

**XENIA CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Smith called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Administration Building. The meeting was open to the public. Due to COVID-19 and group gathering restrictions, audience members were asked to practice social distancing.

President Smith asked those present to rise for a moment of silence in memory of Jeff Ziegler, a City employee in the Planning and Zoning Department who passed away unexpectedly on Monday, August 31, 2020.

2. INVOCATION: Pastor Chaz Stapleton, Xenia Christian Center (aka Home Avenue Church) provided the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Sarah Mays led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL: Councilman Thomas Scrivens, Councilwoman Rebekah Dean, Councilman Cody Brannum, Mayor Sarah Mays, and President Wesley Smith were present. Vice President Edgar Wallace¹ and Councilman Levi Dean were absent.

Motion by President Smith, seconded by Councilman Scrivens, to excuse Vice President Wallace¹ and Councilman Dean from the meeting. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Councilman Scrivens, to approve the August 27, 2020, minutes as written. Brief comment followed. Councilman Scrivens noted a typo on the last page of the minutes. The City Clerk noted the error. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S): None.

7. AUDIENCE COMMENTS: President Smith invited those present to come forward to speak.

Everett Rasnic, 545 N. Columbus Street, said he lives at the corner of Lexington Avenue and U.S. 42, and he attended the Council meeting two weeks ago to express his concern about speeding in his neighborhood. He said drivers are still speeding, and he only sees a police officer patrolling the area about once a month. Further, something needs to be done about the drugs and drinking at Lexington Park. President Smith said the City Manager will note his comments. City Manager

¹ Joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:10 p.m.

Brent Merriman confirmed he has had conversations with the Police Division about these issues. He noted it may take some time to begin to see some changes.

Chaz Stapleton, Xenia Christian Church, said he lives in Xenia and Xenia Christian Center has been a part of the Xenia community since the 1950s. He and his wife have been with the church since last April as lead pastors, and they are in the process of transitioning the church's name from Xenia Christian Center to Home Church. They want to be a church that is here for the community, and they are encouraged to come alongside the City in any way necessary. On Council's agenda this evening is an item to authorize the sale of Home Avenue Park to the church. He was very encouraged to obtain the property, which is adjacent to the church property totaling about nine acres, and they are looking forward to increasing the church's land and establishing a place for area residents to visit and enjoy. If the sale of land is approved, they intend to use donations to clean up the park, bring in new play equipment, etc. Finally, the church continues to keep City leaders in prayer; they recognize all the challenges they face every day. President Smith thanked Pastor Stapleton for providing the Invocation this evening and for covering them in prayer. He appreciates the church's investment into this community.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. President Smith presented ORDINANCE 2020-22 LEVYING ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF WITHIN LIGHTING DISTRICT #4 FOR THE YEARS 2021-2022, originally introduced by Councilman Brannum on 08/27/2020, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by Councilman Brannum, seconded by Councilwoman Dean, to approve Ordinance 2020-22 as presented. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

(Vice President Wallace joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m. via Zoom.)

B. President Smith presented ORDINANCE 2020-23 LEVYING ASSESSMENTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF WITHIN LIGHTING DISTRICT #5 FOR THE YEARS 2021-2022, originally introduced by Councilman Dean on 08/27/2020, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by President Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Dean, to approve Ordinance 2020-23 as presented. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, Mays, Smith

Nays: None motion carried.

C. President Smith presented ORDINANCE 2020-24 ENACTING CHAPTER 1061, TITLED "ILLICIT DISCHARGE AND ILLEGAL CONNECTION CONTROL," OF THE CITY OF XENIA'S STREETS, UTILITIES, AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE, AS CONTAINED IN THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, originally introduced by Councilman Scrivens on 08/27/2020, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by Councilman Scrivens, seconded by Mayor Mays, to approve Ordinance 2020-24 as presented. Brief comment followed. Councilman Scrivens said passage of this Ordinance will also update the City's stormwater management plan. The Roll on this was the following:

