

the Xenia Police Division's community outreach programs. She then presented a check in the amount of \$695 to a representative from the Fraternal Order of Police. (Applause followed.)

- Over 20 businesses participated in the Window Decorating Contest. Per the Facebook votes, the first place winner was Sip-N-Dipity, second place was Sweets Boutique, and third place was The Flower Stop.
- BRACA sponsored Santa who greeted children at Toward Independence, which is where the Letters to Soldiers were written. She extended her thanks and appreciation to President Engle for his help in coordinating this event. She noted the soldiers who attended also participated in the tree lighting event at the City Administration Building.
- For the Scavenger Hunt, 12 businesses participated to represent the 12 Days of Christmas; participants received an award at the 12th business, which was The Flower Stop.

Mr. Merriman thanked Ms. Cantrell for all her hard work on the event this year. (Applause followed.)

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: President Engle explained the procedures for audience comments and invited anyone who wished to speak to come forward. Nobody came forward to speak.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Planning and Zoning Commission: Vice President Smith said there was not a quorum for the regularly scheduled meeting on January 5th, so the meeting was moved to January 19th. There is one item on the agenda as well as the reorganization to select a Vice Chair for 2017.

Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities: Councilwoman Mills said BRACA did not meet in January. The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 7th; they are looking forward to the next BRACA event, which is the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Traffic Commission: Councilwoman Mays said the January meeting was cancelled because the meeting fell on a City-observed holiday. The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 6th.

Board of Zoning Appeals: Mayor Bayless said BZA met on December 19th on one case, which was a variance request to allow a temporary residential facility for five or more homeless individuals at 1087 W. Second Street filed by Simon Kenton Bridges of Hope, which was approved.

ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR: President Engle said at their next regular meeting, they will vote on Board and Commission assignments. He invited all Councilmembers to let him know if they had a preference for a particular Board or Commission.

Councilwoman Mills said she didn't want to wait until the end of the meeting to share the news that Xenia has two new Marines; her son, Kyle Mills, and Daniel McCray, both completed the Crucible. Both young men have very proud parents who appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers.

President Engle reported that he recently witnessed several cars run through the red light in front of fire engines that had their lights and sirens on. He cautioned everyone to be aware that it is illegal to do this, and especially for their own safety, they should refrain from doing it.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:

City Manager's Office:

Emergency Ordinance to enter into a lease agreement with Huntington National Bank to allow operation of ATM located in the City-owned former Kmart parking lot at 200 W. Main Street. Mr. Merriman respectfully requested approval of an emergency ordinance to authorize a lease agreement with Huntington National Bank in the amount of \$1,339.81 per month for the continued operation of an ATM on the lot located at 200 W. Main Street. Prior to the City's purchase of the leasehold interest of the former Kmart site last year, the previous owner had an existing agreement with Huntington Bank to lease the ATM location. Upon the City's purchase of the leasehold, that agreement was automatically terminated. City staff has been working with Huntington's corporate office ever since to negotiate a successor agreement for their ATM operation. The lease agreement presented tonight represents that effort. The agreement is backdated to April 11, 2016 and runs to April 11, 2017. The annual lease amount, which is revenue to the City, is \$16,077.72. City Charter requires an ordinance for the leasing of public property and in order to expedite the signing of the long-overdue measure, staff recommends approval of this item as an emergency to allow for the immediate execution of the agreement.

Councilman Louderback presented an ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO LEASE A PORTION OF LAND OWNED BY THE CITY AT 200 W. MAIN STREET, ALSO KNOWN AS PARCEL M40000100070013100 AND THE FORMER LOCATION OF THE XENIA KMART STORE, AND DECLARING IT TO BE AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Wallace, 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: Smith, Wallace, Louderback, Mays, Mills, Bayless, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Wallace, that Ordinance Number 17-01 be now passed. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Smith, Wallace, Louderback, Mays, Mills, Bayless, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

