

**XENIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Michael Engle called the February 8, 2018, Regular Session to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Administration Building.

2. INVOCATION: Associate Pastor Mike Hancock, Xenia Nazarene Church, provided the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Dale Louderback led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL: Vice President Edgar Wallace, Councilman Thomas Scrivens, Councilman Dale Louderback, Councilman Wesley Smith, Councilman Levi Dean, Mayor Sarah Mays, and President Michael Engle were present.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to approve the January 25, 2018, Special Session meeting minutes as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Scrivens, seconded by Councilman Dean, to approve the January 25, 2018, Regular Session meeting minutes as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S): Scott Halasz, Xenia Daily Gazette. President Engle invited Mr. Halasz to address Council. Mr. Halasz said he wanted to talk about the Gazette's role in the City of Xenia. He has seen some things on social media referencing the lack of presence by the Gazette at various functions or events. A newspaper's role has changed; the days of having 10-15 people in a newsroom are over. The Gazette has five people in the Gazette's newsroom, and one is a full-time sports reporter. The remaining four reporters handle two dailies and a weekly; therefore, he is the primary reporter for the City of Xenia. Additionally, he covers Spring Valley, Cedarville, Jamestown, Xenia Township, Bellbrook, and even Beavercreek at times. He obviously cannot be everywhere at once. He asked that the public partner with the Gazette and become the eyes and ears for the Gazette and let them know when something is happening in the Xenia community. The Gazette is on Twitter, Facebook, and has several email contacts to allow people to be amateur reporters and submit information. The Gazette is the first ones to get criticized but the last ones to know, but they are hoping to change that perspective. They plan to speak at every municipality in the County over the next few weeks to ask all County residents the same thing. He needs their help to get information out to the public. The Gazette wants to be Xenia's newspaper of record, their first choice for local news, and they want to do it fairly and completely, but they need help from the community. The Gazette does not

have scanners or a breaking news team; therefore, they depend on help from the community to locate and report activities, events, or unusual situations around the City. The reporters are typically out of the office by 6 p.m., and a lot of things happen after dark. He asked people to email the Gazette at editor@XeniaGazette.com and his direct phone number is (937) 502-4507; his voicemail goes directly to his email. If he is not able to get to the location at that moment, at least he will know to follow up on the situation. The Gazette wants to deliver the local news as often and as fairly as possible. He was not begging for subscriptions, but he wants everyone to help the local paper be successful. People are encouraged to shop local, and he asked that they also keep the local paper in mind when they see things happening in the community.

President Engle asked Mr. Holloway if something could be posted on the City's website asking citizens to contact the Gazette to report happenings in the community. Mr. Holloway agreed.

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

Brenda Muterspaw, 597 Sutton Drive, said she attended the last meeting but decided not to speak because she did not want the new Council member to feel that her comments regarding the processed used to fill the vacancy on City Council were directed at him. She was not directing her comments to that person; they are directed to City Council. She has been frustrated since the vacancy process was conducted and understands that it cannot be changed; however, she wanted to express her concerns. She feels the vacancy appointment should have gone to Billie Carrico because she went out to collect the required 100 signatures in order to be placed on the ballot. Once she was on the ballot, Ms. Carrico had to campaign to let people know what she stood for in order to win their votes, and Ms. Carrico came in third in the election. Common sense told her that Ms. Carrico should have been the person chosen to fill the vacant seat. She did not know if the decision to go with another choice was based upon personal agenda or upon City Council having a lot of power, but she feels the decision to fill the seat with someone other than Ms. Carrico was wrong. She thanked Council for their time.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. President Engle presented ORDINANCE 2018-04 AMENDING SECTIONS 1234.02(B)(2), 1236.10(C)(3), AND 1244.02 OF THE CITY OF XENIA LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, originally introduced by Councilman Smith on January 25, 2018, and it was read for a second time. He asked Law Director Donnette Fisher if she had any additional comments on this item. Ms. Fisher said she did not.

Motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to adopt Ordinance 2018-04 as read. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

B. President Engle presented ORDINANCE 2018-05 ACCEPTING THE DEDICATED STREETS IN THE VILLAGES OF STERLING GREEN SUBDIVISION, originally introduced by Councilman Louderback on January 25, 2018, and it was read for a second time. He asked Ms. Fisher if she had any additional comments on this item. Ms. Fisher said she did not.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to adopt Ordinance 2018-05 as read. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

C. President Engle presented RESOLUTION 2018-C ADOPTING THE CITY OF XENIA'S NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE, originally introduced by Vice President Wallace on January 25, 2018, and it was read for a second time. He asked Ms. Fisher if she had any additional comments on this item. Ms. Fisher said this is a new plan which is similar to the electric aggregation plan and will allow staff to seek quotes for natural gas to see if it can save the residents money.

Motion by Vice President Wallace, seconded by Councilman Scrivens, to adopt Resolution 2018-C as read. Brief discussion followed.

President Engle noted that by approving this Resolution, it does not commit the City to purchasing natural gas; approval will simply start the process to seek bids. The City can move forward with a plan if it is determined that natural gas aggregation would be advantageous to citizens. Ms. Fisher concurred.

Councilman Scrivens thanked Councilman Louderback for initiating the gas aggregation discussion.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

D. President Engle presented RESOLUTION 2018-D DESIGNATING THE CITY CLERK AS COUNCIL'S DESIGNEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLYING WITH OHIO'S SUNSHINE LAW TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, originally introduced by Councilman Scrivens on January 25, 2018, and it was read for a second time. He asked Ms. Fisher if she had any additional comments on this item. Ms. Fisher said the City Clerk has been acting in this capacity for Council since 2014 and was appointed by an administrative motion in the past. This Resolution would be filed with the Auditor and formalizes the existing process; they would not have to come back to Council each year to reappoint her for the training.

Motion by Councilman Scrivens, seconded by Mayor Mays, to adopt Resolution 2018-D as read. Brief discussion followed. President Engle thanked Ms. Fisher for bringing the item before Council, and he appreciates her efforts to find a better way to do business with fewer administrative actions. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

9. PUBLIC HEARING(S): None.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Emergency Ordinance 2018-06 Granting a 0.193-Acre Standard Highway Easement along U.S. Route 68 to the State of Ohio. Assistant City Manager Jared Holloway said the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is requesting that the City of Xenia grant this easement to facilitate the rehabilitation of the U.S. 68 bridge over Massie Creek adjacent to the City's Water Treatment Plant. The easement area is along the western edge of the existing bridge and varies in width from 45 to 35 feet. ODOT has made a "Good Faith Offer" for the Standard Highway Easement to the City of Xenia in the amount of \$1,178. The offer is based upon an appraisal that was completed in anticipation of this project. Given that this particular location has little intrinsic value to the City of Xenia or to the City's Water Treatment Plant located on the property, City staff has no objections to accepting the Good Faith Offer. In order for ODOT to proceed with the work as soon as possible, City Staff requests this Ordinance be adopted on an emergency basis. He noted that the attached legal description for the Standard Highway Easement will be amended by ODOT per staff's request to account for a City of Xenia water main traversing the area. Therefore, the City Manager will not sign any such agreements until the City Law Director has reviewed and approved the amended legal description protecting the City's water main. Additionally, he wanted to note that it is City-owned property, located outside of the city limits, but that does not change the request for Council action.

President Engle entertained a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-06 as an emergency.

Motion by Vice President Wallace, seconded by Councilman Smith, to adopt ORDINANCE 2018-06 GRANTING A 0.193-ACRE STANDARD HIGHWAY EASEMENT ALONG U.S. ROUTE 68 TO THE STATE OF OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

B. Emergency Resolution 2018-E Requesting the Advance Payment of Tax Settlements for the 2018 Calendar Year from the Greene County Auditor. Finance Director Ryan Duke said every year City Council is asked to approve a Resolution authorizing the Finance Director to procure from the County Auditor advance payment of various taxes they collect and hold for the City. The regular schedule for distribution of taxes collected by the County Auditor to local jurisdictions is February and August. This Resolution will allow him to request and receive advance payment of taxes collected and held by the County in 2018 and improve the City's cash flow.