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

D. President Smith presented **RESOLUTION 2020-Y AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF 0.606 ACRES OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 450 HOME AVENUE (KNOWN AS HOME AVENUE PARK) TO HOME CHURCH**, originally introduced by Councilwoman Dean on 08/27/2020, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by Councilwoman Dean, seconded by Mayor Mays, to approve Resolution 2020-Y as presented. Brief comments followed. Mayor Mays thanked Pastor Stapleton and the church for investing in this community. President Smith agreed this is a win-win situation. The Roll on this was the following:

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

E. President Smith presented **RESOLUTION 2020-Z AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF 23.4373 ACRES OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT TREMONT ROAD AND NORTH COLUMBUS STREET TO ISAAC AND SAMANTHA JACK AND JACOB AND CYNTHIA STREHLE**, originally introduced by Councilman Scrivens on 08/27/2020, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by Councilman Scrivens, seconded by Mayor Mays, to approve Resolution 2020-Z as presented. Brief comment followed. Councilman Scrivens noted the sale price of \$175,000 for this land. The Roll on this was the following:

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

9. PUBLIC HEARING(S): None.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Introduction of Ordinance 2020-25 Accepting the Annexation of 45.637 Acres of Land in Xenia Township to the City of Xenia, Ohio. Mr. Merriman said following the affirmative decision of the Ohio Supreme Court that directed the Greene County Board of Commissioners to approve the City's petition for annexation of 45.637 acres from Xenia Township to the City of Xenia, the Board approved the necessary resolution. As required by ORC 709.023(G), the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners sent a certified record of the annexation proceedings to the City on July 10, 2020. In accordance with ORC 709.04, the required 60-day waiting period from the date the record of proceedings was received from the County has expired, and now the annexation is to be presented to City Council for approval or rejection. He respectfully recommended introduction of Ordinance 2020-25 to accept the annexation.

President Smith entertained introduction of Ordinance 2020-25 as presented.

Councilman Scrivens presented ORDINANCE 2020-25 ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF 45.637 ACRES OF LAND IN XENIA TOWNSHIP TO THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, and it was read for the first time.

B. Introduction of Resolution 2020-AA Authorizing the Incorporation of the Xenia Community Improvement Corporation. Mr. Merriman said Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1724 authorizes the incorporation of community improvement corporations (CICs). A CIC created under ORC Chapter 1724 may be one of two types: an economic development corporation or a county land reutilization corporation. An economic development corporation, such as what is being recommended, may be incorporated as a CIC for the purpose of advancing, encouraging, and promoting industrial, economic, commercial, and civic development of a community. It is for these purposes that staff is recommending Council authorize the creation of the Xenia Community Improvement Corporation. The Xenia CIC would have a separate and distinct role from the Greene County CIC, wherein it would be focused on redevelopment of complex commercial and industrial sites of specific local interest. Staff would still work with the County CIC on projects of broader interest and to incentivize development opportunities. The Xenia CIC would present an additional platform for economic development promotion and facilitation in the Xenia community, while also serving as a civic engagement and community development tool. In terms of an economic development facilitator, the CIC would largely be project-based, working hand in hand with stakeholders and private investors/developers to target troubled commercial and industrial properties for rehabilitation and reuse. By statute, CICs can obtain financing and acquire/divest real estate and have more flexibility than municipal corporations in such transactions. These attributes make a CIC an important and valuable tool for expanding economic development capacity while providing separation from direct City involvement and insulating the City's direct risk in such projects. As recommended, this local CIC would also serve in a civic and promotional role for the Xenia community. Staff envisions the new CIC eventually providing assistance for the administrative and promotional functions associated with special events like First Fridays and other community activities that currently have limited support. Staff also anticipates that the CIC would play an active role in the more formal establishment and maintenance of a downtown Main Street program. He respectfully recommended introduction of the resolution to initiate the incorporation of the Xenia CIC.

President Smith asked when the Board of Directors would be named per Section 4 of the Resolution. Mr. Merriman said there needs to be enough board members to initiate the process; once everything is certified through the State of Ohio and approved at the local level, the Board would meet and the additional positions would be filled. By statute, 40 percent of the governance has to be appointed or elected officials from the City. He said the exact timeline is unknown because they are relying on the State of Ohio's timeline, but they hope to stand this up as quickly as possible.

President Smith asked Councilmembers to let him know if they are interested in serving on the CIC Board of Directors. He then entertained introduction of Resolution 2020-AA as presented.

