

**XENIA CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 23, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

Ms. Melissa Adams, Hope Hub, provided the Invocation.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Thomas Scrivens.

**B. CALL TO ORDER:** President Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**C. ROLL CALL:** Vice President Will Urschel, Councilman Thomas Scrivens, Councilwoman Rebekah Dean, Councilman Cody Brannum, Councilman Levi Dean, Mayor Sarah Mays, and President Wesley Smith were present.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Councilwoman Dean, seconded by Mayor Mays, to approve the June 9, 2022, minutes of the Regular Meeting as written. President Smith entertained comments or questions. None were presented. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith

Nays: None                      motion carried.

**E. SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S):** None.

**F. AUDIENCE COMMENTS:** President Smith explained the procedures for Audience Comments and invited those who wished to speak to come forward.

**G. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. President Smith presented **ORDINANCE 2022-19 AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, TO REZONE THE PROPERTY AT 89 LEAMAN STREET, TOTALING 0.43 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, FROM I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO R-2 TWO-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT**, introduced by Mayor Mays on June 9, 2022.

President Smith called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-19.

Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Councilman Brannum, to adopt Ordinance 2022-19 as presented.

President Smith opened the public hearing at 6:03 p.m. and asked those in favor of the rezoning of 89 Leaman Street to come forward to speak. Hearing none, he asked those who were against the rezoning of 89 Leaman Street to come forward to speak. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. and entertained Council comments or questions.

Vice President Urschel commended the property owner, noting the property had been an eyesore for quite some time. From an industrial perspective, he doubted the property would be used in that way again. Having a residence at the location would help that street as well as the adjacent bike path and hopefully deter the frequent bad activity.

Hearing nothing further, President Smith asked for the Roll Call.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith

Nays: None motion carried.

2. President Smith presented **ORDINANCE 2022-20 AMENDING CHAPTER 212, TITLED “ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND MOTIONS,” OF THE XENIA CITY CODE**, introduced by Mayor Mays on June 9, 2022.

President Smith called for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2022-20.

Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Councilman Scrivens, to adopt Ordinance 2022-20 as presented.

President Smith opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. and asked those in favor of amending Chapter 212 to come forward to speak. Hearing none, he then asked those who were against amending Chapter 212 to come forward to speak. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. and entertained Council comments or questions. Hearing none, he asked for the Roll Call.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith

Nays: None motion carried.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **RESOLUTION 2022-KK ESTABLISHING STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT #3 (SUMMER BROOKE SOUTH SUBDIVISION) AND DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF IMPROVING CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS WITHIN STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT #3 BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF FOR THE YEARS 2023 – 2027.** Assistant City Manager Jared Holloway said as Council was aware, the development of Section 4 of Summer Brooke in northeast Xenia was well underway. Arnold Development Company, the developer, petitioned the City to establish a street lighting district within the subdivision in accordance with the City’s Land Development Code. The initial installation of the lighting would be at the developer’s expense, and the Street Lighting District would then cover the cost of lighting repairs, electric, and maintenance under the City’s contract with Miami Valley Lighting. The assessment would be \$31.06/per lot per year from 2023 through 2027. Staff respectfully requested passage of Resolution 2022-KK to establish Street Lighting District #3.

President Smith entertained comments or questions. Councilman Brannum asked if all three Street Lighting Districts would be through Miami Valley Lighting (MVL). Mr. Holloway said yes, but not all street lights in the City are under MVL.

President Smith called for a motion to pass Resolution 2022-KK as presented.

Motion by Councilman Brannum, seconded by Vice President Urschel, to pass Resolution 2022-KK as presented. Brief discussion followed. Vice President Urschel asked for a report on which street lights were under the MVL maintenance agreement and which were not, which could be included on an upcoming Property Maintenance Committee agenda. Mr. Holloway agreed to provide such a report. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith  
Nays: None                      motion carried.

