

**XENIA CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Michael Engle called the January 25, 2018, Regular Session to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Administration Building.

2. INVOCATION: Pastor LeRoy H. Anthony, Middle Run Baptist Church, provided the Invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilman Thomas Scrivens led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

B. SWEARING-IN: Law Director Donnette Fisher presided over the swearing-in of Councilman Thomas Scrivens. (Applause followed.)

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Mayor Mays, to approve the January 9, 2018, Special Session meeting minutes as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Abstain: Scrivens

Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Vice President Wallace, seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the January 11, 2018, Special Session meeting minutes as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Abstain: Scrivens

Nays: None motion carried.

Motion by Mayor Mays, seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the January 11, 2018, Regular Session meeting minutes as written. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Abstain: Scrivens

Nays: None motion carried.

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S): None.

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

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Mayor Mays, to adopt Resolution 2018-A as read. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

9. PUBLIC HEARING(S):

A. Emergency Ordinance 2018-03 Providing Appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures for the City of Xenia, Ohio, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 (2018 Final Budget and Annual Appropriations Ordinance). City Manager Brent Merriman said this public hearing is intended to address the 2018 final budget. Ordinance 2018-03 represents the necessary legislation to authorize the final budget for the City of Xenia for fiscal year 2018. Authorization of the final budget is a requirement of Xenia City Charter §9.05(C) and doing so sets forth funding priorities and appropriations for all anticipated services and operations for the ensuing fiscal year. All state, county, and local requirements for preparation, public notice, and public hearing for budget approval will have been met with tonight's actions. While comprehensive, this funding plan is conservative, and as such, there may arise needs throughout the coming year that will require individual supplemental appropriations in order to meet operational resource deficiencies. The spending plan presented in this budget includes a fully-staffed Public Safety Department, with the addition of three full-time firefighter positions partly funded through the SAFER Grant Program. Two substantive additions to this final budget since the temporary budget approval that should be noted are the addition of a Probation Officer staff position for the Court and the addition of anticipated expenses related to the emergency repair of the chiller system at the Justice Center. He noted information on these additional items was provided to Council under separate cover this week.

Mr. Merriman said following the public hearing, he recommended the Ordinance be considered as an emergency in order to finalize all funding and appropriation amounts at the earliest possible date to allow the Departments and Divisions to initiate bid procedures and other related activities for capital projects as soon as possible, thereby improving the likelihood of project completion during this fiscal year. The budget as presented for all funds totals \$63,456,837.95. This includes positive ending fund balances for all funds. The budget allows the City to meet our internal requirement for reserve funding. On a budget basis, the Key Operating Funds cash flow shows negative, but this assumes all budgeted funds are spent for all accounts, which experience shows will not happen. On a projected actual basis, staff anticipates a Key Operating Funds positive cash flow of approximately \$200,000. Staff requests Council conduct the public hearing and recommends approval of Ordinance 2018-03 as an emergency.

President Engle invited those speaking in favor of the 2018 Final Budget to come forward to speak. Nobody came forward to speak. He invited those against the 2018 Final Budget to come forward to speak. Nobody came forward to speak. He then invited those neither for nor against the 2018 Final Budget to come forward to speak.

John Caupp, 936 Orville Way, requested that Council provide the citizens of Xenia an update on the number of additional new positions and their titles since 2016, a total of how much money the City spent on employee benefits in 2016 versus what is budgeted in 2018, the amount

budgeted for the street program in addition to the \$750,000, and a summary of the budget cuts being made in order to provide for infrastructure and street improvements. He did not feel the citizens of Xenia would vote for a street levy—Council needs to find money somewhere in the budget for additional street repairs.

Christian Steen, 377 King Street, asked for the budget total. Mr. Merriman said the total is \$63,456,837.95. Mr. Steen said that amount seems unreasonable for a community of only 25,000. He noted Springfield has a population of 60,000 and their budget for services is \$42 million, which is substantially less than Xenia's. Wilmington is about half the size of Xenia and their budget is \$10.5 million. Therefore, it seems Xenia's budget is out of line for its size.

President Engle closed the public hearing at 7:22 p.m. and entertained a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-03 as an emergency.

Motion by Councilman Scrivens, seconded by Mayor Mays, to adopt ORDINANCE 2018-03 PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (2018 Final Budget and Annual Appropriations Ordinance). Discussion followed.