Councilwoman Dean presented RESOLUTION 2020-AA AUTHORIZING THE INCORPORATION OF THE XENIA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION, and it was read for the first time.

Councilman Scrivens asked how much it would cost in terms of start up to get the CIC up and running. Mr. Merriman said he and staff are in the process of determining those costs. One key financial component is indemnification. While the entity is attached to the City of Xenia, it is still a separate, independent not for profit entity and must be insured separately. As suggested in the agenda report, any needed startup funding would be provided by the City through the 233 Fund, which are not tax dollars; rather, they are monies generated from lease arrangements from City-owned downtown properties. He felt this would be a good reinvestment of those dollars. He noted the Xenia CIC is not meant to replace the City's Development Department or the County's CIC—it is meant to supplement their efforts.

Vice President Wallace asked Mr. Merriman to explain the relationship between the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB), of which he serves as Chair, and the Xenia CIC. Mr. Merriman said they are still evaluating the exact role of the CIC and how the role of EDAB as well as the Loan Trust and Loan Review boards. They really don't need four separate entities and some clarification of roles and consolidation is needed in the interest of efficiency. He cannot provide an exact definition of what that will look like, and he was certain it would be part of the CIC Board's discussion once the CIC is launched.

C. Introduction of Resolution 2020-BB Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Certified by the Greene County Budget Commission for 2021, Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies, and Certifying the Tax Levies to the Greene County Auditor. Finance Director Ryan Duke said as a part of the yearly budget process, the Ohio Revised Code requires City Council to authorize the necessary property tax levies for any inside millage, and for any outside millage that has already been approved by the voters, for the succeeding tax year. Thus, Council needs to pass a Resolution to accept the amounts and tax rates, as determined by the Greene County Budget Commission, each year. For the year 2021, the Greene County Budget Commission has certified the total of estimated revenue from general property taxes as \$1,828,000, which is an increase of \$202,000 compared to what was certified for 2020. The Local Government Allocation for 2021 is \$759,750, which is calculated by the Greene County Auditor's Office and is equal to the 2020 County estimate. The Resolution must be filed with the County Auditor prior to October 1, 2020.

President Smith entertained introduction of Resolution 2020-BB as presented.

Mayor Mays presented RESOLUTION 2020-BB ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS CERTIFIED BY THE GREENE COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION FOR 2021, AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES, AND CERTIFYING THE TAX LEVIES TO THE GREENE COUNTY AUDITOR, and it was read for the first time.

D. Administrative Motion Awarding the Bid and Authorizing the Purchase of De-Icing Salt from Cargill, Inc., through the SWOP4G Cooperative Purchasing Program. Mr. Merriman said for decades the City has participated with the Southwest Ohio Purchasers for Government Cooperative Purchasing Program (SWOP4G) for acquisition of various materials. Principally, the City has been utilizing the SWOP4G program to buy road de-icing salt for annual use given the savings value of volume purchasing through the program. In June, competitive bids from road salt suppliers were received through SWOP4G's cooperative bidding process. The City requested bids for up to 1,500 tons of de-icing salt for the upcoming winter season. Bidding was

robust this year, unlike prior years, as Xenia received six quotes. The lowest quote received was from Cargill at \$45.98/ton, which is substantially lower than prior years including last year's awarded quote of \$78.63. It should also be noted that Cargill has submitted an offer to lock in early pricing for the 2021-2022. Cargill will likely return with this offer in the spring, which will be presented to Council at that time. He respectfully recommended award of the de-icing road salt bid for this year's winter season to Cargill, Inc., at \$45.98 per ton.

President Smith asked how other communities received better quotes and if it was based on distance and/or quantity of salt needed. Mr. Merriman said there really is no rhyme or reason as to how the quotes are provided. He noted one community may receive an excellent quote and a community a few miles away may not receive any quote or the quotes will vary greatly. In some years, Xenia has received only one bid, and this year, six were received. He noted the Ohio Attorney General's Office has looked into the salt commodity bidding process due to past problems.

