<sup>nd</sup> monthly report, she had a question about one line item that said "*Process pay request for CHIP and Xenia Area Mural Society.*" From what Ms. Crockett said tonight, the Ohio Arts Council Grant is paying those people. Ms. Crockett said they are being paid through the Greene County Community Foundation. All their payments are going through Greene Giving. Councilwoman Felton asked why Ms. Crockett was not handling the payments. Ms. Crockett said it was thought that it would be a good partnership since the Mural Society is an umbrella organization of Greene Giving at this point. Greene Giving has been doing some fabulous things with non-profit organizations in our area. When non-profit organizations are not quite ready to run yet, but prefer to walk, Greene Giving has been extremely generous about donating their services and financial support. They were actually the party to the Ohio Arts Council Grant. They had to have 501(3)(C) certification, so they did that. She thought partnering with Greene Giving and the intern work they are doing could be very fruitful for the city in the future.

Councilwoman Felton asked who was in charge of Greene Giving. Ms. Crockett said Ed Marrinan is the Director and Joe Harkleroad is President of the Board and is the signatory on the grant agreement and the staff volunteer person that heads that organization. Councilwoman

Felton asked how involved Ms. Crockett was in the Mural Society. Ms. Crockett said she has donated time to attend evening meetings but she has been too busy working on the \$2 million in grants that the Community Development Department is trying to receive and implement. She felt the Mural Society was an exciting possibility for the city and some really good things could come from it. Given the economy, the timing may not have been the best. It is hard to look at murals, wayfinding signage, or any of those things right now but they are just as important to economic development as anything else they can do. Councilwoman Felton said Ms. Crockett's monthly report generated her questions.

Councilman Louderback said he has been involved in the Mural Society from the beginning and knew Ms. Crockett has volunteered her time at many evening meetings, which he appreciates. He thought the Mural Society will be a great thing, in spite of the economy. They still need to move forward in this city, and he is very supportive of the Mural Society. Several people who contacted him have been helped through the CHIP Program, which he also supports to help the less fortunate in this city. He again thanked Ms. Crockett for all her volunteer time.

Mayor Pennewitt agreed with Councilman Louderback. Ms. Crockett has given a lot of time and effort to this project. It would be an asset to have at least one mural downtown; it would be beneficial to the city so they have some kind of a drawing card to bring people into Xenia.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:**

**City Manager's Office:**

**Award of Bid for Lab Cabinetry Replacement Project (Ford Road Wastewater Treatment Plant).** Mr. Percival said staff is requesting an award of bid to replace the lab equipment and lab cabinets at the Ford Road Wastewater Treatment Plant. An RFP for the project was advertised on June 19, 2009, and sealed bids for this project were opened on July 8, 2009, with results as follows:

<b><u>Firm:</u></b>	<b><u>Bid Total (Option 1)</u></b>
Apple Scientific Inc.	\$29,340.60
Smith and Schaeffer	\$33,011.00

Mr. Percival respectfully requested that Council award the bid for the Lab Cabinetry Replacement Project (Ford Road WWTP) to Apple Scientific, Inc., authorize him to enter into a contract with Apple Scientific, Inc., and issue a purchase order to them not to exceed \$29,340.60. This is money from the 665 Sewer Capital Improvement Fund; no General Fund money will be used.

Motion by Councilwoman Mills, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to award the bid for the Lab Cabinetry Replacement Project (Ford Road WWTP) to Apple Scientific, Inc., authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Apple Scientific, Inc., and issue a purchase order to them not to exceed \$29,340.60. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Caupp, Louderback, Mills, Felton, Pennewitt, and Propes  
Nays: None                      motion carried.