Councilman Louderback said he agrees 100% with the audience comments. The City has \$5 million in its cash reserve, which he refers to as the "Rainy Day Fund." He asked if the minimum requirement for the cash reserve is \$3 million. Mr. Duke confirmed, but noted it is actually a little more than \$3 million. Councilman Louderback asked if that meant there was approximately \$2 million leftover. Mr. Duke said another agenda item for this meeting was in regard to the 2018 Financial Management Policies, which details this information; however, the Police and Fire Capital Fund is included in that total in the amount of \$2 million for 2017, which is why the cash balance was \$5 million. However, he will be recommending that they remove the Police and Capital Fund in 2018 and reduce the transfer to that fund. The reserve cash requirement will be closer to \$4 million because the balance in the fund is approximately \$1 million; therefore, \$1 million of the "Rainy Day Fund" (cash reserve) is already allocated to the Police and Fire Capital expenditures. Councilman Louderback asked if \$500,000 is set aside for the streets. Mr. Duke said that is the amount set aside for the Annual Street Program, but he did not have the exact figure. Councilman Louderback said his point is that the City has approximately \$1 million that could be put towards street repair. He will not support a street levy.

Councilman Scrivens agreed with Mr. Caupp. The streets are deplorable at this point; however, the City has suffered very heavy weather events over the last few months. When water gets into the cracks of the road and it freezes and expands, with the weight of vehicles, it causes the cracks to increase in size and it causes additional stress fractures. This is our town, and these are our streets. He agreed that if there is surplus money, then it should be used to help get the roads back to a standard that make citizens proud to drive on.

Councilman Smith asked at what temperature potholes can be filled properly. Mr. Merriman said there are actually two answers to that question. First, a crew has been out all week attempting to fill potholes, fixing damage to curbs and sod, which is called a cold-fill. Cold-fill is a substance that bonds to the surface but is not a long-term fix. The City will not reseed this time of year, but

staff is attempting to clean up some of the mess before coming back in the spring to reseed. Therefore, some efforts are already underway. Second, the Durapatcher can be utilized in pre-spring temperatures, but the weather needs to be warmer and more consistent than it is currently. Typically, the Durapatcher can be used in late March or early April before the more permanent hot-fill can be used to fix the issues. Councilman Smith said his mother-in-law worked for the City of Kettering in the 90s, and their policy was to not plow the side streets because the plows cause damage to the streets. He feels a portion of the damage is due to the plows clearing the streets. It is a catch 22; more snow means more plowing, which means more damage. He agreed this winter is the worst he can remember in the last five to ten years. Street repair is a top priority for him, and he would like to see the City aggressively attack the situation, but Council and staff have already engaged in some dialogue on the topic about how to address the issue.

President Engle said it is important for all citizens to remember that while there may be an additional \$1 to \$1.5 million in the Cash Reserve/Rainy Day Fund this year, Council relies on management staff and the Finance Director to carefully monitor the fund through a three- to five-year projection process, and through each of those three to five years, ensure that the City can meet the reserve requirement and not become deficient to the City's own policies. He feels all of Council is willing to entertain conversation about how to more aggressively attack the street problem. However, they should do so in a very measured fashion with some deliberation and salient advice in regard to City financials including expected tax revenues before committing to spending \$1 million more on streets. He did not think Council was against spending more on streets; rather, he was suggesting they look at it very deliberately before making a very reasoned judgment about the future and not just about what happens to be in the till projected for this year.

Vice President Wallace suggested conducting an assessment of the streets, because it is too cold to do any repairs at the end of January. The City put some gravel down on Church Street in the morning, and it was displaced by the end of the day, which was wasted resources and energy. The potholes are a problem, but assessments need to be conducted before actions can be taken. He also believed that a street levy will not pass, but the City can assess what can be spent before the weather warms up enough to begin repairing the streets.