President Engle entertained a motion to approve Resolution 2018-E as an emergency.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Mayor Mays, to adopt RESOLUTION 2018-E REQUESTING THE ADVANCE PAYMENT OF TAX SETTLEMENTS FOR THE 2018 CALENDAR YEAR FROM THE GREENE COUNTY AUDITOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

C. Introduction of Resolution 2018-F Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Three-Year Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Administration Agreement with the Ohio Development Services Agency for the use of Community Development Block Grant Program Income. Mr. Holloway said staff is requesting City Council adopt a Resolution, as required by the State of Ohio, to authorize the execution of a three-year Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund Administration Agreement with the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA). This is a new requirement as of 2015 and governs the reporting for the Downtown Façade Loan Program Income, which is now considered Economic Development Program Income (a part of CDBG programming). As a part of the City's agreement with ODSA, the City is required to have in place a plan of governance, which includes extensive policies and procedures to govern the actions and authorities of the committees and City officials associated with the administration of these programs. Staff is working with ODSA to finalize the plan components and will have the plan of governance complete and in place prior to execution of the EDRLF Administration Agreement.

Councilman Wallace asked Mr. Brodsky if EDAB is considering this item or if they will consider it at the next meeting. Mr. Brodsky said it actually deals with the Community Development Block Grant funds. Staff requested and received approval from ODSA to use housing program income for economic development purposes, which was used for the façade improvements in the downtown area last year. All of the pieces in the various policies have been in place; however, compiling the pieces into once policy needs to be done in order to meet the requirements of HUD and ODSA. Basically, nothing else has changed.

President Engle entertained an introduction of Resolution 2018-F.

Vice President Wallace introduced RESOLUTION 2018-F AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A THREE-YEAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AGENCY FOR THE USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM INCOME, and it was read for the first time.

Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Greene Central Communications Operators Association. President Engle invited Mr. Holloway to present this additional agenda item. Mr. Holloway said City staff and members of the Greene Central Communications Operators Association (911 Dispatchers) engaged in the negotiations using a traditional bargaining process to reach a tentative agreement for a successor collective bargaining agreement based on the parameters put in place by City Council. The union has ratified the agreement, and the negotiation team and the appointed officials believe the terms and conditions of the proposed tentative agreement are fair and satisfy the interests of the City.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Mayor Mays, to approve the terms and conditions of the proposed collective bargaining agreement and to authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement with the Greene Central Communications Operators Association. Discussion followed.

Councilman Scrivens complemented staff on their hard work and diligence to work out an agreement that works for all parties. He asked Chief Person to add any additional comments.

Chief Person said they went into negotiations with some goals in terms of staffing and salaries for the Communications Center staff. They realized that the City had fallen behind in salaries because staff has chosen not to accept raises in the past. They are beginning to have some significant issues with adequate staffing in the Communications Center; therefore, they came to Council with a request to negotiate new terms and Council agreed. The negotiations with the new union leader went very well, and they were able to reach an agreement that fell within the established parameters. They are very happy with the outcome of the negotiations. They also made headway with some attendance policies and other areas that will strengthen the City's position on how to handle certain situations.

Councilman Scrivens said he feels all parties are happy with the agreement.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle

Nays: None motion carried.

D. Administrative Motion Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase a 2018 Fire Division Staff Vehicle from Lebanon Ford through the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing Program. As stated in the staff report, the Xenia Fire Division requests approval to purchase a 2018 Ford Explorer Utility Interceptor staff vehicle in the total amount of \$29,526 through the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing Program. This new vehicle will replace a 2000 Chevy Tahoe that had 97,028 miles on it, as of January 17, 2018. Although this vehicle has been maintained, our mechanic has expressed concerns with deterioration of brake lines as well as additional mechanical issues and a severe case of rust. Maintenance records are available for this vehicle and all city vehicles, upon request. Since the City is a member of the Ohio DAS Cooperative Purchasing Program, this provides us an opportunity to purchase vehicles at a lower price than we could secure otherwise. This vehicle has been included in the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and funds are currently in the City's 2018 budget. This vehicle will meet the needs of the Fire Division now and into the future and will be outfitted as an emergency response vehicle. He also believes the City had previously purchased these locally, from Key Chrysler; however, they have discontinued their State Cooperative Purchasing Department, so in order to get these savings, they had to go through Lebanon Ford.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Vice President Wallace, seconded by Councilman Scrivens, to authorize the City Manager to purchase a 2018 Fire Division staff vehicle from Lebanon Ford in the amount of \$29,526.00 through the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract No. #RS900718. Discussion followed.