**Authorization for City Manager to execute consulting contract for Development of Comprehensive Wayfinding Signage Plan.** Mr. Percival said the Community Development Department seeks to enter into a contract with Kinzelman, Kline and Gossman (KKG) to produce a Comprehensive Wayfinding Signage Plan to be completed by December 31, 2009. In the Downtown Strategic Plan adopted formally by City Council on May 14, 2009, a priority recommendation of that plan was for the city to hire a graphics/environmental graphics/planner to conduct a comprehensive wayfinding signage plan for the downtown. If you are not from Greene County or Xenia, and want to find the downtown administration building from Main and Detroit Streets, you can't find it. They are looking for a way to improve the signage in the downtown area. The FY 2008 CDBG grant provides for a \$10,000 Planning Grant to go towards the comprehensive signage plan. In February 2009, the City applied for a Tier One Planning Grant to obtain the additional \$15,000 required to fund the planning process. In spring 2009, the State of Ohio informed the City that we would not receive the Tier One grant but were authorized to utilize our CDBG Downtown Revitalization RLF Program Income Funds for this planning initiative. **NO** General Funds will be used to pay for this Professional Service Contract.

Mr. Percival respectfully requested that Council authorization him to execute a contract with Kinzelman, Kline, and Gossman for \$25,000 in CDBG funds to develop a Comprehensive Wayfinding Signage Plan by December 31, 2009. He noted Ms. Crockett was available for questions.

Motion by Councilman Caupp, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Kinzelman, Kline and Gossman for \$25,000 in CDBG funds to develop a Comprehensive Wayfinding Signage Plan by December 31, 2009. Discussion followed. Mr. Percival removed himself from discussion because he has a relative that works for one of the companies involved.

Mayor Pennewitt noted **NO General Funds** are being used to pay for this Professional Service Contract. Councilwoman Felton said that is true; however, part of the money is from the CDBG grant and part comes out of the Capital Budget. Ms. Crockett said both are CDBG funds; one is Program Income. Councilwoman Felton thought that was just to do the design. Ms. Crockett said that correct; this was for the plan. Councilwoman Felton asked what the costs would be for sign fabrication, labor, etc. Ms. Crockett said they anticipate that will come from the overall plan. KKG will work with fabricators. In order to use the planning dollars, they have to write a plan but they cannot do the engineering costs. They will be as careful as possible to get a sense of the costs, coming up with strategies and a policy about who will be part of the whole process. It is basically designing a system. She is hopeful that some of the people on that steering committee will eventually become contributors towards the fabrication of these signs. In the 2009 Downtown Revitalization Budget, they have \$82,000 in Program Income Funds for signs, which has to be used specifically in the downtown. She is hopeful that part of this process will involve coming up with other entities that will join them. She realized it is a really difficult time now to do that, but she is still hopeful they will get some contributors and other entities, whether it is the hospital, Legacy Center, or various universities in the area, all of whom would benefit from this. Councilwoman Felton suggested she also get money from Greene County. Ms. Crockett said she forgot to mention Greene County. It may just be that this is their "marching orders." Although it is a difficult time for everybody, it is part of economic development and a way to attract businesses.

Councilwoman Felton said she understood that, but the city does not have \$82,000 to do the plan with Capital Improvement dollars. Ms. Crockett noted the \$82,000 was program income that can only be used for the downtown. Councilwoman Felton said they do not have \$82,000. Ms. Crockett said they do have \$82,000. Councilwoman Felton thought that money was spent. Ms. Crockett said the money was not yet spent. The money is planned for other things including, the Façade Loan Program. Councilwoman Felton thought during future budget work sessions, they need to take a hard look at this entire program to see where we are going and decide on the best use of the money. They will be unable to transfer money to the Capital Budget this year. Ms. Crockett may have only have program income and it will be very difficult.

Ms. Crockett said they hope these will be matching dollars. They made it through the first round on the Tier Two Grant, which is \$400,000 for other downtown activities, and these dollars will be a match for the grant. That grant is due October 5<sup>th</sup> so they have a lot of work to do. Councilwoman Felton did not think the Tier One Grant was approved. Ms. Crockett said that was correct. The State of Ohio informed the city that we would not receive the Tier One grant, but were authorized to utilize our CDBG Downtown Revitalization RLF Program Income Funds for this planning initiative.