Emergency Ordinance to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Xenia Adult Recreation and Services Center (XARSC) to occupy a City of Xenia owned facility at 966 Towler Road. Mr. Merriman respectfully requested passage of an emergency ordinance to authorize execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Xenia Adult Recreation and Services Center (XARSC) to occupy and utilize a portion of the building known as the Sanitation Barn at 966 Towler Road, which is identified as Building No. 2 in the agenda report materials. It has been City Council's expectation that staff work closely with local agencies that provide resources and services to our citizens. The Senior Center is one such local service provider, which is experiencing a significant growth in the demand for their services. As

a result, the Senior Center has sought and been fortunate to receive funding to purchase additional vehicles for transportation services. For obvious reasons, the Senior Center leadership is desirous of keeping these fleet additions under roof when not in use. Their current facility for vehicle storage, located at the City's Towler Road location, lacks the additional space. The City was approached by XARSC leadership seeking acquiescence to their original idea of expanding their existing facility. While in principle staff had no concern with this, recently heightened EPA regulations restrict the ability to construct new structures on grounds within 1,000 feet of the closed landfill area due to gas migration concerns. In an attempt to work with the Senior Center folks to find an alternative solution, staff determined that space could be made available in the City's sanitation barn located immediately adjacent to the Senior Center's current storage structure. Staff is recommending the term of the agreement coincide with the expiration date of the Senior Center's main facility lease agreement with the City for the building located on E. Church Street. Staff is recommending emergency approval because the Center has an immediate need for the storage space, and emergency approval will expedite authorization of the MOU.

Mayor Bayless presented an ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE XENIA ADULT RECREATION AND SERVICES CENTER TO OCCUPY A FACILITY OWNED BY THE CITY OF XENIA AT 966 TOWLER ROAD, AND DECLARING IT TO BE AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Mayor Bayless, seconded by Councilwoman Mills, 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: Smith, Wallace, Louderback, Mills, Bayless, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Mayor Bayless, seconded by Councilwoman Mills, that Ordinance Number 17-02 be now passed. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Smith, Wallace, Louderback, Mills, Bayless, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

Councilwoman Mays recused herself because she sits on the XARSC Board.

Introduction of a Resolution of Support for Federal/State Bicycle Route Designations. Mr. Merriman said the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is currently working to designate several routes in our region as both state and federal bicycle routes, including the Little Miami/Ohio-to-Erie (federal designation), the Little Miami (north, for state designation), and the Jamestown Connector (state designation) located here in Xenia, which are detailed in the map attached to the agenda report. As part of their effort, ODOT is asking for resolutions of support from local jurisdictions that host portions of the trail ways being considered for federal and state designations. Such measures of support are important to demonstrate a broader understanding of the value the trail systems can bring and to help ensure these transportation systems will be maintained as a priority in our region. By approving a resolution of support, the City is not locking itself into any major commitments. As stated in the

FAQ materials attached to this report, ODOT will provide and install all initial signage; maintenance of signs will be up to the local jurisdictions. However, please note that according to the Greene County Trail Management Committee, such signage located along the interconnected trail ways would fall under the maintenance jurisdiction of the Committee's capital program. Staff does not expect any major commitment will be required on the City's part if the state and federal designations are achieved. Advancing the accessibility and the marketing of the local trail system has recently been identified as a priority by City Council. Designation of all local trail ways by the Federal Department of Transportation and ODOT would promote these causes. Staff recommends City Council introduce and ultimately adopt a resolution of support for the designations.

Councilman Wallace introduced a RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STATE/FEDERAL BICYCLE ROUTE DESIGNATIONS OF PORTIONS OF THE LITTLE MIAMI, CREEKSIDE, AND JAMESTOWN CONNECTOR TRAIL WAYS THROUGH THE CITY OF XENIA BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS, and it was read for the first time.

Mayor Bayless inquired about the deadline as stated in the information attached to the agenda item report. Mr. Merriman said the deadline has been extended.