Councilman Smith asked if the City could move up the timeline for the street work that is done in cooperation with Greene County. Mr. Merriman said the answer is maybe. The project is done as a collective bid, and he has asked in recent years for Xenia's improvements to be scheduled later in the year to allow for water and sewer infrastructure to be completed before the asphalt went down. He was unsure about the status of the infrastructure at this point, but it might be possible to move the timeline up this year depending on this year's list of streets. Bear in mind, the City has some big projects in the queue for this year as a result of successful grant applications. Grant dollars are a blessing for some projects like S. Progress Drive, which is one of the worst streets in the City, but projects are circumstantial. For example, Progress Drive is a concrete street, and it is much costlier to tear out and replace concrete. City staff wholeheartedly concurs that deteriorating streets are the City's biggest problem. It is a safety, convenience, and economic problem because a community with infrastructure in this condition cannot be as competitive as other communities. The City has made a lot of positive steps in recent years; however, the rate of decline from 20-30 years of disinvestment has caught up with them. Combining a winter with temperatures in the single or below zero digits followed by a 55° day, the freeze/thaw process is brutal on the roadways. Additionally, the water and sewer

infrastructure is also greatly impacted by the conditions. He cannot recall a year with numerous water main breaks in such a short amount of time. Again, staff is looking at a work session the end of February or early March to lay out a comprehensive assessment of the state of the streets and possible options, which may or may not include a ballot measure, but it is an option staff can provide to Council for consideration. Staff will look at all other options and different approaches to help with the issue.

Councilman Scrivens said citizens have to realize the circumstances are temperature-sensitive; nothing can be patched at 0° or even 30°; therefore, the temperature has to remain at 40° – 45° before the asphalt will stick. Mr. Merriman said it needs to be in the low 40s – 50s in order for the hot patch to stick, and the asphalt plants will not open until sometime in April because they need a constant temperature above 60°. Staff will have, has had, and will continue to have crews out to put the cold patch in to help make a better surface for motorists, but it will still be rough.

The Roll on this was the following:

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

B. Introduction of Ordinance 2018-04 Amending Sections 1234.02(b)(2), 1236.10(c)(3), and 1244.02 of the City of Xenia Land Development Code. Mr. Merriman said this second public hearing is for consideration of Ordinance 2018-04, which presents two recommended amendments to the City’s Land Development Code. When the new code took effect, staff continued to work with members of the residential community, business community, and Planning and Zoning Commission (XPZC) to consider impediments to quality of life or business development that can be removed or improved through the Land Development Code. The proposed ordinance modifies the Code in two ways: 1) it softens restrictions on the types of commercial vehicles allowed to park at private residences to include step vans and dually pickups; and 2) increases the maximum height allowed for blade signs from 8 to 12 feet. Staff has conducted research on policies of comparable communities and discussed at length with the XPZC the policy implications of recommending these changes. After much consideration, it was determined that these amendments to the Code would provide reasonable flexibility for small business operators without any undue negative impact on residential neighborhoods. Staff recommended the code amendments and the XPZC subsequently voted to endorse the changes as well. Our staff and the Planning and Zoning Commission should be applauded for their open-mindedness and willingness to address problems with practical solutions as intended when the new approach to the Land Development Code was adopted. Staff requests that City Council conduct the public hearing and introduce Ordinance 2018-04 this evening.

President Engle invited those speaking in favor of the Land Development Code amendments to come forward to speak. Nobody came forward to speak. He invited those against the Land Development Code amendments to come forward to speak. Nobody came forward to speak. He then invited those neither for nor against the Land Development Code amendments to come forward to speak. Nobody came forward to speak.

President Engle closed the public hearing at 7:37 p.m. and entertained an introduction of Ordinance 2018-04.

completed until last year after Council approved a renegotiated subdivider's agreement and performance bond with M One Development in July 2017. In exchange for an increased bond amount, the City agreed to perform the final course of asphalt on New Mexico Drive and Dundee Drive. M One Development will reimburse the City for this work, with the backing of the new performance bond. The final course of asphalt has since been completed on both roadways, and the City has inspected these streets and found them to be properly constructed and in good repair. Therefore, streets in the Subdivision are now complete, and as such this Ordinance accepts, for the public use, the previously dedicated streets within the Villages of Sterling Green Subdivision.

President Engle entertained introduction of Ordinance 2018-05.

Councilman Louderback introduced ORDINANCE 2018-05 ACCEPTING THE DEDICATED STREETS IN THE VILLAGES OF STERLING GREEN SUBDIVISION, and it was read for the first time.