Mayor Pennewitt asked if they could resubmit the Tier One application after being turned down. Mr. Percival said no.

Councilman Caupp thought this was a good program. The City of Lebanon has a very extensive wayfinding signage system that has improved the city. The signs are very attractive and useful. Whether it is the West Main Street Enhancement Project or the Wayfinding Signage Project, they have to continue to move forward as a city. If they are not improving and trying to make themselves more attractive to residents and business and not growing, then the City will die. Projects like these have got to continue. We have to market our city to businesses and residents, and part of that is staging our city, just like you would stage your home if you were selling it.

Councilwoman Mills agreed with Councilman Caupp. It is so important for the city to continue to move forward. People need to understand that monies that are targeted for certain projects through Tier One and Tier Two programs can only be used for certain areas of the city. We can't pay bills with the money, but we can make a difference. The volunteers on the Mural Society are priceless. She thanked everyone for their hard work in getting this done.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Caupp, Louderback, Mills, Felton, Pennewitt, and Propes

Nays: None                      motion carried.

**Introduction of an Ordinance for the City Manager to enter into Lease Agreement for easement to use portion of the Creekside Trail Bike Path right-of-way.** Mr. Percival said Xenia China Inn proposes to reopen shortly at 417 West Second Street, a property currently owned by David and Carol Hidy. Because of the way the property is situated, Xenia China Inn will utilize an existing structure and will construct an accessory parking area on a lot west of the building. These two lots were consolidated into one lot recently. Part of the plan is a drive-thru service. A portion of the driveway currently encroaches on the right of way for the Creekside Trail Bike Path. In addition, to make the traffic flow work for the restaurant, an additional

easement along the west side of Creekside Trail is needed. The City Planner, the Finance Director, and he are proposing a lease payment of \$325.00 annually for ten (10) years with automatic renewal based on the market value for the .089 acres of land.

Mr. Percival respectfully requested that Council introduce an ordinance authorizing him to enter into a lease agreement with David and Carol Hidy, granting them an easement for the purpose of accommodating a proposed private driveway along the west side of Creekside Trail Bike Path and to pay a lease payment of \$325.00 annually for ten (10) years.

Councilman Louderback introduced an ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT GRANTING AN EASEMENT TO DAVID AND CAROL HIDY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCOMMODATING A PRIVATE DRIVEWAY ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF CREEKSIDE TRAIL BIKEPATH, and it was read for the first time.

Councilman Caupp noted the agenda report states, *“Based on the arrangement with Greene County Trail Management Committee, revenues derived from lease agreements involving Xenia’s Bike Trails are paid directly to Greene County to be used for the long term maintenance of the trails.”* Therefore, that \$325.00 annual lease payment will be used for the long term maintenance of the trails. Mr. Percival said that was correct.

Councilwoman Mills clarified the easement would not create any danger to bicyclists using the Creekside Trail Bike Path. Mr. Percival said that was correct. There will still be a large separation between the actual trail and the Xenia China Inn driveway.

**Emergency Appropriations Ordinance, Authorization for the City Manager to enter into a contract with Ohio CAT (Caterpillar) for purchase of 50kw Diesel Generator through State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program for Fire Station #1, and Introduction of an Ordinance declaring 1974 Onan generator as surplus and authorizing City Manager to sell via govdeals.com or any other means deemed appropriate.** Mr. Percival said in the 2009 Capital Budget, the Xenia Fire Division requested \$47,000 to purchase an emergency standby generator for Fire Station #1 at 225 E. Main Street. The need for replacement is primarily based on the difficulty in securing replacement parts for a generator that is over 35 years old and has 998 hours of operation on it. It is imperative that a reliable emergency source of electric be readily available to maintain operations at Fire Station #1 and that one is available to backup the city’s Emergency Operations Center in the City Building. Currently, the generator is operating, but so was the one at the Water Treatment Plant just before it went bad earlier this year. They would like to replace the 1974 generator and declare it surplus. There has been some discussion among staff that even if they declare the generator surplus, they may be able to use it as a mobile generator; however, he did not yet know if the generator can be mounted on a trailer. The city’s electrician and other public service employees will install the new generator, which will result in substantial savings to the city. He noted Chief Leaming was available for questions.

