



are a hot topic, and she would work for more and continued partnerships with all Greene County cities, villages, townships and the Greene County Commission including street improvements. She recognized and expressed her content with the City's current partnerships. She vowed to work with the City of Xenia and all Greene County jurisdictions because what benefits the County should benefit all County jurisdictions.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A.** President Engle presented RESOLUTION 2018-I AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO PURCHASE VEHICLES FROM KEY CHRYSLER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT'S MAINTENANCE DIVISION, originally introduced by Vice President Wallace on March 22, 2018, and it was read for a second time.

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

Vice President Wallace thanked Key Chrysler for their recent donation of the DARE vehicle. President Engle concurred. Further, he was always pleased to support a local business.

Councilman Scrivens asked if they intend to surplus the old vehicles. Mr. Merriman said these two new vehicles are being added to the Public Service Department fleet, and while he did not know the specific intent for the vehicles being replaced, they typically like to keep them as long as they can and the vehicles are repurposed.

The Roll on this was the following:

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

**9. PUBLIC HEARING:** Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs for 2018. President Engle asked City Manager Brent Merriman to present this first public hearing for the CDBG 2018 programs. Mr. Merriman said pursuant to the State statute, the City is required to conduct public hearings for the CDBG program in order to be eligible for funding. This first public hearing provides an opportunity for public engagement pursuant to those statutes.

President Engle invited those speaking for the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs for 2018 to come forward. Hearing none, he invited those speaking against the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs for 2018 to come forward. Hearing none, he invited those speaking neither for nor against the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs for 2018 to come forward. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing and noted no further action was requested this evening.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Emergency Resolution 2018-J Authorizing the City Manager to execute agreements with the Greene County Engineer's Office and the John R. Jurgensen Company to complete the City's 2018 Street Program.** Mr. Merriman said emergency Resolution 2018-J would authorize execution of agreements with the Greene County Engineer's Office and John R. Jurgensen Company for completion of the 2018 street rehabilitation program. As a standard

requirement, participation in the Greene County Engineer's cooperative street bid program requires a participation agreement laying out general terms for inclusion in the program. The agreement with John R. Jurgensen stipulates a contract for services in the amount of \$585,678.46 for various street improvements. As directed by City Council's prior administrative motion, the 2018 street program will focus on the "critical needs" approach, which includes spot corrections of several major thoroughfares with full-depth rehab of portions of driving lanes. This contract includes only the primary street rehab program; the additional rehab work directed by City Council for Galloway will be addressed through legislation for an appropriation and a change order for John R. Jurgensen at the next regular session of City Council. Staff requests approval of Resolution 2018-J as an emergency to meet deadlines for participation in the County Engineer's program and to authorize the street rehab for 2018.

President Engle said staff is maximizing tax dollars by partnering with the Greene County Engineer's Office on the street program. He entertained a motion to approve Resolution 2018-J as an emergency.

Motion by Vice President Wallace, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to adopt RESOLUTION 2018-J AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH THE GREENE COUNTY ENGINEER'S OFFICE AND THE JOHN R. JURGENSEN COMPANY TO COMPLETE THE CITY'S 2018 STREET PROGRAM, 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. Introduction of Ordinance 2018-11 Determining to Proceed with the Improvement of City Streets and Public Ways by the Lighting Thereof Within Street Lighting District #2 for the Years 2019-2022.** Mr. Merriman said under the City's Zoning Code, a developer of a subdivision that is interested in including street lights for that subdivision must agree to a street light assessment for the benefitting lots within the plat. In line with this requirement, M One Development, LLC for its work in the Sterling Green Crossing Subdivision, Section 2, has received a cost to install 10 street lights, along with the monthly electricity fee per the City's contract with Miami Valley Lighting (MVL). The developer is responsible for the initial cost to install the lights, but the City is responsible for paying the monthly electricity costs. Council adopted the required Resolution of Necessity to establish Street Lighting District No. 2 on March 8, 2018, for this purpose. Staff respectfully recommended that City Council initiate the second step in the process by introducing Ordinance 2018-11 establishing the intent to proceed with the street light installation and subsequent assessment of the costs to the benefitting property owners.

President Engle entertained an introduction of Ordinance 2018-11.

Vice President Wallace introduced ORDINANCE 2018-11 DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF WITHIN STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT #2 FOR THE YEARS 2019-2022, and it was read for the first time.