Vice President Wallace said the City has always exhausted efforts to buy local and assumes that was the case with this purchase. Mr. Holloway said vehicles were previously purchased through Key Chrysler because they used to participate in the cooperative purchasing program; unfortunately, they no longer have that department at Key Chrysler. Therefore, they are requesting the purchase from Lebanon Ford under the cooperative purchasing program, which allows the City to purchase vehicles at a cheaper rate than if purchased on our own.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle

Nays: None motion carried.

E. Administrative Motion Authorizing the City Manager to Purchase Four (4) Marked SUVs and One (1) Unmarked Police Sedan from Lebanon Ford through the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchasing Program. As stated in the staff report, the Xenia Police Division requests approval to purchase four (4) marked and one (1) unmarked police vehicles. These vehicles will be replacing current Police vehicles which have between 100,000 and 120,000 miles on them. More importantly they usually will have in the neighborhood of 20,000 engine hours on them which is equivalent your car running for roughly 2.5 years straight or the equivalent of 500,000 miles. These vehicles are used 24 hrs. a day, 365 days a year. Scheduled for replacement, these vehicles follow our Police Vehicle Replacement Program outlined in the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and funds are included in the 2018 budget. Staff requests authorization to purchase four (4) marked Police Interceptor Vehicles from Lebanon Ford, in the total amount of \$114,956 and one (1) unmarked Police Vehicle from Lebanon Ford, in the amount of \$18,350 purchasing through the Ohio DAS Cooperative Purchasing Program.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Vice President Wallace, seconded by Councilman Smith, to authorize the City Manager to purchase four (4) marked 2018 Ford Explorer Police Interceptor SUVs in the amount of \$114,956.00 and one (1) unmarked 2017 Ford Fusion in the amount of \$18,350.00 from Lebanon Ford through the State of Ohio's Cooperative Purchase Program Contract No. #RS900718. Brief discussion followed.

Vice President Wallace said he would ask the same question, but assumes it would result in the same answer as the previous item. Mr. Holloway confirmed.

Councilman Louderback said the City has always tried to buy local, and it is his understanding that Key Chrysler no longer bids on these items. Chief Person said Key Chrysler used to bid through Hamilton County, which matched the State bid, which allowed the City to get the same pricing as it would through the State. Unfortunately, two years ago the gentleman who ran the program retired and Key Chrysler discontinued the program. Therefore, staff went back to the vendor listed on the state bid, which is Lebanon Ford. He noted vendors can change from year to year because new dealerships are always trying to get the business for that year. Councilman Louderback said Council always tries to buy local whenever possible. Chief Person agreed; they always comply with Council's standard.

Councilman Smith said one of the vehicles being replaced dates back to 2002, and the others have well over 118,000 miles. Chief Person said all the Ford Explorers have engine clocks, and all the vehicles to be replaced have over 20,000 hours, which is the equivalent to a regular vehicle being driven 500,000 miles. They definitely get the usefulness out of the vehicles and take them as far as possible before they become too expensive to maintain.

President Engle said it is good to know that they are all doing their best to keep costs down while ensuring they have the proper vehicles available and ready to serve the public.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle

Nays: None motion carried.