Mr. Percival respectfully requested that Council entertain three motions:

Motion 1. Waive the second reading of an ordinance at two consecutive meetings and pass as an emergency an Appropriations Ordinance transferring \$20,779.00 from 361-1225-54268 to 361-1225-55305.

Motion 2. Authorize the City Manager to execute a purchase order in the amount of \$20,779.00 with Ohio CAT (Caterpillar) for the purchase of a 50kw diesel generator through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Motion 3. Introduction of an Ordinance declaring the 1974 Onan generator as surplus and authorize the City Manager to sell said unit via govdeals.com or any other means deemed appropriate.

Mayor Pennewitt presented an ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 09-13 TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009, AND DECLARING IT TO BE AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mayor Pennewitt, seconded by Councilman Louderback, 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. Discussion followed.

Councilman Louderback asked if the 1974 generator could have been utilized at the Walter Sellers Apartments after the September 14<sup>th</sup> windstorm when power was lost to the building and there was no backup system. It was obvious that HUD is not going to do anything for those people. Mr. Percival said the city had to rent two generators. One was used to run the booster station at the Industrial Park. He did not know if this 1974 generator was big enough to run the Walter Sellers Apartments. Staff is investigating whether the generator can even be turned into a mobile unit that can be used on an intermittent basis to run the sewer lift stations and at their booster pumps at the Water Treatment Plant.

Councilwoman Felton said she realized the generator was an old piece of equipment, but she did not think 998 hours was very many hours on a generator. Chief Leaming agreed. The generator runs a test for one hour every week and then shuts down. When they looked at purchasing a generator for Fire Station #2, after the windstorm when they did not have power for a week, they realized they had an issue. The generator at Fire Station #1 has a dual capacity of running the station, but is also their backup for running the Emergency Operations Center. Although 998 hours does not seem like much and the motor should be fine, the city's mechanic was concerned about the difficulty in securing replacement parts for a generator that is over 35 years old if it failed. Money was budgeted last year after the windstorm, not knowing back then the financial situation the city is currently facing.

Councilwoman Felton asked why the money was in the wrong account. Chief Leaming said he took full responsibility for the accounting issue. The generator they purchased for Fire Station #2 was in line item 361-1225-54268. The Finance Department thought it was more appropriate to have it in the line item for plant equipment rather than the generator line item. Mr. Bazalak said capital assets are shown in the 5000 series line items. Given that the generator was going to be a \$20,000 purchase, it fit the criteria of being a capital asset. It was more than just a repair—it is an actual replacement. Councilwoman Felton said she tries to read the detail book but if staff keeps changing the line items, it is difficult. Chief Leaming said he did what he did last year, and it went through.

Councilman Caupp asked when the generator was last used. Chief Leaming said it was used continuously after the September 14, 2008, windstorm. Councilman Caupp asked how many hours the generator was used during the windstorm. Chief Leaming said the generator ran for

four days straight. Councilman Caupp asked if there were any problems. Chief Leaming said they had an outage for a short period of time, which was due to a fuel outage; however, mechanically, it was just fine. Councilman Caupp agreed the generator was old, but he did not think an expenditure of \$20,000 was a necessity at this time.

President Propes noted when the generator was replaced at the Water Treatment Plant, the expenses kept increasing and were quite a bit more than initially anticipated. He asked if there were any other possible costs for the generator. Chief Leaming said they are purchasing the generator through the Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program and the generator will be delivered to the site. All the switch gear is in place and the city's electrician is confident that he can install the generator. He does not anticipate any further costs.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Louderback, Mills, Pennewitt, Propes, and Felton  
Nays: Caupp                      motion carried.