C. Introduction of Resolution 2018-C Adopting the City of Xenia's Natural Gas Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance. Mr. Merriman presented for introduction Resolution 2018-C Adopting the City of Xenia's Natural Gas Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance. The goal of the Natural Gas Aggregation program is to facilitate additional and less costly choices for the supply of natural gas for eligible residential and commercial consumers pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4929.26. Conceptually, the City's Natural Gas Aggregation Program would seek to aggregate the retail natural gas loads of consumers located in the City to obtain the lowest price for the supply of natural gas. Participation in the City's Aggregation Program would be limited to individuals who are not already under contract with an alternative Competitive Retail Natural Gas Supplier (CRNGS), and participation in this Aggregation Program would be voluntary. Every eligible customer will have the opportunity to decline to be a participant or "opt out" of the Aggregation Program and remain with Vectren or enter into a natural gas supply contract with any other eligible supplier. Adoption of this plan does not compel the City to fully implement the natural gas aggregation program or contract with a specific supplier; however, in order to proceed with an RFP process to determine the price competitiveness of aggregated natural gas, the City is required to have a plan approved and submitted to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

President Engle entertained introduction of Resolution 2018-C.

Vice President Wallace introduced RESOLUTION 2018-C ADOPTING THE CITY OF XENIA'S NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PLAN OF OPERATION AND GOVERNANCE, and it was read for the first time.

D. Introduction of Resolution 2018-D Designating the City Clerk as Council's designee for the purpose of complying with Ohio's Sunshine Law Training Requirements. Mr. Duke said Ohio Revised Code Section 149.43(E)(1) requires that officials elected to local office attend training approved by the Ohio Attorney General under ORC §109.43(B), which requires three hours of Public Records training for each term of office. If the elected officials so choose, State law allows a designee to be appointed to receive the training on the elected officials' behalf. The designee must be an employee in the public office, and there must be evidence of the designation. If there is more than one elected official in the public office, the designee must be

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Scrivens, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to approve payment of bills totaling \$548,432.08. Discussion followed.

Councilman Scrivens said in the past, Greene County Animal Control dealt with dead animal removal, but he sees a \$6,000 charge for this service on the Schedule of Bills. He asked what has changed with the service. Mr. Merriman said the County made some changes and his predecessor worked with Council to take some services and put them in the hands of private vendors. He noted Greene County Animal Control still provides some services. He and the Assistant City Manager visited the County facility back in December and had some discussions with their staff. Staff is actively looking at dead animal removal to determine if there is a more cost-effective way to provide this service, which may include going back to the County to seek a better offer than what was provided in the past and may require a change from the current process.

The Roll on this was the following:

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

G. Appointment to the Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities: President Engle said the death of long-time member Audrae Broyles created a vacancy on the Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities (BRACA). Three community members responded to the call for volunteers. In December 2017, former Council member and Chair of BRACA, Jeanne Mills, and BRACA’s Vice Chair, Lynn Engle, interviewed all three candidates. One person was deemed ineligible because she did not live in the City limits. On behalf of former Council member and Chair of BRACA, Jeanne Mills, and BRACA’s Vice Chair, Lynn Engle, he accepted their recommendation and entertained a motion to appoint Mr. Tom McCarthy to BRACA with a term expiration date of July 31, 2021. Mr. McCarthy’s background check has been processed by the Human Resources Director and is satisfactory.

Motion by President Engle, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to appoint Mr. Tom McCarthy to fill a vacancy on the Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities with a term expiration date of July 31, 2021. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

H. 2018 Board and Commission Appointments: President Engle assigned Council members to the following Boards and Commissions:

Board/Commission/Committee	Council Member(s) Assigned
Budget Review Committee (3)	1 Michael D. Engle 2 Dr. Edgar Wallace 3 Levi Dean
Chamber Board of Directors (1)	Sarah Mays Alt: Mr. Brent Merriman, City Manager
Charter Review Committee (3)	1 Michael D. Engle 2 Wesley Smith

Vice President Wallace applauded staff for an excellent job in negotiating the terms and conditions of the agreement. Mr. Merriman echoed that sentiment for the Union representatives as well. They came into the process with some new folks and were very open minded. He appreciated their willingness to work through the process and come to a successful conclusion.

Councilman Smith said this item is for the firefighters, and he cannot thank them enough for their hard work and dedication. He noted it was important to have a good relationship with all City staff, especially the First Responders. Citizens want help when they dial 911 without concern for their pay scale. He added they have never been able to reach an agreement this quickly since he has been on Council, and this contract is testimony to the direction they are headed with leadership within the City. He appreciates all their efforts.

President Engle echoed Mr. Merriman's comments that it was a job well done by City Staff and the firefighters to negotiate an agreement that is fair and equitable and will bring them into a degree of parity with other City Staff and their counterparts in surrounding communities.