Items for the City Manager: Mr. Merriman thanked Assistant City Manager Ryan Duke for covering the last Council meeting so he and his family could spend time over the holidays with extended family. He then provided the following updates:

- Simon Kenton Building: Staff and he have continued to work directly with leadership from both Community Action Partnership and Bridges of Hope to identify next steps toward reuse of the Simon Kenton school facility. He reported that two additional groups have contacted the City about this initiative.
- Rumpke: Staff is working to have recommendations back to Council on an update to the City's refuse collection agreement with Rumpke that would incorporate an additional monthly bulk pickup. They are waiting on a final quote from Rumpke and hope to have this ready for Council consideration within the next month. He anticipated an additional cost due to the need to dedicate an additional truck and additional staff to provide the service, which would undoubtedly impact the sanitation fund and the cost for services.

Councilman Wallace said with the new Rumpke contract and the addition of the recycling carts, there has been a significant increase in recycling. He asked how that increase would impact the cost for trash collection services. Mr. Merriman concurred there has been a significant increase in recycling in the City, which should promote a reduction in tipping fees. Councilman Wallace said that reduction in tipping fees should factor into what the City pays for trash collection service.

Councilman Louderback asked the length of Rumpke's current contract. Mr. Merriman believed it was a five-year contract with an option to extend an additional two years. Councilman Louderback asked if Rumpke was the only bidder. Mr. Merriman said yes. Councilman Louderback said Rumpke is monopolizing the market and taking advantage of local communities because they are "the only game in town." He will not agree to any increase.

- REACH: The REACH partners met today with the Greene County Commissioners and County Administrator to update them on progress and to encourage their support in whatever ways possible. The conversation was very positive, and the Commission seems willing to lend some measure of support. He distributed a ‘white paper’ that the partners put together that details the overall project and includes a prospectus of an economic model for the project. The project has not been awarded New Market Tax Credits, but they feel the project is well positioned within that process to secure dollars. Also, Clark State and Central State have made a request to go through the PDAC (Priority Development and Advocacy Committee) process for up to \$2 million in State capital dollars. They are at a critical point with this project and over the next few weeks, it will be important to continue to bring public awareness to various jurisdictions around Xenia to seek their support. He said the REACH project is an amazing opportunity, not just for Xenia, but for much of Greene County to expand services and health care, recreation, work force development, senior services, etc.
- He anticipates scheduling another joint session in the first quarter (possibly in February) of the year with the Xenia Community Schools Board of Education.
- There are currently two vacancies on the Civil Service Commission. It is a minimal commitment but an important part of the City’s governance process. He encouraged anyone interested in serving to contact Human Resources Director Jackie Potter or City Clerk Michelle Johnson.

With regard to the REACH project, Councilman Wallace asked when the \$2 million from the state (PDAC funding) would be available. Mr. Merriman said the Governor’s budget is expected to be released next month, and the State needs to act on that. They won’t know for certain about the PDAC funding until May or June. In regard to the new market tax credits, they have indicated they want those credits to be the last component of funding while they wait for the state funding. He said the YMCA has reached out to their large sponsors and received a positive response. It appears many funding sources are coming online to reduce the scope of the broader capital “giving campaign.” Vice President Smith said the current YMCA has only one gymnasium, and it is heavily used. If this project comes to fruition, he hopes there are at least two gyms or a double gym to meet the demand of many exercise classes and basketball practices. He also hopes the new center includes an aquatic center with a six-lane competition pool because the current pool is very small. If the aquatic center was large enough for spectators, local high schools could host swim meets there and bring even more business to Xenia. The overall project would provide a great opportunity for Xenia’s neighbors, including Bellbrook, Jamestown, Beavercreek, etc., to come to Xenia.

Councilman Louderback inquired about the anticipated taxpayers’ contribution and Greene County’s contribution. Mr. Merriman said they hope to keep the taxpayers’ contribution to be about \$1 million, which would be used to support the gymnasium component. Kettering Health Network has the resources available right now to move forward with their component of the building. Clark State and Central State are relying on state funding for capital dollars, and the YMCA plans to bring cash to the table. The YMCA and the XARSC would both be beneficiaries of the new market tax credits. The City would help contribute about \$1 million. They will look at every avenue possible to cover the remaining funding gap of a few million dollars. Currently, Greene County has not committed to any financial contribution, but he was encouraged that they will both financially and politically support the project.