Motion by Mayor Pennewitt, seconded by Councilman Louderback, that Ordinance Number 09-54 be now passed. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Louderback, Mills, Pennewitt, Propes, and Felton  
Nays: Caupp                      motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Mayor Pennewitt, to authorize the City Manager to execute a purchase order in the amount of \$20,779.00 with Ohio CAT (Caterpillar) for the purchase of a 50kw diesel generator through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Louderback, Mills, Pennewitt, and Propes  
Nays: Caupp and Felton                      motion carried.

Councilwoman Felton asked that the Introduction of an Ordinance declaring the 1974 Onan generator as surplus and authorize the City Manager to sell said unit via govdeals.com or any other means deemed appropriate be withdrawn until Mr. Percival reports how (if) the generator can be used in other departments. Council and Mr. Percival agreed to withdraw the request to introduce the above-mentioned ordinance.

**Items for the City Manager:** Councilman Caupp said a year ago he asked if the road department could straighten the numerous crooked signs throughout the city and suggested they straighten five signs a week. Also, he asked who inspects trees before they are planted downtown. Many of the tree trunks are not straight and will not be straight in five years. He would not have planted some of those trees and some do not look properly secured so they stay straight. They need to make sure they do the project right and that the trees are planted straight. He did not know who the tree vendor was, but some of those trees should have been returned to the vendor. Mr. Percival said he could not recall the vendor's name.

Councilwoman Felton noted construction and landscaping on Main Street by Xenia Towne Square is not done. Church Street was torn out in the back area and is now dirt. Mr. Percival

said he met with the City Planner today. They will meet with the Xenia Towne Square maintenance person and the owner in the next week to ten days.

Councilwoman Felton thanked the City Engineer for following up on complaints about the traffic signal at Rockwell Drive and W. Second Street going into Warner Middle School. Year-round school started, and there were many complaints about the timing of that light. Mr. Percival said various engineering personnel will do the same thing at all the lights to ensure they are operating properly. They will never solve all the problems but they are trying to mitigate problems to the best of their ability. Councilwoman Felton said she still cannot get north and south from her house without sitting at lights. The lights work from east and west, except for N. Detroit Street. Mr. Percival agreed everything else works east to west, except for N. Detroit Street.

Councilman Caupp said the traffic signal at Rockwell Drive and W. Second Street was discussed at the August 3<sup>rd</sup> XTC meeting. There are no complaints for northbound Rockwell Drive when school lets out. There are still some timing problems with the signal when motorists are going southbound on Rockwell Drive and attempt to turn onto W. Second Street. The City Engineer is aware of the issues and is working with the contractor to correct the problems going southbound on W. Second Street.

**Finance Director's Office:**

**Schedule of Bills:** Mr. Bazalak presented payment of bills totaling \$605,098.06.

Motion by Councilwoman Mills, seconded by Councilman Caupp, to approve payment of bills totaling \$605,098.06. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Caupp, Louderback, Mills, Felton, Pennewitt, and Propes

Nays: None motion carried.

**Items for the Finance Director:** Mr. Bazalak announced the Utility Billing Department is offering a new service, which is ACH (automatic bank) withdrawal of your monthly Xenia utility bill. Please see the city's website or visit the City's Utility Billing Department for further information. Residents may sign up for this service, or continue to make payments online using their credit cards, mail in their payments, or pay in person at City Hall or at various collection sites throughout the City.

**Law Director's Office:**

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

**Second Readings of Ordinances and Resolutions:** None.

**Items for the Law Director:** None.

**READING OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DISCUSSION:** Councilman Louderback thanked the voters for passing the Renewal Levy. It was greatly needed, and he appreciates it! He reminded citizens that the Rail & Arts Fest will be Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on downtown E. Main Street, rain or shine. The Community Action Group, on which he is a board member, will have a clothes and school supply give-away tomorrow morning from

