

**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23, 2017**  
**Regular Session**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Xenia City Council met in a Regular Session on March 23, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, City Administration Building, with the following members present: Wesley Smith, Edgar Wallace, Dale Louderback, Sarah Mays, Jeanne Mills, Marsha J. Bayless, and Michael D. Engle.

**INVOCATION:** Todd Martin, Liberty Worship Center, gave the invocation after which all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Vice President Smith, seconded by Councilman Wallace, to approve the March 9, 2017, Special Session minutes as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Motion by Councilman Wallace, seconded by Vice President Smith, to approve the March 9, 2017, Regular Session minutes as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**Proclamation ~ April is Fair Housing Month.** Mayor Bayless presented a Proclamation to John Zimmerman, Vice President of Miami Valley Fair Housing Center, Inc. (MVFHC) to declare April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Xenia.

Mr. Zimmerman thanked Mayor Bayless, Councilmembers, and the City of Xenia for the proclamation. The MVFHC received a grant from HUD to allow them to use the funds in leverage with the money they have with the Xenia contract to expand their services. Two of their employees will begin conducting outreach in the local jail for both the men's and women's Rehabilitative Residential Treatment Center to make sure they understand their housing options and resources when they get released so they can find and maintain tenancy. They are excited about the new outreach program. The MVFHC will also be at several real estate offices and will provide continuing education credits (CECs) without charging any fees; therefore, they expect increased attendance with these free CECs. The MVFHC is also reaching out to social workers and case managers in Xenia and surrounding communities to ensure they understand the services they provide. They have distributed approximately 10,000 pieces of literature through the City, faith-based, social service, and non-profit locations so information is available for those seeking assistance. He then entertained questions.

Councilman Louderback said MVFHC does great work for the community. Fair Housing is important to Council and his colleagues in the real estate world. Mr. Zimmerman thanked Councilman Louderback for his comments and again thanked Council for the proclamation.

**2017 Miami Valley Cycling Summit.** Laura Estandia, Executive Director for Bike Miami Valley, said the 2017 Miami Valley Cycling Summit will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Wright State University, and she encouraged everyone to attend. Bike Miami Valley was founded in the 1970s with Horace Huffman, Jr., who organized bike committees around raising match funds to help build the current local trail network. Xenians are well aware of the many rails-to-trails projects that helped build the Nation's Largest Paved Trail Network. The organization reorganized and was resurrected by a group of volunteers who saw a need to take the regional asset and drive the message of economic development through those trails, which is what the cycling summit is all about. They want to direct out-of-the-area cycling traffic into local businesses, which is essentially the mission of the summit held every two years. The event has been held in Dayton, Springfield, Piqua, and this year, in Greene County at Wright State University. A very collaborative group of folks organize the event. They are very pleased that the Summit is the first countywide-organized summit. They are excited to hear about the progress of the Xenia Safety Project at the Summit and what may happen in the future to promote bike-friendliness while encouraging cyclists to visit downtown businesses. She thanked Council for their support. Registration has already begun and a lunch is provided. Register online at [www.cyclingsummit.com](http://www.cyclingsummit.com).

Councilman Louderback apologized for getting her affiliation confused with MVRPC. He said Council supports the bike hub and trails, and he would be happy to support the Bike Summit. He thanked her for her time. President Engle thanked Ms. Estandia and said they are looking forward to the event. Ms. Estandia thanked Council for their time.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Rezone a three-acre parcel at 626 N. Columbus Street from R-1B One-Family Residential District to P-1 Public and Institutional District filed by property owner First United Christian Church.**

Mr. Merriman said the public hearing is to consider the rezoning of a three-acre property located at 626 N. Columbus Avenue owned by the First United Christian Church from R-1B to P-1. The church intends to pursue installation of accessory buildings and upgrade electronic signage, which would require approval of a variance under their current zoning. However, the City's Planning Department recognized an opportunity for efficiency and suggested the owners seek a rezoning to the P-1 District, which allows more flexibility with signage regulations and is the only district other than a PUD that lists religious institutions as a permitted use instead of a conditional use. This rezoning would be consistent with the goals and objectives



of the Land Development Code, and staff anticipates no negative impacts to adjoining property owners. The rezoning is recommended by staff, and on March 2<sup>nd</sup> was endorsed by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Staff recommends that City Council conduct the public hearing and after which introduce an ordinance for the rezoning.