**2. RESOLUTION 2022-LL AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) TWO-TON DUMP TRUCK CHASSIS THROUGH THE ODOT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM AND TWO (2) DUMP BODIES WITH SPREADERS AND SNOWPLOW UNITS THROUGH THE SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM.** Mr. Holloway said the Public Service Department staff continued to work to extend the life of vehicles within the fleet; however, staff felt it was necessary to seek replacement of two (2) two-ton dump trucks, which they have put off replacing for several years. The City's Mechanic reported that both vehicles had failing emissions and radiator systems along with severe corrosion throughout the vehicles. The dump truck dedicated to the Street Division (#1904) also had significant transmission problems as noted in the agenda report. Both vehicles are used year round for hauling materials to job sites, leaf collection in the fall, and plowing/salting in the wintertime among other tasks. The 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan included \$175,000 for the purchase of each dump truck funded from both the General Capital (361) and Water Capital (664) Funds, which was approved as part of the 2022 Final Budget. The purchase price for each dump truck, however, had since increased to \$207,068. Unfortunately, as they have experienced over the last year or so, the costs for such vehicle purchases had escalated and they did not expect a reduction in costs in the foreseeable future. Thus, to cover the escalated costs, staff delayed the purchases of other vehicles planned this year in order to move forward with the purchase of these dump trucks because of the critical role they play. The silver lining, however, may come when they auction these used dump trucks with the hope to take advantage of the competitive used truck market. It was estimated to take 12-18 months after Council authorization for delivery of the vehicles. City staff respectfully recommended that Council pass Resolution 2022-LL authorizing the purchase of two (2) two-ton dump truck chassis from Stoops Freightliner through the ODOT Cooperative Purchasing Program and the purchase of two (2) bodies with spreaders and snowplow units from K.E. Rose Company through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program at a total price of \$414,136.

President Smith entertained comments or questions. Councilman Scrivens said they are playing catch up, and unfortunately, the costs keep going up. Mr. Holloway agreed; the trucks would have cost only \$175,000 each last year. It was unfortunate timing. President Smith reiterated the timeline for receiving the new vehicles was estimated to be over a year.

President Smith called for a motion to pass Resolution 2022-LL as presented.

Motion by Councilman Scrivens, seconded by Councilwoman Dean, to pass Resolution 2022-LL as presented. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith  
Nays: None                      motion carried.

**3. RESOLUTION 2022-MM ESTABLISHING A PAY PLAN FOR ALL COMPENSATED EMPLOYEE POSITIONS.** Mr. Holloway said on May 3, 2022, the voters of Xenia approved amendments to the City Charter, including amendments to Article X, Personnel. As part of these amendments, the City Charter required the Administrative Steering Committee (ASC) to recommend to Council a yearly Pay Plan, setting forth the pay grade or pay range for all City employees. The ASC, which included the three appointed officials and the Clerk of Court, met on June 7, 2022, and recommended keeping the pay grades and wage ranges that Council previously approved, and that they be carried over into the new Pay Plan. There are no changes to the Pay Plan recommended at this time; rather, this action would formally adopt the pay ranges previously approved by Council via Resolution. The ASC respectfully recommended that Council pass Resolution 2022-MM to establish the Charter-required Pay Plan, setting all City-compensated positions and the pay ranges, which would go into effect on June 26, 2022.

President Smith entertained comments or questions. Councilman Scrivens asked how frequently the ASC meets. Mr. Holloway said the ASC did not have a set meeting schedule; they meet as needed. Hearing nothing further, President Smith called for a motion to pass Resolution 2022-MM as presented.

Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Councilman Scrivens, to pass Resolution 2022-MM as presented. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith  
Nays: None                      motion carried.

**4. RESOLUTION 2022-NN ADOPTING THE TAX BUDGET OF THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023, AND AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT IT TO THE GREENE COUNTY AUDITOR.** Mr. Holloway said the City Charter and the Uniform Tax Levy Law both require that City Council adopt a tax budget as part of the budget development process. The Greene County Budget Commission then uses the City's tax budget to issue a Certificate of Estimated Resources for the City, which projects the amount of property tax and local government funds that the City would receive in the coming fiscal year. The tax budget did not authorize or allocate any funding. However, all the funds currently listed in the 2023 tax budget currently have and are projected to have a positive ending balances. There was still much uncertainty and unknown about the current financial projections as well as future decisions for allocation of the American Rescue Plan Funds. Many of the figures in the 2023 tax budget would be amended as actual revenues and expenditures become clearer. Upon completion of the tax budget process, City staff would proceed with development of the City's 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and ultimately the Final Annual Budget for 2023. The CIP and Budget development process would continue to include the involvement of Council's Finance & Budget Committee. Staff respectfully requested that Council conduct the public hearing, adopt the Tax Budget, and authorize its submission to the County Auditor prior to July 20<sup>th</sup>, in accordance with State Law.