F. Administrative Motion Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Work Order No. 2018-01 with AMEC Foster Wheeler for Landfill Post-Closure Groundwater Monitoring for 2018 under the Existing Master Services Agreement. Mr. Holloway said Council is well aware of the ongoing Ohio EPA requirements involving the City's landfill. City Staff is requesting Council's authorization to continue monitoring the groundwater at the 23 groundwater monitoring wells through 2018. In accordance with the Groundwater Monitoring Plan, a monitoring report will be submitted to the City within 65 days and on to the Ohio EPA within 75 days of the first sampling event. AMEC Foster Wheeler has performed groundwater monitoring at the closed landfill for the city since 1996, and as such, they have obtained a body of knowledge that offers unique insight and capacity relative to the intricacies of this landfill site. Although this falls under our current Existing Master Services Agreement, staff is requesting council authorize the City Manager to execute this work order with AMEC Foster Wheeler, since the amount of the work order is \$29,826 in total.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to authorize the City Manager to execute Work Order No. 2018-01 with AMEC Foster Wheeler in the amount of \$29,826.00 for Landfill Post-Closure Groundwater Monitoring for 2018 under the Existing Master Services Agreement. Discussion followed.

Councilman Scrivens referred to page 7 of the proposal and asked about the last line of the first paragraph, which states "... [a copy of the required Ohio EPA submittals] will be submitted to the Greene County Combined Health Department and to the City of Xenia." He noted proper nomenclature should be "the Public Health of Greene County." Mr. Holloway said he would make the correction. Additionally, Councilman Scrivens noted the assumptions on page 7 and asked if those itemized costs were included in the estimate because they are not stipulated in the contract. Mr. Holloway said they test the groundwater twice per year in the spring and the fall, which add up to the \$29,826. All the listed items are included under the master agreement and in the work order specifically. Councilman Scrivens said he had not seen the last report that was provided to the City regarding what is in the groundwater and requested a copy. Mr. Holloway said he would provide Councilman Scrivens with a copy of the report.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle

Nays: None motion carried.

G. Administrative Motion Authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Dixon Engineering, Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$87,395 for Inspection Services associated with the 2018 Water Tower Painting Project. Mr. Holloway said the Public Service Department plans to award a contract for the painting of the 1 million gallon Patton Street water tower and the 3 million gallon W. Second Street water tower later this spring as detailed in the

Capital Improvement Plan. In anticipation of this Water Tower Painting Project, the City of Xenia first needs to contract with a painting inspection firm that has professionals who possess the requisite knowledge and experience to provide inspection services prior to and throughout the painting of these two water towers. On January 23, 2018, the City of Xenia received two proposals from qualified firms with the experience to inspect the painting of the water towers. Dixon Engineering, Inc., has extensive experience in performing this particular function, and City staff recommends that Council authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with this firm in a not-to-exceed amount of \$87,395.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Scrivens, seconded by Mayor Mays, to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Dixon Engineering, Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$87,395.00 for Inspection Services associated with the 2018 Water Tower Painting Project. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

H. Administrative Motion Approving the Schedule of Bills in the amount of \$289,241.56. Mr. Duke requested the payment of bills as presented.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Dean, to approve payment of bills totaling \$289,241.56. Brief discussion followed. Councilman Scrivens noted American Structure Point, Inc., is listed in the Schedule of Bills for improvement work on US 42/E. Church Street, which may explain why citizen complaints regarding potholes have decreased.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, Louderback, Smith, Dean, Mays, and Engle
Nays: None motion carried.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

A. Board of Zoning Appeals: President Engle noted the January meeting was cancelled and asked Mayor Mays if she had anything else to share. Mayor Mays said she did not.

B. Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities: President Engle said BRACA met on Tuesday, February 6th and discussed recently completed and upcoming 2018 BRACA activities and events. The Board welcomed new member Tom McCarthy and are looking forward to his future contributions. The Board discussed the recently completed Hometown Christmas, which was a great success. They congratulated and thanked Mr. Koch and staff for all their work and efforts in getting the Santa house together. Many favorable compliments were received regarding that particular addition, and he is certain it will become a staple of Hometown Christmases to come. The Board discussed several other upcoming events and activities that included the Youth Recreation Basketball Program (November 2017 through March 2018), Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Shawnee Park (March 31st), Arbor Day Event at Shawnee School

(April 27th), Bloom with Xenia...Adopt-A-Spot, Fishing Derby (Saturday, June 2nd), Community Gardens (mid-April through October 31st at \$20 per lot), possible return of one or more Music in the Park events, and Hometown Christmas 2018 (Saturday, November 24th). He noted volunteers are still needed for both the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Arbor Day Event, and anyone interested can contact the City Clerk's Office. BRACA greatly appreciates any and all community support.