**C. Introduction of Ordinance 2018-12 Repealing in its entirety Chapter 642 of the City's General Offenses Code and Enacting a New Chapter 642 titled "Property Offenses."** Law

Director Donnette Fisher said what started as a way to address a simple littering issue evolved into an entire rewrite of this chapter. This Ordinance would repeal existing Chapter 642 and enact a new Chapter 642, titled "Property Offenses." Existing Chapter 642 currently consists of a total of 13 sections with seven repealed sections. Of the existing sections, the prohibitions against unauthorized use of property and injuring vegetation and determining property value in arson cases are included in the proposed new Chapter. The new Chapter also included prohibitions that were not included in the existing Chapter but are considered misdemeanors under State law, including criminal mischief, trespassing, and certain types of vandalism. Most importantly, to deal with the issue of unsolicited flyers, mailers, and circulars being thrown in residents' yards and along public streets, which creates a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the City's citizens, the new Chapter 642 would make such activity a crime, with an increasing penalty scale for repeat violations (642.13). Specifically, the new regulations against littering prohibit the throwing, dropping, discarding, or depositing of litter, garbage, rubbish or junk, or unsolicited flyers, mailers, circulars, or other printed material, on any public property or the property of another person.

Councilman Louderback asked what is considered to be 'unsolicited.' Ms. Fisher said it is considered unsolicited if the property owner has not requested it and would not apply to purchased newspapers such as the Xenia Gazette or Dayton Daily News. Councilman Louderback asked if the company responsible for these flyers would be contacted and told to discontinue the practice citywide. He did not think a majority of citizens wanted these flyers, but he could be wrong. Ms. Fisher said the companies would be contacted noting that Red Plum is one of the companies that publishes the materials that is unsolicited and thrown on residents' properties. However, the carriers also need to be notified because it would be a violation for the carriers to throw them. She noted there would be a graduated penalty scale. The first offense would be a minor misdemeanor, with two or more violations, the crime would go up, and so in, which was done in an effort to discourage this type of behavior. She said the City Manager is Public Safety Director, and they intend to sit down with XPD about this new law to discuss enforcement. Councilman Louderback asked if there were any other options for these carriers because they cannot put them in mailboxes. Ms. Fisher said they could be mailed or they could provide a box for the newspaper. Councilman Louderback said some people may want them, and he did not want to upset those people by banning them. Mayor Mays said residents would continue to receive mailers and coupons in their mailboxes, such as REACH magazine who pays for the postage for it to be mailed, etc. Further, the information could still be provided if the company pays for postage.

Mr. Merriman recommended that the Law Director be permitted to finish her presentation and Council introduce the Ordinance before the conversation continues.

Ms. Fisher said this new Chapter also included a prohibition against Endangering Aircraft (642.12). She noted the City's Fire Division owned a drone and a drone was considered an aircraft under State law. With recreational drones becoming more common, she respectfully recommended adding "Endangering Aircraft" to the Codified Ordinances to prohibit shooting at drones, which is currently prohibited under State law.

President Engle entertained an introduction of Ordinance 2018-12.

Councilman Scrivens introduced ORDINANCE 2018-12 REPEALING IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 642 OF THE CITY'S GENERAL OFFENSES CODE AND ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 642 TITLED "PROPERTY OFFENSES", and it was read for the first time.

President Engle entertained additional questions.

Councilman Smith asked about political ads. Ms. Fisher said door hangers or putting flyers in a door would be okay. This law was meant to deal with those who throw things onto someone's property; leaving something on a door would not be a violation. Mayor Mays said her church canvases neighborhoods with flyers for vacation bible school and other events. Ms. Fisher said they need to address itinerant vendors (such as food trucks), peddlers (those who go door to door), and canvassers (churches, charitable organizations, etc.), which she intended to bring back at a later date. Mr. Merriman said they needed to be careful and provide the opportunity for free speech, but they also needed to regulate some of those activities. Solicitation is a problem, and regular complaints are received. They wished to provide opportunities where appropriate, but regulations are needed. He said weekly circulars generated this issue, and they have contact info for that vendor. XPD would be advised of the changes being made and the expectation for enforcement. Ms. Fisher said her experience is that the throwers are independent contractors who make \$100 a week. Most of them discontinued throwing them and just deposit them into a dumpster. Mr. Merriman felt this was the best way to get a handle on this problem. Councilman Louderback commended Ms. Fisher on her diligence on this subject. Councilman Scrivens agreed.