President Smith opened the public hearing at 6:17 p.m. and invited anyone who wished to speak in favor of the 2023 Tax Budget to come forward. Hearing none, he invited anyone who wished to speak against the 2023 Tax Budget to come forward. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m. and entertained comments or questions from Council.

Councilman Scrivens asked where parks and recreation line items were located in the budget. Mr. Holloway said the 203 Fund was the parks and recreation fund, which was mostly unfunded in terms of revenues or expenses because they get rolled into the General Fund. Finance Director Ryan Duke added that park maintenance would also roll into the General Fund. The 203 Fund was used for special program such as the July 4<sup>th</sup> event and the Christmas event. Councilman Scrivens said he did not see any of those items budgeted. Mr. Duke said the fund balance summary only showed the net change in balances between last year's and this year's budget—it did not show line item expenditures.

Vice President Urschel asked Mr. Duke to briefly explain the timing of the tax budget and its purpose for Greene County. Mr. Duke said Greene County would receive the City's tax budget by July 21<sup>st</sup>, and the County Auditor would review what was presented. City staff would then attend a hearing at which time the Auditor would ask any questions he may have, and staff would have an opportunity to ask about the availability of any inside millage. He noted the answer was usually always "no" because there are 10 mills total for the City of Xenia and nobody else was giving up their inside millage. The Auditor would use the tax budget to determine property tax rates, which would later be presented to City Council for review and approval. He was not certain that the tax budget had a significant influence on what the County Auditor does, but it was statutorily required. For the benefit of the public, Vice President Urschel explained that there was a certain amount of property tax millage that could be done without a vote of the populous (inside millage), and the County Auditor allocated that out among the various County, Municipal, and School entities. Mr. Duke agreed; he said the City of Xenia currently received 3.2 mills of that 10 mills. Vice President Urschel said the inside millage stayed with the appraisal of the property versus an appraisal at a particular point in time. Mr. Duke said that was correct; as property values increased, inside millage was taxed based on the new value provided by the County Auditor, which was the opposite of voted millage that was related to the timeframe at which the voted millage was approved.

Hearing nothing further, President Smith called for a motion to pass Resolution 2022-NN as presented.

Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Councilman Dean, to pass Resolution 2022-NN as presented. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith

Nays: None                      motion carried.

**5. Procedural Motion Amending the Rules of Council.** Law Director Donnette Fisher said she was presenting this upon the recommendation of the Legislative Review & Government Affairs Committee. With the adoption of the Charter amendments by the voters on May 3, 2022, some amendments to the Rules of Council were required. In addition, City staff recommended some additional modifications to make it easier for Council to schedule and hold work sessions as part of its meetings. These amendments were reviewed with the LR&GA at its meeting on May 26, 2022, and the Committee recommended the following amendments to the Rules of Council:

General amendments:

- In any instance where "ordinance, resolution, or administrative motion" appears, replace it with "item of business."

- Remove the term “administrative motion” where it appears and replace with “procedural motion” where appropriate.

Section 2 – Definitions: Updated to remove “administrative motion,” add definition for “censure,” amend definition of “majority vote,” and amend definition of “procedural motion.”

Section 3 – Meetings: Section 3.02 – *Regular Meetings*. Amendment to allow a regular meeting to start at the time set by Council to allow for a work session prior to the regular session as a part of the meeting. The regular session will still begin at 6:00 p.m. Amendment to recognize Council has set forth the legal holidays the City will observe in Section 202.03 of the City Code.

Section 4 – Procedures for Regular Meetings: Section 4.03 – *Order of Business*.