C. Traffic Commission: Councilman Dean said the Traffic Commission met on Monday, February 5th to discuss issues with people parking in the yellow curb zone at the school on Park Drive and Edison Avenue. The Commission discussed possible solutions with the Engineering Department and XPD, which will come before Council at a future meeting.

Councilman Scrivens noted the lights are set to blinking at the intersections of Lower Bellbrook Avenue/Allison Avenue, and N. Detroit Street/Wilson Drive. He said there is not that much cross traffic in either location. People entering those intersections can figure things out. He did not feel the lights should be returned to regular working order. He received two complaints this week including a request to install 25 MPH signs on Stelton Road to help slow speeding traffic.

President Engle asked if the City puts the lights on blinking mode in anticipation of and during inclement weather. Mr. Berger confirmed. President Engle suggested Councilman Scrivens recommend the matter for discussion at an upcoming XTC meeting if he is interested in changing the long-term nature of the lights at those intersections.

D. Planning and Zoning Commission: Councilman Smith said the February meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items. The next regularly scheduled meeting is March 1st.

12. APPOINTED OFFICIALS REPORTS AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

A. City Manager, Finance Director, and Law Director:

Mr. Holloway said he wanted to take a moment to publically thank the City's Public Service employees who provide services to himself and other residents in Xenia. They don't often get recognized until someone starts complaining about a problem or mistake. Throughout the winter these employees are called to work long hours, often overnight, and are away from their families at unexpected times to fix water main breaks, clear snow, etc. It is not an easy job, and he appreciated the work they are doing, especially those who were out plowing while he and other citizens were watching the Super Bowl. He offered condolences to the family of previous City Manager, David Spahr. Though he never met Mr. Spahr, he appreciated the work he has done in making the current City Manager's and his jobs a little easier. Finally, he thanked everyone for their kind words and congratulations on the arrival of his second daughter. His wife and baby Pippa are both doing well after a rather eventful birth, and they are enjoying learning how to function as a family of four.

Mr. Duke did not have anything further to share.

Ms. Fisher said she has one interesting item to share. She recently had a question come up regarding when the City was actually incorporated as a municipal corporation. After conducting some research, she discovered that the original petition for incorporation is in the Special

Collections at Wright State University. She received a copy of the original document, which states the petition was prepared on March 24, 1817. There were 88 households in the town at the time of the petition, and 66 signatures appear on the petition. The petition was filed with the Greene County Common Pleas Court on July 21, 1817, and by order of the Court, the town was incorporated as a municipal corporation on “the 4th Monday of October in the year of our Lord 1817.” The town was officially incorporated as a city on October 27, 1817. She noted all the old Greene County Commons Pleas Court records are located at the County Archives, and they were unbelievably helpful during her research. She offered to share the document with anyone interested.

B. Mayor and City Council:

Councilman Louderback said he is glad that Chief Person was present because he has received several calls from people in the last four to six weeks complaining about their vehicles being broken into. He proposed neighborhood watches in the past, but nothing has materialized. He noted those filing the complaints state they are willing to participate in a neighborhood watch. He understands the XPD can only do so much, but he asked Chief Person about the possibility of starting some neighborhood watch groups. He also asked if there is a curfew in the City of Xenia. Chief Person said there is a curfew on the books, but it is essentially unenforceable. The XPD would have to charge a minor as an unruly delinquent, which has created some constitutionality issues. The XPD treads lightly on the issue so that they do not lose the option. The XPD still uses it from time to time and call parents to ask them to come pick up their kids if they are out after hours. There are currently three active neighborhood watch groups in the City, and officers are more than willing to respond if someone calls. The Police Division has actually solicited citizens to form additional watch groups, but people are so busy these days that it has proven difficult to find four or five people willing to take on the role of neighborhood watch. Generally, they can find one or two people willing to take on the role, but there needs to be a core group of four or five to make it work. However, the XPD is more than willing to assist with starting groups, and officers are eager to assist. Councilman Louderback asked who citizens can call if they are interested in starting a neighborhood watch. Chief Person said they can call the XPD and ask for Captain Steve Lane, who would pass the information on to the sergeant in charge of the neighborhood watch program. He noted an officer would be assigned to each watch group. They would be more than happy to help the program grow.