President Smith then entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Brannum, seconded by Mayor Mays, to award the de-icing road salt bid for the 2020-2021 winter season to Cargill, Inc., at \$45.98 per ton, as the lowest and best bid, pursuant to the SWOP4G Cooperative Purchasing Program. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

E. Administrative Motion Authorizing the Purchase of an Eventide Next Generation Communications Recorder from Stephen Campbell & Associates for the Xenia Greene Communications Center through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Cooperative Purchasing Program. Mr. Merriman said the Xenia Greene Central Communications Center currently utilizes a 911 recording system that has been in service since 2005. The system includes necessary audio recording capacity for emergency 911 phone lines, non-emergency phone lines, and first responder radio communication. Given the age and use, the current system has reached the end of its useful life. For replacement of the 911 recording system, staff recommends the purchase of an Eventide Next Generation Communication Recorder for the primary public safety answering point (PSAP) and an additional Eventide Next Generation Communication Recorder for the backup answering point through the GSA Cooperative Purchasing Program, which is a federal cooperative purchasing program that allows state and local governments to purchase needed law enforcement products through competitive bid contracts already in place by the U.S. General Services Administration. The quoted price for the recorders through the GSA Cooperative Purchasing Program is \$80,194.85 including installation, programming, training, and support.

President Smith entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Scrivens, seconded by Councilwoman Dean, to authorize the City Manager to execute a purchase order with Stephen Campbell & Associates, through the GSA Cooperative Purchasing Program, for the equipment, installation, programming, training, and support of the Eventide Next Generation Communication Recorder for the primary PSAP and the backup PSAP,

in the amount of \$80,194.85. Brief discussion followed. Councilman Brannum asked how long the existing system has been in place. Mr. Merriman said it has been in operation since 2005, and part of the problem is the technology feeding into the system has so far outpaced the system itself and it cannot keep up. Councilman Scrivens noted the purchase price is \$80,194.85 but the City's actual cost is only \$32,077.94 due to the grant received. Mr. Merriman concurred. He further explained the City's cost will be paid through the 9-1-1 fund, which is revenue generated from cell phone state-mandated fees that are distributed to all PSAPs in the State of Ohio. The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, Mays, Smith

Nays: None motion carried.

F. Administrative Motion Authorizing the City Manager to Approve the Greene County Career Center's Xenia Income Tax Rebate Application. Mr. Merriman said staff is presenting a request from the Greene County Career Center for approval of an application for the City's Income Tax Rebate Program. The Income Tax rebate program was among various items suggested to Career Center Leadership that could be made available with relocation and development of their new facility in Xenia. As noted in the agenda report, the City has already made substantial and valuable investments in the Career Center project, including installation of utilities and extension of the Innovation Drive roadway. This infrastructure was necessary for and benefits the Career Center but also serves other development interests associated with the prospective buildout of the Greene Regional Business Park. The City is also covering half of the ongoing cost of providing a School Resource Officer for the school. Relative financials and cost-benefit were provided in the agenda report. Council must determine if they wish to approve the application as requested, approve a modified award, or reject the application.

President Smith entertained a motion.

Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to approve the Xenia Income Tax Rebate application of the Greene County Career Center. Discussion followed.

Vice President Wallace said EDAB reviewed this item at their August meeting and unanimously endorsed approval.

Mr. Duke said there has been a lot of conversation among the Appointed Officials and staff on this item, which is why a firm recommendation was not presented by Mr. Merriman. He said there are some good reasons to recommend approval; however, there are also some good reasons to deny or amend the request. He said the City has spent a great deal of money on the Career Center project, and the largest portion of the project is the roadway, which was not exclusively for the Career Center. When the City originally sent the tax rebate program information to the Career Center, many things were still undecided. One of the things they were hoping to achieve was to get a contribution from Greene County for the roadway, which was received and made the project a little more affordable for the City, but they were also hoping to acquire some grant dollars from the State of Ohio. In order to receive the grant dollars, a project needed to happen at the site and that did not happen. Further, the Career Center did not cooperate with the City's attempt to court a business to that site. Regardless, in order for this to make financial sense, they need more development at that site well beyond the Career Center. Otherwise, the City is "in the red" and it

will take well over a decade to recoup that investment. Further, due to the delay in executing the Development Agreement, some projects had to be bid separately, which ultimately cost the City more money. For those reasons, he was not in support of the rebate for the percentage and length of time requested.