- Subdivision A. Amend this section to allow work sessions and executive sessions to occur before or after the regular session. Remove “Reports of Boards and Commissions” and add “Reports” to “Council Comments.” This second change is recommended as such reports are usually regarding matters that Council has already taken action on and, therefore, tend to be redundant. If there are items from any Boards, Commissions or Committees that need to be reported on because Council has not yet taken action on the item, the Council member who chairs that Board, Commission or Committee will now make such report as a part of his or her Council Comments.
- Subdivision C. Add a section to address work sessions.

Section 7 – Procedures Applicable to All Meetings:

- Section 7.04 – amend to reflect changes in City Charter.
- Section 7.05 – add subdivision K. to address principal procedural motions.
- Section 7.09 – amend to reflect changed voting requirements in City Charter.

Section 9 – Code of Conduct: Amend ROC to clarify a censure was less than a removal from office, and that the censure process was to be used for reprimands for improper behavior. Amend the process for censure to reflect the reduction in severity of a censure. (The proposed Charter amendments to Article IV that will appear on the ballot on August 2, 2022, set forth a procedural process for actual removal from office for the reasons set forth in the Charter).

Section 11 – Standing Committees: Amend the Standing Committees of Council to add an “Economic Development Committee.” This Committee was recommended to replace EDAB and the Loan Trust Committee. She noted that amendments to Title 8 of the Xenia City Code was scheduled for Council consideration on July 14<sup>th</sup>, which included the deletion of EDAB.

Ms. Fisher deferred to Mayor Mays for her comments as Chair of LR&GA. Mayor Mays said the only thing she would add to Ms. Fisher’s report was that Council members needed to continue to be transparent and report what they were doing with regard to Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

President Smith entertained comments or questions. Councilman Scrivens said he also served on the LR&GA Committee, and they were working to streamline how they operate and do business. These changes were essential. Vice President Urschel said assuming these amendments to the Rules of Council were approved, he believed they needed to establish a chair plus two additional members of the new Economic Development Committee. President Smith agreed; the appointments would be made at the July 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Ms. Fisher agreed.

Hearing nothing further, President Smith called for a motion.

Motion by Councilwoman Dean, seconded by Vice President Urschel, to accept the recommendation of the Legislative Review & Government Affairs Committee and amend the Rules of Council as presented. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith  
Nays: None motion carried.

**6. Procedural Motion Appointing Ms. Hiba Loukssi to the Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities.** Mayor Mays said existing Xenia City Code Chapter 278 – Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities, Section 278.01—Establishment; Composition; Terms; Chairperson; Meetings established that City Council may appoint ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board, one of whom may be a student at Xenia High School. The term of the most recent student who served in this capacity expired on April 23, 2022. Ms. Hiba Loukssi, who was present in the audience this evening, was a student at Xenia High School and wished to serve as the student liaison to BRACA for the next one-year term. Her appointment was endorsed by XHS Guidance Counselor Amy Biggs; per her recommendation, Ms. Loukssi was quite an impressive young lady and a wonderful representation of the student body. She was the President of Student Council, Vice President of National Honor Society, President of Ohio's Business Professionals of America, co-founder of Xenia High Schools first Writing Club, and the outreach director for Illuminate Business. She was also involved in Chemistry Club, Spanish Club, Model UN, Garden Club, and an Ensemble member. All the while maintaining over a 4.0 GPA. She looked forward to working with her in this capacity and was happy to recommend her appointment.

President Smith welcomed Ms. Loukssi and her involvement with BRACA. He said the City values its relationship with Xenia Community Schools, and her appointment was part of that relationship. He thanked her for serving and was glad to see her step forward. He then entertained comments or questions. Councilman Scrivens was impressed by Ms. Loukssi's accomplishments, noting BRACA was getting "the top of the crop." Hearing nothing further, President Smith noted another BRACA member, Ethan Reynolds, was in the audience this evening. He then called for a motion.

Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Councilman Brannum, to appoint Ms. Hiba Loukssi to serve as an ex-officio member of BRACA with a term expiration date of June 23, 2023. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith  
Nays: None motion carried.

**7. Procedural Motion Approving the Schedule of Bills in the amount of \$476,371.83.** Mr. Duke did not have anything specific to note on the Schedule of Bills and respectfully requested the payment of bills in the amount of \$476,371.83.