Chief Person also offered his condolences to the Spahr family. He was fortunate enough to work with Mr. Spahr as a young sergeant before he became the Administrative Sergeant. The Charter used to require anything over \$500 to come before Council for approval, and Mr. Spahr helped him finalize countless agenda items that he had to present to Council [then Commission] on a weekly basis. It was a pleasure to work with Mr. Spahr, and noted he was always even tempered. Mr. Spahr helped him build the skills he has today, and he will be eternally grateful for his mentoring. Councilman Louderback offered his condolences to the family as well.

Councilman Smith did not have anything further to share.

Councilman Scrivens offered his deepest sympathy to the Spahr family. He also knew Mr. Spahr when he was City Manager, which was during the time that he served on the City’s Charter Review Committee. He noted Mr. Spahr was a regular attendee of the Xenia boys’ basketball and football games. He was a good man and a good City Manager; he knew his business. He has

the utmost respect for Mr. Spahr, and he will be greatly missed. Councilman Scrivens received an anonymous letter, which he read to Council.

“Dear Mayor and City Council:

One of these issues we must contend with as the owners of a downtown business is the lack of convenient parking for our customers. This problem can be exacerbated by people parking on the street for long periods of time.

We recently were visited by representatives of the City’s Police and Development Department and told of a plan to install modern parking meters along Main and Detroit Streets. It is our understanding these meters will provide flexibility for people who need to park for short periods of time, while also allowing for more efficient enforcement of parking than the current tire chalking method.

While any change is difficult to adapt to, we believe this investment in the Central Business District will have long-term benefits. We are supportive of the proposed changes and ask for your support of legislation to implement them.”

Councilman Scrivens said help is on the way because the City is working to solve the problems with parking and potholes. Xenia is still a special place and people still believe in one another. People may disagree, but they still work together and that is what he likes about being a Xenian. He noted there have been some vehicles going down the street with excessively loud music blaring. He understands that it may not be enforceable, but he wanted to mention it. He met with some downtown business owners, and they want the City to assist with driving more foot traffic to the downtown area. Blue Jacket Books is planning to close, and he encouraged the public to visit the store and purchase some books. It is important to support local businesses, and if they want business in Xenia, they have to buy in Xenia.

Councilman Dean said the Greene County Archives received a national award for being one of the best archives around. He noted they are always willing to assist citizens.

Mayor Mays said Rapid Fired Pizza opened on January 27th, and she encouraged the public to visit the restaurant. She also participated in the St. Brigid School Spaghetti Dinner on January 27th to kick off National Catholic School Week, which was a lot of fun. She returned to St. Brigid on January 30th to enjoy a pep rally with the kindergarten through eighth grade students. She was thankful for their invitation to join in their celebration. She participated in a luncheon with several area mayors and state officials on January 29th, which was a very productive meeting. She discussed foster care in Ohio, and the desperate need for foster parents in some larger counties. There are a lot of private and public agencies, but they struggle to work together to provide good homes for children in need. She invited anyone interested in learning more about foster care to contact her; she would be happy to help. She has been a foster parent for seven years, and the blessings are worth every tear she has ever shed. She reported the next meeting for Xenia Area Association of Churches and Ministries will be at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1120 S. Detroit Street, on Tuesday.

Vice President Wallace wanted to formally appreciate Chief Person for his Christmas light show. (Applause followed.) Mayor Mays said she cannot thank him enough for the joy the light show brought to her children; it helped them get through winter. Chief Person said he has already begun planning for next year and is toying with the idea of doing a Halloween display to run for