President Smith said based on the math, the Career Center's request would be to get an \$80,000 credit per year. Mr. Merriman said yes, which would be for a five-year period. To be clear, the nature of the tax rebate program is such that Council can award up to 1% of the 2.25% income tax up to a total of five years, and Council can vote to modify one or both of those terms.

Mayor Mays said she wished to approve the application as requested. Even though there were issues getting to this point, the project is completed, and they need to move forward. She knows the amount of money the City has spent, which was more than anticipated, and they need to seek further development projects in that area. The City presented the Career Center with the income tax rebate program information, and they need to stand by that.

President Smith said a motion was on the table to approve the tax rebate application based on the requested terms. If they wish to make any amendments, those who made and seconded the motion would have to amend the motion or rescind the motion in its entirety so another motion can be presented. Mayor Mays and Vice President Wallace asked that the motion on the table be considered with no amendment.

Councilman Scrivens expressed his full support of the request. The City knew the anticipated opportunity costs ahead of time, and in the long run, the City will come out well ahead.

The Roll on this was the following:

Ayes: Wallace, Scrivens, R. Dean, Brannum, Mays

Nays: None motion carried.

President Smith recused himself due to his work with the Career Center.

G. Administrative Motion Approving the Schedule of Bills in the amount of \$1,245,340.31. Mr. Duke respectfully requested the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,245,340.31, noting a large payment for the meter project in the amount of \$959,546.50. They are making good progress with the project, noting it is about 80% complete with almost all the outside meters replaced.

Councilman Scrivens asked about the Fair Housing booklets and if the City cooperated with Greene County Fair Housing to provide that information. Mr. Merriman said yes, the City cooperates with Greene County, and the booklets are provided at both City and County offices. Councilman Scrivens asked if Rumpke was still conducting bulk pickup in the City. Mr. Merriman said yes; residents can leave one bulk item per week. Councilman Scrivens said sometimes the bulk items sit out longer, and the City picks them up for a small fee. Mr. Merriman agreed, noting the City's bulk pick up was suspended for a short period of time this year due to COVID-19.

President Smith entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilwoman Dean, seconded by Councilman Brannum, to approve the schedule of bills in the amount of \$1,245,340.31. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA): Mayor Mays announced a vacancy on the board; those interested in serving should contact City Clerk Michelle Johnson. She reported that BZA met on August 24, 2020, to consider the following variance requests:

- Case #BZA2020-11: Variance to allow a 6' tall privacy fence to extend into the front yard facing Corwin Avenue, exceeding the code's maximum height of 4' for a fence in a front yard, for the property located at 77 Park Avenue, which was denied.
- Case #BZA2020-12: Variance to allow a 192 sq. ft. freestanding sign facing US 35 (V-shaped sign with two 96 sq. ft. panels), exceeding the Code's maximum allowable 100 sq. ft. for the property located at 839 Union Road, which was approved.

B. Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities (BRACA): President Smith said BRACA met on September 1, 2020, to discuss several topics including Hometown Christmas; however, he was unable to attend due to a work commitment. He asked Mr. Merriman to share an update. Mr. Merriman said the City's and BRACA's intent is to move forward with a Hometown Christmas event in an effort to support local businesses while giving local children something to celebrate. Some modifications may be necessary in order to get endorsement from Greene County Public Health. After discussion about the Fishing Derby, which was originally to be held at a later date, the difficult decision was made to cancel the event. The decision was based on many reasons including the lack of volunteers, asking local businesses that have already suffered financially during the pandemic to donate materials and supplies, and the uncertainty of guidelines and restrictions, especially after the restart of schools. The Tree Committee representative also provided an update on the Heritage Tree Program and the photography contest that is currently underway.

C. Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC): Councilwoman Dean said the MVRPC Board of Directors met via Zoom on September 3, 2020, to review various grants that are available to assist with COVID-19 expenses.

D. Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC): Councilman Brannum said PZC met on September 3, 2020, to consider the following:

- Case PZC2020-06: Alternative Equivalent Review to allow construction of a new single-family home with 60% vinyl siding on the front façade, contrary to the maximum 50% permitted by the Land Development Code for the property located at 1810 Highlander Drive, which was unanimously approved.
- Case PZC2020-07: Conditional Use for the manufacturing (machining and assembly) of aftermarket automotive parts (engine blocks, cylinder heads, manifolds, etc.) from raw castings for the property located at 1031 Cincinnati Avenue, which was unanimously approved. He noted C&C Indy Cylinder Head, LLC, looks to relocate their business from Indianapolis.