President Smith entertained questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion by Councilwoman Dean, seconded by Councilman Dean, to approve the schedule of bills in the amount of \$476,371.83. No comments followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith  
Nays: None motion carried.

## **I. APPOINTED OFFICIALS REPORTS**

President Smith acknowledged the Sergeant at Arms at this evening's meeting, which was newly sworn in Police Chief Chris Stutes. He thanked him for attending the meeting. He then asked Ms. Fisher for her comments. Ms. Fisher reminded everyone of Ohio's new fireworks laws as the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday was approaching. She encouraged everyone to review the information on consumer grade fireworks on the City's website and social media pages as there are severe criminal penalties. She wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

President Smith asked Mr. Duke for his comments. Mr. Duke said he regretted his absence at the last Council meeting and thanked them for renewing his contract as Finance Director. It was a pleasure to work with the Mayor and Council and City staff as well. He reported that the State Auditor had officially accepted the City's independent audit with no findings for recovery, no material weaknesses, and no deficiencies. He expected the GFOA and/or Auditor of State award(s) were forthcoming.

President Smith asked Mr. Holloway for his comments. Mr. Holloway said Citizens' Academy kicked off last week, and two members of the academy were present in tonight's audience: Nancy McPeak and Mary Amlin. He said the City's Red White and Blue Block Party was scheduled for Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, downtown from 3 to 8 p.m. followed by the Kevin Sonnyalb Fireworks Festival at Shawnee Park at 10 p.m. President Smith invited the Citizens' Academy attendees to the podium if they wished to make a few comments. Ms. McPeak said she had attended every single Citizens Academy to date and learned something new every time. She encouraged everyone to attend the Citizens' Academy and Council meetings, so they could also learn about their local government.

## **J. REPORTS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:**

**1. Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA):** Councilman Brannum said BZA met on June 21<sup>st</sup> on the following cases:

- Case #BZA2022-06: Variance to allow a 10' x 12' shed to be built in a side yard, contrary to the Land Development Code requirement that accessory buildings be located in a rear yard at 1477 Botto Avenue, filed by Charles Nickoson, which was approved.
- Case #BZA2022-07: Variances to allow a 12' x 16' shed on a vacant lot, contrary to the code requirement that an accessory building must be on the same lot as the building (home) it serves, and increasing the applicant's total accessory building square footage to 962 sq. ft. (including an existing garage), exceeding the code's maximum 720 sq. ft. at an adjacent parcel to 201 Fayette Street, filed by Gregory and Marian Hoey. The variance to allow a shed on the vacant lot was denied because the applicant intended to consolidate the lots together; the variance to exceed the maximum square footage was approved once the lots are combined.

## **K. COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Brannum had nothing further to share.

Councilman Dean had nothing further to share.

Councilwoman Dean wished everyone a Happy 4<sup>th</sup>! She would see everyone next Friday.

Councilman Scrivens expressed his concern with the lack of cracksealing, patching, and pothole repair in the City and asked when that would get started. It was supposed to be budgeted, and it was already almost the end of June. It remained a mystery as to when citizens could expect their streets to be repaired, and people were not happy. He knew E. Market between N. Detroit and N. Columbus and E. Second between N. Columbus and Leach were scheduled for repair this year and asked if Bellbrook between Allison and Peacepipe was still being improved this year. Mr. Holloway said the last section of Bellbrook from Allison to Maumee would be improved this year. Councilman Scrivens asked if a priority list of streets could be published on the City's website so residents knew what to expect and when, noting most neighborhood streets are in the red category on the Pavement Condition Index report. Mr. Holloway said he would be glad to ensure that information was included on the website. Councilman Scrivens complimented Vice President Urschel and the crew from Bridges of Hope who have worked to get the curbs painted yellow and painting the bathrooms at Lexington Park, noting a fresh coat of paint could do wonders. He reported that there are several ongoing nuisances that are not being abated; he called Code Enforcement, but still nothing was being done. He wanted to see some action and wanted to see things getting done. He thanked the community for celebrating Juneteenth Freedom Day, noting there was a difference between freedom and independence.