Mr. Schierloh noted Councilman Wallace recused himself from the item due to the conflict of being a pastor at the First United Christian Church, which is the applicant.

President Engle invited those in favor of the rezoning to come forward to speak.

Danny Cassidy, 520 S. Detroit Street, said they wanted to update some things around the church. Once they saw the beautiful electronic sign at Lighthouse Baptist Church, they thought it would be a great addition to their own church. The new sign will help keep everyone informed about their activities and events. They are finally financially able to get the upgraded sign; therefore, they are seeking Council's approval of the rezoning.

Tina Watson, 1670 Ottawa Drive, said they would like the rezoning to put up a sign similar to the beautiful sign at Lighthouse Baptist Church to help beautify their own church. They have put up a cross during holy week, which requires the draping to be changed from purple to black to white, which always receives compliments. They feel a new LED sign would help beautify their grounds even more. They want to encourage local college students to attend their friendly church for support and to help them feel welcomed.

Thomas Scrivens, 725 Lexington Avenue, said he lives close to the subject property and shared his strong support of the improvement. Additionally, he suggested the City of Xenia improve the entrance of US 42 North coming into the City; whereas, coming in from the west on US 35 looks very nice. The shoulders adjacent to US 42 are also in need of a sidewalk.

President Engle invited those wishing to speak against the rezoning to come forward to speak. No one came forward. He invited those wishing to speak neither for nor against the rezoning to come forward to speak. Seeing none, he closed the public hearing at 7:22 p.m. and entertained an introduction.

Vice President Smith introduced an ORDINANCE REZONING A THREE-ACRE PARCEL AT 626 NORTH COLUMBUS AVENUE FROM R-1B ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO P-1 PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT, and it was read for the first time.

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

Mark Jarvis, 715 Mt. Vernon Drive, said he has not known Councilman Louderback very long, but he knows he cares about the City of Xenia and its taxpayers. He heard a rumor that a street levy would be on the May ballot. He did not think Xenia taxpayers would support it, because they are tired of paying higher taxes. He noted the income tax rate was increased just a few years ago, and he did not feel Council used that money wisely.

John Caupp, 936 Orville Way, said he has been traveling a lot lately to many different cities and towns. He took note of his own town when he started comparing them to other locations.

Taxpayers should challenge all elected officials; whether it is City Council, County Commissioners, State Representatives, and US Congressmen. He has been reaching out to all of them in making his feelings known on everything that concerns him. One thing that bothered him in his eight years on Council was that the City could not use chain gangs to clean up the City; however, Butler County has a chain gang, and chain gangs were cleaning up the road next to I-675 yesterday. He challenged City Council and County Commissioners to figure out how to make that happen again. There have been excuses as to why it cannot be done, but he wants solutions. Recently, the City added a Public Service Supervisor's position, but they used to run Public Service with only Mr. Berger and Mr. Quinlan. Now, they have Mr. Quinlan, Mr. Berger, Mr. Koch, and Mr. Ferrell. He asked Council members if they could tell him what Mr. Quinlan, Mr. Ferrell, or Mr. Koch's new job responsibilities included and if the City really needed another supervisor. He realized some of the maintenance is being brought back in-house, but he asked if Council had given staff direction on what their expectations are for the new positions. He said a lot of money was spent on W. Main Street, which is the biggest entry into the City of Xenia, but it has not been properly maintained. The display on the corner of Progress and W. Main needs attention; every shrub should be trimmed, the area should be mulched, and it should be a nice gateway. He is challenging Council to ask questions about these positions. As President of the Xenia Wee Bucs, he recently brought a proposal to City Staff because West Side Park gets used more in the months of July thru November by the Xenia Wee Bucs than any other time throughout the year. There are approximately 275 kids in the program, and all the siblings play on the playground during practices. They want to build a 30x40 or 30x50 building near the concession stand and similar in style to the concession stand. They also wanted to gift the building to the City of Xenia, but in return, they want a long-term lease back to house their equipment in the building. However, Rule 13 of the EPA states they cannot excavate the dirt in that area even though he did not know how much dirt needs to be excavated on flat ground. He said 966 Towler Road is everything: it is the dump, the park, the City Garage, and goes clear down to Sol Arnovitz Park. Therefore, he asked staff to find a way to make it happen rather than giving reasons why they cannot do it. Can they replot the property? There is a 300-foot rule, and after talking to the previous City Manager, the hard fill on the dump is quite a distance away from where they want to put the building. There are ways around the EPA—they just have to figure it out. He asked Council to do their homework and find ways to get things done.