E. Traffic Commission: President Smith said in Councilman Dean's absence, he asked the City Clerk to add this report to their next regular meeting agenda.

12. APPOINTED OFFICIALS REPORTS AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

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

Mr. Merriman said City staff has received a few inquiries about Beggar's Night. He would like the event to occur on October 31st from 6 to 8 p.m.; however, he wants to try to be consistent with neighboring communities and receive Greene County Public Health's endorsement. Conversations are underway and as soon as a determination is made, it will be heavily publicized through the City's Public Relations Coordinator. President Smith said many people in the community have expressed their desire for Beggar's Night to be held as scheduled. If residents do not want to participate, they could turn off their porch lights and not answer their doors; if they have their own children, keep them at home. For those wanting to participate, he suggested putting tables in their front yards and allowing the children to take one piece each so there is no direct contact. The children have suffered the most and lost out on so many things/events during this pandemic. When he was a child, his two favorite days of the year were Halloween and Christmas. Mr. Merriman noted Council is tentatively scheduled to hold a special meeting next Thursday on September 17th, including an off-site tour of several locations in the City. Transportation will be provided.

Mr. Duke said the City has officially transitioned its income tax services to the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA). He said RITA's information is on the City's website.

Law Director Donnette Fisher had nothing further to share.

B. Mayor and City Council:

Councilwoman Dean expressed her condolences to the family of Jeff Ziegler. She did not know him personally but would be praying for his family.

Councilman Scrivens congratulated the new inductees into the Greene County Women's Hall of Fame including Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's wife, Fran. He was proud of them all and thanked them for their service with distinction. Regarding reports of committees, he serves on the Charter Review Commission; he anticipates a report to Council very soon. He said the Xenia Buccaneers play football at home tomorrow night; he wished them luck for their first win of the season.

Councilman Brannum said he fully supports holding Beggar's Night on Halloween. Even if the City doesn't sponsor the event, residents can still participate. They are all adults and they all know how to conduct themselves. He did not feel it was any different than going through a drive through and taking a bag that another person has touched. The speeding issue on N. Columbus and Lexington Avenue as well as the situation at Lexington Park has been duly noted, noting there is an uptick in speeding all over town. As Mr. Merriman noted, the information was given to Police Division personnel. He thanked Pastor Stapleton for his praise and prayers.

Vice President Wallace apologized for joining the meeting a few minutes late. He was out of town and was thankful for the Zoom technology so he could participate.

Mayor Mays said she attended the change of command for the 711th Human Performance Wing; she welcomed General Rider to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. She also participated online with

General McMurray's retirement on September 2nd. She congratulated General McMurray on his retirement. She expressed condolences to the family of Jeff Ziegler. She said City employees have had a very difficult 10 days, and there are a lot of emotions. Per 2 Corinthians, "God is merciful and is the source of all comfort; He comforts us in our troubles." She encouraged them to seek comfort from others or by attending church.

President Smith said he worked with Mr. Ziegler a few times on some property issues. He knows his loss is devastating. He will pray for his family and City staff. Regarding the pandemic, he was at Warner Middle School today. He commended both the school staff for doing an excellent job enforcing the rules as well as the students for following the safety protocol. He said tomorrow is the anniversary of the events that took place on September 11, 2001. Last year, he visited the museum and memoriam at Ground Zero in New York, and he experienced three emotions: angry at the destruction, sad for the loss of thousands of lives, and grateful to continue to live in a free country. He feels sometimes people take their freedom for granted. This year is an election year, and it is important for everyone to register to vote and then get out and vote. He encourage people to support the community. To quote John F. Kennedy [from his inaugural address], "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." He encouraged everyone to give back to their community. He thanked all those in attendance at the meeting and those watching from home.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilwoman Dean, seconded by Councilman Brannum, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Michelle D. Johnson
City Clerk

Wesley E. Smith
President, Xenia City Council