Vice President Smith asked about the proposed implication the REACH project would have on the existing health clinic near Rural King. Mr. Merriman said the Urgent Care located there is a

where there is an existing building (Fulmer's). They are looking at all the options for this thru street. There is also an environmental issue on the southeast corner of the property. There is no immediate danger, but the site needs to be remediated so they can ensure a clean site. He reported that the Kmart building is almost completely demolished, and the contractor will start on removing the footers/slab next week. Councilman Louderback said some people have expressed concerns about how long this project is taking. Mr. Merriman said development projects like this one take a lot of time because they need to be very thorough and it requires a lot of review. They want the end result of this project to enhance the downtown and be good for Xenia, and they want to do it right.

Finance Director's Office:

Schedule of Bills: Mr. Bazalak presented payment of bills totaling \$84,961.65.

Motion by Councilwoman Mays, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to approve payment of bills totaling \$84,961.65. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Smith, Wallace, Louderback, Mays, Mills, Bayless, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

Items for the Finance Director: None.

Law Director's Office:

Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions: None.

Second Readings of Ordinances and Resolutions: Mr. Schierloh presented a RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADVANCE PAYMENT OF TAXES FROM THE FEBRUARY AND AUGUST SETTLEMENTS FROM THE GREENE COUNTY AUDITOR FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2017, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by Vice President Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Mays, that Resolution Number 17-A be now passed. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Smith, Wallace, Louderback, Mays, Mills, Bayless, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

Items for the Law Director: None.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DISCUSSION: Councilman Louderback encouraged everyone to support X-Act, Xenia's local theater. The next production "Same Time, Next Year" opens on February 3rd and runs through February 12th.

Councilwoman Mays invited everyone to Middle Run Baptist Church's Martin Luther King Jr. service on Monday, January 16th, at 7 p.m.

Councilman Wallace concurred with Councilwoman Mays. The event at the church will be hosted by the new pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. A great service is planned to include a choir with members from several churches and several songs from a soloist.

Councilwoman Mills encouraged everyone to take pride in their community, look out for each other, and work together. Many great things have already happened and many more are to come.

Mayor Bayless extended condolences to Roger Shambaugh and his family on the passing of his wife, Geraldine. She then provided the following updates:

- She attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for HER Realty.
- She attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Sip-N-Dipity, who also hosted tonight's Business After Hours event.
- She announced that Central State University President Dr. Cynthia Jackson-Hammond has been named one of the Top Ten Most Influential HBCU College Presidents in 2016. She congratulated her on that honor and thanked her for all she has done for the university and this area.
- She read a thank you letter that she received from Matt Peters from the Ohio Development Services Agency with regard to the City's hosting of the press conference for the announcement of Round 17 of Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits, which included a project in Xenia known as the Litt Brothers Building to renovate the second and third floors for five 1- and 2-bedroom apartments.
- She recently attended a showing of the movie "Hidden Figures," which is the story of three African-American ladies who were mathematicians and was based on a true story. One woman, Dorothy Vaughan who is played by Octavia Spencer in the movie, graduated from Wilberforce University in 1929. All three ladies depicted in the movie are also members of her sorority.
- She said 2016 was a great year, and she looks forward to 2017.

Vice President Smith wished everyone a Happy New Year. He encouraged everyone to make 2017 a great year, go to church, volunteer, etc. He thanked President Engle for his willingness to serve once again as the Council President; he was honored to serve alongside him. He also commended and thanked Mayor Bayless, who was a fabulous Mayor and contributed to the movement to make Xenia so great. He also thanked the Appointed Officials for the job they are doing and wished them continued success.

President Engle concurred with many comments made this evening. Last year was a banner year for Xenia with many things accomplished; further, the groundwork has been laid to accomplish even more things in 2017. He is looking forward to the City's continued positive direction.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mayor Bayless, seconded by Vice President Smith, to adjourn the Regular Session at 7:53 p.m. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Smith, Wallace, Louderback, Mays, Mills, Bayless, and Engle

Nays: None motion carried.

Michelle D. Johnson
City Clerk

Michael D. Engle, President
Xenia City Council