Archer McPherson, 408 E. Second Street, asked if the City had any intentions of paving his street this year. The street has potholes all over the place. He pays his property taxes and feels he is entitled to have his street paved sooner or later. President Engle invited Mr. McPherson to talk to the City Manager to get information on the history of streets that have already been paved and streets set to be paved in 2017. The City Manager could also provide information on how the streets to be paved are selected.

Eric Holtvogt, 1386 Jasper Road, said they met and surpassed their goal for the Xenia YMCA's Annual Campaign. Approximately \$51,500 has been raised to date, which is due to community support from businesses and individuals. He said they are still accepting donations.

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

**Mayors & Managers:** Mayor Bayless said she attended the Mayors & Managers meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Zimmerman was the presenter at the event. They also heard from the

Montgomery County Office of Ex-Offender Reentry Program, whose motto is “Action, Alliance, and Accountability.” They gave a presentation on their mission to serve citizens with programs and services that minimize barriers to effective reentry and promote a reduction in recidivism. She provided some interesting statistics:

- The organization has been in existence for seven years.
- They started with 181 people in the program in 2016, and 116 graduated.
- Sixty-four people received job placement.
- Their recidivism rate is 31% in comparison to 48% recidivism rate seven years ago.
- There used to be approximately 600,000 inmates released annually, which has increased to one million.
- The organization is working with Xenia inmates.

**Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission:** Councilman Louderback said he only had one item to discuss, and Ms. Estandia from the Cycling Summit already presented the item.

### ITEMS FROM CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR:

**Approval of 2017 Heritage Tree Nominations.** Councilwoman Mills said in 2011, the Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities formed a subcommittee known as the Tree Committee in an effort to bring like-minded volunteers together to create and facilitate a plan for development, conservation, and care of Xenia’s urban forest resources and to promote and raise awareness about the importance of trees in our community. They meet monthly and have worked collaboratively with BRACA and City Staff on holding Arbor Day events each year, participating in community events, developing a Recommended Tree List, and establishing and maintaining a Tree Inventory. The Tree Committee also developed the *Heritage Tree Program*, which was approved by City Council in 2011, to recognize, honor, and foster appreciation of trees on public or private property for their unique history, shape, size, beauty and specie that have cultural, historical, and aesthetic value. This year’s nominations are for a 150-year-old Ginkgo tree located at 378 Cincinnati Avenue, and a 75-year-old European Beech tree located at 1182 N. Monroe Street. It should be noted that both trees have beautiful natural shapes and forms because they have been maintained by the owners who have not resorted to cutting off large branches or stubbing/topping, which has a very negative impact on the trees. The Tree Committee is available to assist residents with any questions or support in caring for their trees.



Motion by Councilwoman Mills, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to approve the 2017 Heritage Tree nominations as presented. No discussion followed.

The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

**Special Events Alcohol Policy.** President Engle said the Special Event Alcohol Policy item was tabled at the meeting.

Motion by President Engle, seconded by Vice President Smith, to remove from the table the Special Events Alcohol Policy. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