Mayor Mays said on June 10<sup>th</sup>, it was an honor to speak at newly appointed Police Chief Chris Stutes' swearing in ceremony followed by a reception. That following Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, she attended and spoke at outgoing Police Chief Randy Person's Open House. It was wonderful to see so much support for both gentlemen. She issued a proclamation declaring June 18<sup>th</sup> as "Lemonade Day" in the City of Xenia; it was great to see some local children participate in that initiative. On that same day, her church, Emmanuel Baptist Church, celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On June 20<sup>th</sup>, she attended an event at Faith Community United Methodist Church where they welcomed the Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure Group who was riding over 1,300 miles from New Orleans to Cleveland to raise money to build a home in Aurora, Ohio. Different churches along the route house them each night, which allowed them to use all money raised—about \$500,000 to date—to help people with housing every year. This morning, she met with Jonathan Duffy and Molly Hallock from Kettering Health Network regarding their ministry work and vision to create a community health plan for Xenia. She encouraged everyone to attend the July 1<sup>st</sup> Red, White, and Blue Block Party and the fireworks show. There would be a lot of food trucks, activities for kids, a car show, a vintage toy show, etc.

Vice President Urschel said he recently attended a seminar held by the Ohio Attorney General's Office regarding the sealing of felonies and misdemeanors, which was passed last January. He said some folks in this community had some issues 10 to 20 years ago, and those issues are still limiting their ability to get jobs, among other things. Even though they may have worked hard to get their lives back, their records prohibit them from moving forward. He would like to meet with the Greene County Public Defender's Office as well as Ms. Fisher to discuss this issue. He would also like to present information to the public on what steps they could take to get their records sealed. He announced that Pastor Todd Martin from Liberty Worship Center was the new President of the Xenia Area Association of Churches and Ministries; he was looking forward to working with him, noting the next faith community event would be held on August 14<sup>th</sup>—Pastor Chaz from Home Church would be hosting a community worship with 16 churches signed up and even more on the list to contact. It would be a big event with at least 1,000 people. He would share more details as they are known. Regarding Lexington Park, he had been working with volunteers on the park for

more than a year. He announced that they unfortunately were not awarded the grant to improve the basketball court. However, he was pleased to announce that the Lexington Park project was in the top 120 finalists of over several thousand applications for the Lowe's community grant in the amount of \$100,000. He anticipated the results being announced on or about July 20<sup>th</sup>. The improvements at the park would be incremental, but they would make small steps forward—they need to get the bad behavior under control first. He expressed kudos to the Bridges of Hope crew who are out in the community every day in all types of weather to do whatever they can to improve this City. Some have construction experience, some are amazing painters, some have landscaping backgrounds, etc.—even though they are having a hard time in life, they have a lot of skills and have a lot to give. They recently spent time at the cemetery next to the shelter to get the graves cleaned up; they would be starting on cleaning the tombstones next. He encouraged everyone to support the Bridges of Hope volunteers, and if they see them out and about, stop and say thank you.

President Smith asked Mr. Holloway to explain why the Independence Day event was being held on July 1<sup>st</sup> and not July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Holloway said they hold the event on the first Friday of July, which fell on July 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Mayor Mays said she preferred that the fireworks be held on a Friday night so the kids can stay up late to watch them. President Smith said there was a significant cost savings by having the fireworks on a day that wasn't the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mr. Holloway agreed, but noted that eventually the show would fall on a Friday that was July 4<sup>th</sup>. President Smith asked where attendees should park for the July 1<sup>st</sup> event. Mr. Holloway said people could park at Xenia Towne Square, in any City parking lot, at the field house, at the former Senior Center, etc. He cautioned that some roads, including the main intersection downtown, would be closed. President Smith asked the best place to view the fireworks. Mr. Holloway said any area of Shawnee Park would be excellent. President Smith thanked City staff for their efforts for the July 1<sup>st</sup> event, noting the City was getting a good reputation for its fireworks show.

**L. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**M. WORK SESSION:** None.

**N. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilwoman Dean, seconded by Councilman Brannum, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:05 p.m. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Urschel, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, L. Dean, Mays, Smith

Nays: None                      motion carried.



Michelle D. Johnson  
City Clerk



Wesley E. Smith, President  
Xenia City Council