9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Greene County Job and Family Services Media Room at 571 Ledbetter Road. Also, a "Letter to the Editor" asked if the city's budget was public information. The answer is yes, it is public information. He thought the procedure was to contact Mr. Bazelak with a public records request and that the information can be provided. Mr. Bazelak said that was correct. Councilman Louderback said it is all public information. City Council has an open door policy; we don't hide from anybody. Citizens should feel free to contact any Council members if they have questions. A grant for \$282,000 was approved for the Hooven & Allison cleanup and should be received by the first of October. Regarding the COPS Hiring Recovery Program [CHRP] that President Obama started for up to \$1 billion in grants across the country, once again the City of Xenia was bypassed. Dayton received funding for 11 police jobs, Springfield received funding for several jobs, and all other areas in this community received funding for several police jobs. This is another perfect example of how we cannot depend on federal or state government or even the Greene County Commissioners to help us. Basically, we are on our own. The COPS program is just another slap in the face to all of us. The COPS program was supposed to help cities the size of Xenia all over the country, but again, Xenia was bypassed. They learned this week that the city lost 600 jobs at Greene Memorial Hospital. He was appalled and disgusted at our County Commissioners, our State Reps, Congressmen, and Senators. We need some help in Xenia and it seemed to him that Beavercreek, Bellbrook, and all the other communities [in Greene County] get help, but Xenia gets nothing. It is about time they start helping Xenia. We are getting bypassed every day and continue to get kicked in the teeth by the COPS program and all the other programs.

Councilman Caupp agreed with Councilman Louderback's comments on the COPS program and Greene Memorial Hospital. Since he was out of town yesterday on his father's birthday, he wished his father a belated "Happy Birthday."

Councilwoman Mills thanked the voters for getting out and voting in spite of the 'monsoon'. Although Benner Field house was not their usual voting precinct, many voters came out in the rain to vote for passage of Issue I. She noted year-round schools have started and traditional schools will start before the next Council meeting. Please be aware of children walking to school and being on the streets when it is still dark outside. She thanked all the volunteers in the city for stepping up and brainstorming to come up with new ideas to help one another and to move forward. If government can't support us, we can move forward and still make a difference, which is important. She announced that the Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities (BRACA) has a vacancy. The Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Board is moving forward with a banner sponsorship program for downtown Xenia. The Board is not giving up on the downtown just because they do not have money in the budget. There are other ways to move forward. If anyone is interested in serving on BRACA, a letter of interest can be sent to the City Clerk, Michelle Johnson, 101 N. Detroit Street, or e-mailed to [mjohnson@ci.xenia.oh.us](mailto:mjohnson@ci.xenia.oh.us). She thanked Sandy Feix for all the years she gave to BRACA. She also thanked Lauren Farley, last year's student representative and welcomed Kyle Hatfield, the new student representative for BRACA this year.

President Propes thanked voters for supporting Issue I and making sure it passed. Ironically, two or three days later, they had the new groundbreaking for the new hospital in Beavercreek. During that event, they announced that 600 jobs would move out of Xenia to Beavercreek. Any gains or issues that the levy may have helped were negated two days later. In two years, if we

don't get things changed or we don't get things moving in the right direction, we will be in the exact same situation we were in a week before the election. Greene Memorial Hospital, which will soon be called "The Greene Memorial Band-Aid Station," is continuously moving services out of Xenia. Ground had not even been broken yet in Beavercreek and they already announced expansion of that facility from 90 beds to 300 beds and from 1,000 jobs to 3,000 jobs, and the facility is not even built! They claim the Beavercreek area was underserved by them, yet they have five facilities in Beavercreek with hundreds of thousands of square feet of space to meet the needs of that community. The president of the hospital also stated it would be the only hospital to serve thousands of people within a 10-mile radius. It is 11 miles to drive from Greene Memorial Hospital to the site of the new hospital. He sees better than he hears and it looks like Greene Memorial Hospital will no longer exist in Xenia. Greene Memorial Hospital keeps sidestepping the issue and being less than forthcoming with information to us. They will invite our State Representatives, our County Commissioners, and our U.S. Congressmen to address Council and try to answer our questions and concerns that we have regarding the hospital, the jobs that are leaving, and how they will help us make up that shortfall. The hard work our community did in working to get the levy passed just put a small band aid on a big hole, that was negated three days later.