President Engle asked Mr. Merriman to remind the audience and Council of the details of the proposed policy. Mr. Merriman said after the last discussion on this particular topic, staff was directed to go back and look at various additions to the proposed policy, which staff has done and presented in the previous special session. Staff provided information on indemnification as well as requirements and policies under the Ohio Liquor Control Division. Staff worked to cover all the core issues that were raised by Council to ensure the issues have been addressed in the policy. Staff is ready for a directive on how Council wants to proceed. As a reminder, the policy essentially would be a temporary policy to launch a pilot of this program for 2017 and would only be effective for two upcoming events, which are the Criterium (Tour de Xenia bike event), and the Xenia Community Festival. Staff feels by default the policy would probably only apply to Community Festival [because the Criterium has not confirmed a date for an event in 2017]. If Council is interested in this pilot policy, then staff respectfully requests Council take two actions to authorize the implementation of the proposed alcohol policy and to suspend enforcement of the City's ordinance prohibiting the sale and consumption of alcohol on City property during the two named events. President Engle entertained discussion or questions from Council. Hearing none, he entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilwoman Mills, to authorize staff to implement the proposed alcohol policy and move forward with the permitting process stated therein for the 2017 festival season as it pertains to certain scheduled events. Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Mays reminded everyone that there is already a struggle with drugs and alcohol in the community. Sgt. Beegle was present at the work session who stated that he did not see a direct link of problems associated with the sale and consumption of alcohol at events. If they want to keep pushing themselves forward in addressing the problems in the community, then she questioned if the introduction of alcohol at an event would be beneficial.

Councilman Wallace said he will be voting no. He expressed his concern that the fee charged for the permit was inadequate and should be increased. He was disappointed that the revised policy did not address that concern. He agreed with Councilwoman Mays; they already have an epidemic of heroin overdoses, and alcohol is a gateway drug to heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and other drugs. He did not feel the City should be sponsoring alcohol or any gateway drug at all. However, if the City is going to be involved, then they need to at least get enough money out of the permit to cover the administrative costs associated with the process.

Mayor Bayless said she personally did not engage in drinking alcohol, and her views are both personal and spiritual. She knows it is legal to consume alcohol to a certain limit within the state and the country, and locally it is served at the Greene County Fair, some St. Brigid events, and

some local businesses. She has talked with many individuals from both the business and non-business arena. She has spoken with area Mayors and found that Fairborn has instituted alcohol at some of their events, which was successful with no issues. The policy is recommended by City Staff who gave careful consideration and included several restrictions and requirements in the proposed policy, which included public safety and keeping the family-friendly environment. Furthermore, she represents all people, and not just her own views; therefore, she will agree to a trial period for the policy.

Councilwoman Mills said she has also talked to many people and asked their opinions, and their opinions are truly 50/50. She also struggled with the concept but felt this is a one-time trial opportunity. There are two events that could take place under the policy: the Criterium and the Community Festival. However, the organizers from the Criterium have not contacted the City to schedule an event in 2017. This policy may only apply to the Community Festival. She feels Council needs to approve the policy for this one-time event to provide an opportunity to test the concept. She has also talked to people at the Fair Board regarding their experiences with a similar policy. She feels this is an opportunity for a trial run, which is all she is voting on at this time.

Vice President Smith said he also polled people and got 50/50 results; some say they will not attend a festival unless they serve alcohol, while others say they will not attend a festival with alcohol. It all boils down to personal responsibility. He also feels the Community Festival started out as a family event, and it should remain a family event; therefore, he cannot support the policy. He understands it is a trial run. He was not passing judgment on anyone who wants to have a drink, but he cannot support it at this time. He feels there are a lot of other issues that are more important to be addressed.

President Engle expressed his significant appreciation to all staff who participated in developing the policy. The concept has been discussed and debated with staff for several years, and up to this point, he was very hesitant to support anything like this. However, he commended staff for the work they have done on this particular issue, the research they have conducted, and the safety protocols they have put into place to protect the City as well as the event and its citizens. He showed a map that disclosed where the proposed beer garden would be located at the Community Festival; he noted it will be the only area where alcohol will be permitted and will be policed and monitored. The policy states there will be monitoring of personnel such that they do not show up apparently intoxicated, or if someone appears to be reaching the point of becoming intoxicated, they will not continue to be served. He then entertained further comments or questions. Hearing none, he asked for the roll call.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Louderback, Mills, Bayless, and Engle

Nays: Smith, Wallace, and Mays

motion carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Mills, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to suspend enforcement of the City's ordinance prohibiting the sale and consumption of alcohol on City property during Xenia Community Festival (or its successor) and the Tour de Xenia (Criterium) as part of the trial basis of the proposed policy during the 2017 festival season. Discussion followed.