Mayor Mays asked Ms. Fisher to define the word "depositing." Ms. Fisher defined depositing as throwing or dumping something on another person's property.

Councilman Scrivens said he could not stand litter. They are trying to attract people and they cannot have litter all over the place. This was a step in the right direction.

Councilman Smith said he appreciated the effort; however, they had to be sensitive to those who are employed by these companies. He noted he recently walked his dog and noticed the flyers. He walked by five homes and only one flyer made it to the driveway—the others were in the street. He noted that the same ads and information were available at the entrances of local stores.

President Engle and Councilman Scrivens thanked Ms. Fisher for her diligence and timeliness in dealing with this matter. With implementation and enforcement, he anticipated the City would start to look tremendously better.

**D. Administrative Motion to Authorize the City Manager to execute contracts for Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Supplies for 2018.** Mr. Merriman said as an annual housekeeping measure to ensure best value to the City, the Public Service Department solicits bids for water and sewer supplies. All vendors propose competitive pricing for the various supplies, as demonstrated in the bid tabulation attached to your agenda report. The prices proposed are valid for a one-year period. The vendors included in the submittal are (1) Ferguson Waterworks, (2) EJ Prescott, (3) Fortiline, (4) Core & Main, (5) Buckeye State Pipe, and (6) Neenah Foundry. Due to the large quantity and availability of various items, City staff recommends acceptance of all proposals and contracts entered into with each vendor. The term of the contracts would be one (1) year with the stipulation that the City will purchase each individual item at the lowest cost proposed by the six (6) vendors for that item, provided that it meets all specifications. All items would be purchased throughout the year on an as-needed basis.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Dean, to authorize the City Manager to execute contracts for Water Distribution and Sewer Collection Supplies for 2018 with (1) Ferguson Waterworks, (2) EJ Prescott, (3) Fortiline, (4) Core & Main, (5) Buckeye State Pipe, and (6) Neenah Foundry. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

**E. Administrative Motion to Authorize the City Manager to execute a Partnership Agreement with Greene County for the Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program.** Mr. Merriman said staff respectfully recommends City Council authorize the execution of a partnership agreement with Greene County for the purpose of a joint application for Community Housing Impact and Preservation program grant funding. The City and County have experience in executing such partnerships successfully and as recently as the 2014 round of CHIP program funding. The CHIP program offers assistance to income qualifying residents to improve or provide housing. Under joint application, Xenia was eligible for up to \$400,000 in grant funding. Under the proposed partnership arrangement, Greene County Development Department would serve as the direct recipient of funding and would administer the program and fund distribution; the County would also provide \$50,000 in HOME program income for new housing construction. As the co-applicant, the City would be responsible with the County for proper use of funding but would have no direct administrative responsibilities. As part of the agreement, the City would commit \$50,000 in HOME program income for use with HOME Private Owner Rehab Program or the Habitat for Humanity program. As a reminder, program income funding such as the HOME funds mentioned herein are leftover grant funds or repaid loan funds that are available for the City to use for only approved program purposes in line with their original purpose. Use of these funds in the partnership with Greene County as proposed is both an eligible and productive use of the program income.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Vice President Wallace, seconded by Mayor Mays, to authorize the City Manager to execute a Partnership Agreement with Greene County for the Community Housing Impact and Preservation (CHIP) Program. Discussion followed. Councilman Scrivens said to his knowledge, this program began in 2006 and is a good program. He has gotten a few people on the program, and he has personally benefitted from this program. They need to continue to focus on the City's blighted areas. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

**F. Administrative Motion to Reappoint Tamisha Samiec to the Greene County Board of Health for a four-year term.** Mr. Merriman said pursuant to the agreement forming the Greene County Combined Health District, the City has two seats on the County Health Board and is responsible for filling those seats with qualified individuals. The seat of Tamisha Samiec is due for reappointment. Ms. Samiec has previously served and is well qualified as a significantly contributing member of the Board of Health. Staff recommends Council reappoint Ms. Samiec for a new four-year term expiring on March 31, 2021.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Scrivens, to reappoint Ms. Tamisha Samiec as a City representative on the Greene County Board of Health with a term ending on March 31, 2021. Brief discussion followed. Councilman Scrivens asked who served as the City's other representative. Mr. Merriman said Ms. Elaine Hughes is the other representative. The Roll on this was the following:

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

**G. Administrative Motion to Approve the 2018 Heritage Tree Nomination.** President Engle said in 2011, the Board for Recreation, Arts and Cultural Activities (BRACA) formed a subcommittee known as the Tree Committee. They meet monthly and have worked collaboratively with BRACA and City staff toward achieving the following goals: holding Arbor Day events each year; participating in community events; developing a Recommended Tree List; and establishing and maintaining a Tree Inventory. They 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, historic, and aesthetic value. Since that time, 32 nominations for Heritage Trees have been approved. Plaques denoting pertinent information have been installed near each tree or grove of trees. For 2018, the Xenia Tree Committee nominated—and on March 6<sup>th</sup> the Board for Recreation, Arts and Cultural Activities endorsed—a nomination for a 2018 Heritage Tree as follows:

***White Oak located at 300 Country Club Drive***

Trunk Diameter: 48", Height: 80', Canopy Spread: 65', Approximate Age: 240 years

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Scrivens, to approve the 2018 nomination and designate a White Oak tree located at 300 Country Club Drive as a Xenia Heritage Tree. Brief discussion followed.

Councilman Louderback asked if the City had taken any action to deal with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Mr. Merriman said staff dealt with EAB in some trees in the City's parks, which included the elimination of some diseased trees for the public's safety. However, there are numerous dead or dying ash trees on both public and private properties in the City of Xenia. An effective treatment had not been discovered, and the EAB will eventually decimate all ash trees. He noted there are many dead ash trees in Xenia and almost 4 billion ash trees in Ohio.

President Engle thanked the Tree Committee for their continued dedication. Their efforts have made the City of Xenia more aesthetically appealing, and a number of beautiful trees have been recognized with the Heritage Tree Program.

The Roll on this was the following:

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

**H. Administrative Motion to Authorize the Transfer of Funds to facilitate the Hope VI Litt Bros/Xenia Shoe and Leather Building Project.** Finance Director Ryan Duke said Council

has taken a variety of actions for this Hope VI grant. The HOPE VI Main Street Program is a federal grant for small communities to assist them in the conversion of commercial space in historic or traditional business district areas into affordable housing units. This particular project will renovate two floors above Xenia Shoe and Leather, resulting in five new apartment units. The project is finally poised to start; however, HUD has required that the grant be given to the property owner via a ten-year forgivable loan. The Loan Trust Fund Committee has already approved the loan, but staff needs to move the dollars into the correct account line. It was originally thought that payments would be made directly to contractors and not made through a loan process. Staff is requesting the transfer of dollars from contractual service and housing rehab account lines into a downtown development loan account line.

Councilman Louderback said he and Councilman Scrivens serve on the Loan Trust Fund Committee. He asked if it was okay that they vote on this motion. Ms. Fisher said yes.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Scrivens, to authorize the transfer of funds in the amounts of \$99,000.00 from 603-5415-53290 and \$381,000.00 from 603-5415-57110 into account 603-5415-57314 to facilitate the HOPE VI project No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

**I. Administrative Motion Approving the Schedule of Bills in the amount of \$239,580.66.** Mr. Duke requested the payment of bills as presented.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to approve payment of bills totaling \$239,580.66. Brief discussion followed. Councilman Scrivens said if citizens wanted to know about City expenditures, they could check out the Ohio Checkbook. Mr. Duke said the Schedules of Bills are also accessible on the City's website along with a lot of other financial information. 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:** Mayor Mays said BZA met on Monday, March 26, to consider the following four cases:

- Case #BZA2018-02: Variance to allow a 20 ft. tall freestanding sign for a Hampton Inn hotel that exceeds the Land Development Code's maximum sign height of 15 ft., filed by Wilson Sign Company for the property located at 194 S. Progress Drive, which was denied.
- Case #BZA2018-03: Variance requesting a lot split that would result in a lot with a depth (front to back) that is greater than the maximum of three times the lot width permitted by the Land Development Code, filed by Jeff Vaught and Erin Hamilton for the property located on Haver Road, which was approved.