Mayor Pennewitt also thanked the citizens of Xenia for voting 'yes' [for the Renewal Levy]. We are in a serious financial bind. This city will more than likely be operating in the red by January. In other words, we do not have enough money to cover our expenses. Referencing earlier discussions tonight, she noted the Renewal Levy was first voted on in 1959. She asked residents if they could live on their salary from 1959. Renewals are simply that. It is the same dollar amount residents were paying in 1959. They need to understand where the city is financially. She recognized it is a difficult time in this society. She understands people are getting laid off, and she feels much sympathy for those families. However, if the city does not receive more revenue, there is only one thing they can do, which is to cut expenses, which means cutting personnel and services. That is the only choice they have. She hopes people understand where they are financially. In 2003, they were in a similar situation. Everyone on Council hates to lay off employees or eliminate jobs. The city is in a serious situation. She asked that citizens pray for the city to give us the wisdom to know what to do and what decisions to make. This is a problem, not just for today, but also for tomorrow and for years to come.

Councilwoman Felton stated the city is not allowed to go into debt. She does not understand trillions—let alone billions. She gets so aggravated watching the federal government because they no longer have common sense. All she sees is them going into debt and borrowing against her children's, grandchildren's, and great grandchildren's future for wasteful spending. You want some jets; well let's buy eight jets to haul around Congressmen. What did they do to the guys from Chrysler and General Motors when they came in their private jets? They raised heck. There is no common sense up there. Someone called her and yelled "You don't pay for your health insurance, so I need to get mine free like you do!" She is on Medicare. Each month, she pays \$100 for Medicare, \$40 for her medical card, and \$250 for her secondary insurance. Her income is \$1,200 monthly, so that is a chunk of money to take out of her paycheck. So don't tell me I don't pay my fair share! Legislators have to slow down on health care and at least *read* what they are passing. They did not read the Stimulus Bill, they have all this money floating around, and small cities like Xenia were supposed to get our share to help with our budget. According to the paper, who got the money? Every big Democratic city in Ohio got money.

Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton got millions of dollars of stimulus money. We need money for police and fire but there is no money for us, yet we can pay the tax bill. We are trying to manage on a little bit of money and questioning things like the purchase of a \$20,000 generator, which she knows they will probably need. However, she also knows we don't have the money. They get tired of her voting 'nay' or nitpicking the budget. She has been on Council for 17 years so she knows how to read the budget. She wants everyone to be prepared that if things don't improve with the loss of jobs, safety services in Xenia will be cut. It may not be tomorrow, because they are still working on things, but it will happen because we have no choice. If Councilman Caupp wants the signs fixed, they cannot lay off many more Public Service employees. There just has to be a balance. She welcomed anyone to call and discuss it or call the City Manager. Public hearings on the budget will begin in October and everyone is invited to attend those meetings to see what is actually going on. You will not find very much waste in this city. She questions the budget because she wants to know and she wants the public to know. When she asks a question, she knows the answer. If she has a question, she knows citizens have a question and they are watching the broadcast. Many people watch Channel 5 to see what is going on with City Council and see Council's interaction, but they also like to know what is going on. She likes the idea of town hall meetings, tea parties, etc. If she was well enough to sit for hours, she would be at one of them to voice her opinion. Congressmen and Senators aren't listening. Legislators will keep their good insurance for their families and not take the new insurance plan. Legislators can retire with full pension after serving two full terms, but she can't do that. There is so much going on and everyone is tired of the fighting. She believes in positive interaction and discussion—not screaming or yelling. Anyone on Council or staff will be glad to discuss issues, but we have to come with a more positive attitude.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilwoman Felton, seconded by Mayor Pennewitt, to adjourn the Regular Session at 9:00 p.m. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Caupp, Louderback, Mills, Felton, Pennewitt, and Propes

Nays: None                      motion carried.

Michelle D. Johnson, Clerk  
Xenia City Council

Dennis R. Propes, President  
Xenia City Council