Councilman Wallace asked if this vote was to instruct law enforcement to not enforce the ordinance. Mr. Schierloh said there are certain City Ordinances that prohibit the consumption, sale, and distribution of alcohol on City property. Therefore, this motion will suspend enforcement of those ordinances to allow the sale, consumption, or distribution of alcohol at the two named events. President Engle said as a point of clarification, the suspension of enforcement would only be for the named events and not for any other time throughout the year. Mr. Schierloh confirmed. Councilman Wallace said he wanted to be consistent and will vote no.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Louderback, Mills, Bayless, and Engle

Nays: Smith, Wallace, and Mays

motion carried.

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES:**

### **City Manager's Office:**

**Authorize the purchase of two single axle truck cab and chassis via the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program.** Mr. Merriman respectfully requested approval to purchase two single axle truck cab and chassis through the Ohio Department of Transportation's Cooperative Purchasing Program and authorize the execution of a purchase order to Fyda Freightliner Cincinnati for a total purchase price of \$129,211. The fleet units to be replaced serve the water maintenance and stormwater maintenance operations and have seen considerable usage and have recently experienced significant maintenance issues. The replacement of these vehicles was planned in the Five-Year CIP and funding was included in the final budget approved by City Council in January. This action would allow purchase of the cab and chassis units; the truck bodies for each will require an additional bid process and staff will return with a separate agenda report at a later date.

Motion by Mayor Bayless, seconded by Councilwoman Mays, to approve the purchase of two single axle truck cab and chassis through the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchasing Program and authorize the City Manager to execute a purchase order to Fyda Freightliner Cincinnati for a total purchase price of \$129,211.00. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None

motion carried.

### **Award of Bid for Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Supplies for 2017.**

Mr. Merriman respectfully requested award of bid to Ferguson Waterworks, EJ Prescott, Neenah Foundry, Buckeye State Pipe, Fortiline, and HD Supply for various water distribution and sewer collection supplies for 2017 for their lowest bids on individual items as requested by the City. This is an annual exercise necessary to ensure the City Maintenance Division has access to the various parts and supplies their operations require at the lowest individual price.

Motion by Vice President Smith, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to approve the award to Ferguson Waterworks, EJ Prescott, Neenah Foundry, Buckeye State Pipe, Fortiline, and HD Supply for Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Supplies for 2017 for their lowest bid on

individual items as requested, provided City specifications are met. 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 City Manager:** Mr. Merriman provided the following update:

- **Simon Kenton RFP:** Staff received three proposals for the Simon Kenton RFP process; they are in the process of evaluating them and will provide a report, a summation of the individual submittals, and a request for action at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Session, which will hopefully conclude the process.

Councilman Wallace asked for a summary of the proposals. Mr. Merriman said some of the RFPs are lengthy; therefore, staff plans to provide them as a digital PDF via email. However, if any Council member wants an individual copy, he will comply. Staff's intention is to develop an evaluation matrix to look at them by category for an apples-to-apples comparison as best as they can given the diversity of the proposals. Councilman Wallace said he just wants a summary, not the entire proposal. Mr. Merriman confirmed. Councilwoman Mays asked if the letters from the community that were included in some of the RFPs would be included in the email. Mr. Merriman said yes.

Councilman Louderback asked about the dedication of the playground at Xenia Station. Mr. Merriman said staff would like to have an official ribbon-cutting for the Splash Pad to kick off the May First Fridays event, which will include a dedication for the Bennett play area (dry playground adjacent to the splash pad). The Bennett family will be invited to attend the event.

Councilwoman Mays asked if there has been any additional discussion about extending the fence around the splash pad because she is getting a lot of feedback from parents who are concerned about the lack of fencing, especially as they get closer to summer and as activity at the bike trail picks up. Mr. Merriman said he has raised the concern with the Public Service Director and the City Planner and hopes to get them out to the park to discuss options. Councilwoman Mays asked to be present for the meeting. Mr. Merriman confirmed.

**Finance Director's Office:**

**Schedule of Bills:** Mr. Bazalak presented payment of bills totaling \$554,338.31.

Motion by Councilman Wallace, seconded by Councilwoman Mays, to approve payment of bills totaling \$554,338.31. Discussion followed.