- Case #BZA2018-04: Variance to install two driveway signs on internal driveways of the Athletes in Action campus, one with a height of 8 ft. and one with a height of 8.5 ft., exceeding the maximum sign height of 6 ft. permitted by the Land Development Code, filed by Tim Coleman and Jerry Dendinger for the property known as Athletes in Action at 1197 S. Detroit Street (aka 651 Taylor Drive), which was approved.
- Case #BZA2018-05: Variance to replace a non-conforming former healthcare administration office in the rear building with a non-conforming healthcare training business, filed by Al Cummings for the property located at 1143 N. Detroit Street, which was approved.

Councilman Louderback thought that Hampton Inns have rather large signs; he asked if they were talking about the height of the sign from the ground up to the top of the sign. Mayor Mays said yes. Councilman Louderback asked if 15' was the maximum allowed. Mr. Merriman said yes. He noted that staff would work with every business to come up with customized options. Staff would walk them through every process from permitting for signs, etc. Councilman Louderback wondered if the Hampton Inn knew the height restriction ahead of time. He knew they have to be consistent. Mayor Mays said BZA discussed this request at length, and part of the discussion was about the hotel's considerable amount of wall space and allowable wall signage that could be installed. She noted the hotel requested a taller free-standing sign so it could be seen from the 35 bypass and Main Street. Also, variances are required to meet nine criteria, and this request only meet three criteria. The hotel was the tallest building in that area and could clearly be seen from the bypass and Main Street.

Vice President Wallace asked if Council could override a BZA decision if they disagreed with it. Ms. Fisher said no. Mr. Merriman said he also did not think so, but staff would verify that.

**B. Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities:** President Engle said as documented earlier, BRACA accepted the Tree Committee's nomination for this year's heritage tree. The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on the day before Easter, which was a damp but great event. He estimated several thousand people were present and the children "found" 10,000 eggs. A record number of baskets were donated—at least 150—for the free basket giveaway following the egg hunt. He particularly thanked Councilman Smith who donated many baskets. Councilman Smith said he begins to purchase the items in January, and each basket had a retail value of about \$20. He considered it a way to give back. He noted he was not able to attend the event this year, but in past years, it was always a joy to see the kids' faces when they win these baskets. President Engle thanked all who donated and all participants. He agreed—the look on the kids' faces was priceless. This year, he gave a basket to a three year old, and she smiled from ear to ear. Councilman Louderback believed many families look forward to this event every year. President Engle mentioned the upcoming Arbor Day event on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, which included a tree planting at Shawnee Elementary School. He noted the tree was donated by Strausburg Nursery. At the Arbor Day event, Tree Committee members are prepared to talk to students about how to properly plant trees and the importance of these natural resources.

**C. Traffic Commission:** Councilman Dean said the April meeting was cancelled.

**D. Planning and Zoning Commission:** Councilman Smith said the April meeting was cancelled. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 2, at 6 p.m.

## 12. APPOINTED OFFICIALS REPORTS AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

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

Mr. Merriman provided the following updates:

- Tornado Season: Reminder that severe weather season was upon them and folks should be mindful of conditions. City staff monitors conditions very closely and are ready to respond. With a threat or warning of severe weather, he advised residents to never leave their homes to drive to a shelter, which was extremely dangerous. They should shelter in place in an interior room. He advised residents to stay tuned to local news, use weather apps, etc. The sirens are not designed to be heard indoors. Also, the City dispatches and activates sirens for most of eastern Greene and southern Greene County, and the siren system was hard-wired as a unified system. He said staff will look at ways to isolate sirens for individual jurisdictions that could be launched individually or simultaneously to improve service.
- Electric Aggregation: Staff continues to receive questions regarding electric aggregation. Staff exercised this program for a number of years providing an opportunity for residents to realize savings on their electric use if they chose to participate in the program. Residents can opt out if they so choose. Those with questions should contact Assistant City Manager Jared Holloway for information at 376-7231.
- Progress Drive Work: Work will be ramping up in the coming days and weeks with increasing traffic restrictions in order to rehab the roadway. This includes intersection closures at Prouty and Harner in the near future. Please look for posts from the City to give advanced notice regarding these inconveniences.

Councilman Louderback asked if there was an “all clear” signal. Mr. Merriman no. Councilman Louderback asked if the Code Red was still active. Mr. Merriman said yes, but it is now called HyperReach, but it traditionally was not used for tornado warnings.