Councilman Louderback said there was a payment in the amount of \$5,000 for the 2017 First Fridays on page 7; however, to his displeasure, the First Fridays events have been reduced from six events down to only three. He has asked for a financial statement for the organization to let the taxpayers know how the money is being spent. He did not know how much it cost to run the event, which is why he is requesting a financial statement. Mr. Merriman said it is a fair request and thinks they can accommodate the request. He noted they are a blanket organization under Greene Giving; therefore, they have to report their finances through Greene Giving. However, he will try to get Council their financial report that indicates how the dollars are being spent.

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 DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 1 BY PROVIDING ELECTRICITY TO THE STREET LIGHTING SYSTEM WITHIN CERTAIN STREET AREAS WITHIN THE STERLING GREEN CROSSING SECTION ONE SUBDIVISION, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by Councilman Wallace, seconded by Mayor Bayless, that Resolution 17-G 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.

Mr. Schierloh presented a RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH BARRETT PAVING MATERIALS, INC. TO RESURFACE BELLBROOK AVENUE FROM COLORADO DRIVE TO MAUMEE DRIVE AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$309,111.65, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by President Engle, seconded by Councilwoman Mays, that Resolution 17-H 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.

Mr. Schierloh presented a RESOLUTION DECLARING 2017 THE YEAR OF THE TRAIL IN THE CITY OF XENIA, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by Councilwoman Mills, seconded by Councilman Louderback, that Resolution 17-I 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 said Council is still trying to get a downtown grocery store, and Family Dollar is moving from their present location to the former Rite Aid location at the end of their existing shopping center. They plan to expand their grocery line to accommodate downtown residents.

Councilwoman Mays reminded the public that the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> at Shawnee Park at 11 a.m. with registration beginning at 10 a.m. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact her; anyone interested in donating a basket can contact her or the City.

Councilman Wallace had nothing further to share.

Councilwoman Mills encouraged the public to participate in the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. It is a wonderful family event. There are numerous baskets raffled off as door prizes at the event; therefore, it is not all about finding the eggs. Anyone can donate baskets at the City Administration Building or Emanuel Baptist Church, 1120 S. Detroit Street. Donors can choose to have their name recognized for the baskets or remain anonymous. It is a great way to support the community and outreach. She was happy the weather was getting warmer, and she encouraged motorists to be aware of children. She asked residents to refrain from blowing their grass clippings into the streets, which is not only unpleasant to look at, but it also clogs up the storm sewers.

Mayor Bayless provided the following updates:

- She showed a plaque she recently received in celebration of Colonel Young's birthday. A celebration was held at the National Afro American Museum, and she was presented with a plaque of support for service and support of the Colonel Young National Monument. She represented the Colonel Young Home in Washington D.C. under President Obama, and the entire trip was paid for by the National Park Service. It was quite an honor and a wonderful event; she is proud to continue to support him and was honored to receive the plaque. (Applause followed.)
- She attended the Xenia High School send-off for their band; they are at Disney World to compete with other schools.
- She hosted the area Mayors & Managers event at One Bistro and held the meeting in Toward Independence's beautiful third floor, which overlooks the City. She was very pleased with the location and encouraged others to check it out.

Vice President Smith said Council spent a lot of time talking about the alcohol issue. The public appears to be a 50/50 split on this issue, and Council's vote was almost a 50/50 vote. Staff has put together a good system and policy for enforcement for the trial run. He asked the public to continue to support First Fridays, the Sunnycalb Fireworks, Community Festival, Greene County Fair, and all the venues that have been in the community for years. He encouraged the public to spend their dollars locally to help employ Xenia residents.

President Engle reminded the public that they are a Council of different opinions at times, but they seek to represent all citizens of Xenia. He said Mayor Bayless is an outstanding face for the Xenia community. She has been afforded many awards and is recognized as the lead of the Mayors, etc., which really speaks to her dedication to the City while representing all the citizens in the Xenia community in an absolutely outstanding fashion. He extended an extra thank you to Mayor Bayless for all her graciousness and outstanding representation she gives to everyone every day. She is as busy as anyone in Xenia—employed or otherwise—and is doing a fine and fabulous job. (Applause followed.)

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Wallace, to adjourn the Regular Session at 8:12 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