Vice President Wallace said City Planner Brian Forschner spoke on Tuesday at the African American Ministerial Alliance about community gardens at Lexington Park. He subsequently talked with Mr. Merriman about the bathrooms at the park. He understood there are potential problems but noted that NarrowPath plumbing offered to do the plumbing work inside the bathrooms. However, the water and sewer infrastructure to the bathrooms needed to be addressed. Mr. Merriman said the facilities are very old and with things happening at the park, they need to make the restrooms available. He appreciated the church representatives who have stepped forward as they look to rehab the park with community efforts. The City will provide water and sewer. The asset was in place and they want to maximize its value. It was helpful when local volunteers offset the costs.

Councilman Louderback recalled that it was mentioned in a five-year plan to move Lexington Park. Mr. Merriman agreed that option was considered a few years ago to make the park more visible and accessible; however, after lots of dialogue and only partial community support, they decided to focus on long-term issues with the park at the existing location noting that the biggest problem was the park’s location at the edge of the City and that it was not visible from main roadways. Councilman Scrivens said he would like to see some directional signage to the park—folks need to know the park was actually there before they can visit it. Mr. Merriman said they would look into that. Councilman Scrivens said Shawnee Park had bathrooms, and he asked why they are locked sometimes. Mr. Merriman said due to vandalism, the doors are on a timed lock system. He said they would be surprised at the amount of damage vandals could do—from

smashing windows, sinks, and toilets to destroying towel dispensers, putting holes in the wall, and tearing down partitions—it adds up. He noted recent damage at Xenia Station totaled \$500. They annually budget several thousand dollars per year, which only goes so far. They want facilities to be available, but with the City's limited resources, repairs could only be done a few times per year. Residents must take pride in their community, and community policing would help. He noted XPD would respond as soon as possible.

Mr. Duke reminded everyone that tax day is Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. City staff will help residents complete their City tax returns at no charge. Residents can mail their returns, file electronically, or place them in the drop box. President Engle inquired about extended hours. Mr. Duke said the office would be open on Tuesday until 6 p.m.

Ms. Fisher had nothing further to share.

### **B. Mayor and City Council:**

Mayor Mays shared the following events that she recently attended:

- March 26: She rode along with a Public Service employee, and she thanked them for all the work they do. They looked at catch basins, marked lines, etc. She encouraged fellow council members to do the same. It was a very educational and eye opening experience.
- March 26: She had lunch with several area Mayors as well as Senator Hackett and a representative from Senator Portman's office.
- March 28 - One Bistro Community Meal: She was not able to help this time, but she recognized the City of Xenia. Because of City staff's generous donations at Christmas, they were able to sponsor a total of three meals and city employees volunteered to serve that night.
- March 31: Easter Egg Hunt. Special thanks to Alicia Dodson who ran the event and did a phenomenal job. She thanked the XFD who gave financially and had a presence, the XPD who volunteered time, and Public Service folks noting that some came as volunteers, Council members who came and gave baskets, Kelley Shenk who DJ'd the event for FREE, several area churches who had booths with giveaways, MANY volunteers, such as the Frontier Truck Club, Pastor Will Urschel from Emmanuel Baptist Church who spoke to the kids about the true meaning of Easter, the MANY businesses and churches that donated baskets, the Easter Bunny, the City of Xenia, and of course the Xenia Area Association of Churches and Ministries. It was a GREAT day!
- April 11: Participated by reading a Proclamation at the Ohio Utilities Protection Services breakfast.
- April 22: Upcoming Fundraising event at Xenia Grace Chapel for Simon Kenton Bridges of Hope.

Councilman Louderback asked if there were designated tornado shelters in the City of Xenia. Mr. Merriman said there is a designated tornado shelter at the City's Public Service Center; however, he stressed it was for people using the park during regular business hours. After hours, it would be subject to public safety personnel getting there to open it up. He reiterated residents should shelter in place and not leave their homes to travel to a shelter that may not be open.

Councilman Smith said he recently had lunch at One Bistro and it was very good. He encouraged all to visit there from Wednesday through Saturday. He recently learned that they would deliver to downtown businesses. He reported that the High School's production of Bye Bye Birdie begins this weekend with 37 students. He commented on Vice President Wallace's previous question about overriding BZA's decisions. He would personally discourage that. He thanked all the volunteers in the community noting that the lay board volunteers are not compensated. He said with spring comes construction season and there are many construction cones and orange barrels,