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. Mayors and Managers: Mr. Merriman said business items from the last meeting included updates on the small cell and municipal income tax litigation matters, which they have made City Council aware of. Additionally, two presentations were made. The Montgomery County Engineer provided a presentation on the status of Montgomery County bridges and roadways, with a specific request that their County Commission consider increasing excise taxes to provide additional resources for repair of county bridges. Also, Colleen Ryan of Vectren provided an update the company's 2018 plans for gas infrastructure redevelopment. A map of the areas impacted in Xenia was provided for work to be completed in 2018 to replace aged gas lines. While the work will be a temporary inconvenience for some residents, it is a very important and very positive reinvestment in utility infrastructure. He provided a copy of the project announcement to Council members for their reference. It should also be noted that Vectren will be addressing the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio seeking cost recovery, which is basically a rate increase. They have made noticeable investments in the region; therefore, they have the opportunity to go back and request an increase in their rate structure to help offset that cost. Vectren will be pursuing that later this year.

B. Board of Zoning Appeals: President Engle provided the following report from the December 27, 2017, meeting:

- One case was reviewed with two variance requests for Barr's Pharmacy, 28 W. Main Street: One variance was granted to allow drive-thru window stacking spaces to have 0' setback from right-of-way instead of required 25'. A second variance was denied, which would have allowed two stacking spaces instead of the required three (the drive-through window will have one window instead of two windows as requested).

12. APPOINTED OFFICIALS REPORTS AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

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

Mr. Merriman provided the following updates:

- **Upcoming Work Sessions:** Staff is working on materials for two upcoming work sessions in regard to street rehabilitation and downtown parking facilities.
- **Xenia TV Launch:** He was very pleased to present to City Council the first installment of the new original programming platform: Explore Xenia TV. Public Relations Coordinator Lee Warren has been working very hard over the past year to develop the ability to present this new public information and outreach platform. Over the course of 2018, staff is hoping to produce at least four 30-minute shows in addition to a mini-episode. Each program will present interviews with community leaders, economic development and City departmental features, and quality of life segments. Explore Xenia TV will be presented on the City's government channel and vignettes will also be released via social media platforms. He then presented Explore Xenia TV, Episode 1. At the conclusion of the video, he thanked Mr. Warren and staff for their work on Explore Xenia TV. It is another way to bring more information to the public and highlight local businesses and the community in a positive way.

Councilman Scrivens said Mr. Warren has done an excellent job bestowing the virtues of this fair city. This is who they are. They cannot run away from who they are, and they need to make the best of it every chance they get. The City is on a good path.

Mr. Duke said in regard to earlier discussions, he noted it is very difficult to make comparisons between different municipalities because they all do business a little differently. He has spoken to Council in the past about the State's evaluation of the fiscal health of different municipalities and how difficult it is to get a standard that is equal across all municipalities. A lot of the \$63.4 million in the City's budget is not actual expenditures. For example, there is a transfer of \$5 million to the Police and Fire Fund; therefore, money is moved out of one fund and into another, which is represented as an expenditure but it is not a true expenditure. There are also several transfers from water operating into water capital, and sewer, stormwater, and so on. Therefore, some transfers can skew the total expenditures when looking at what the City is actually spending for operation and capital expenses. Sometimes they have to dig deep to make sure they are comparing the same things.

Ms. Fisher did not have anything further to share.

B. Mayor and City Council:

Councilman Louderback did not have anything further to share.

Councilman Smith welcomed Councilman Scrivens and thanked him for his service. He attended former Councilwoman and Mayor Phyllis Pennewitt's service along with several Council members. Stephanie Blackburn, former teacher at Tecumseh Elementary School, gave the message, and recent former Mayor Marsha Bayless provided the closing message with some very fitting comments. Ms. Pennewitt cared a great deal about Xenia and the people who live here. God speed to her.

Councilman Scrivens thanked God for the opportunity to serve his people in the City of Xenia. He thanked everyone who came out to support him this evening; it really meant a lot and showed that everyone cared about Xenia. He thanked Matt Bennett and Billie Carrico for being gracious and offering congratulations after his appointment. Everyone may not agree on every issue, but they are all Xenians and have to move forward together, which is what he will be about during his next 340 days on Council. He looks forward to serving the community with zeal and enthusiasm. He asked the community for accolades as well as their criticisms and ideas. The sooner they can get the ball rolling, the faster they can get Xenia up to where it is a destination for visitors. He wants people to come to Xenia; wall to wall, ceiling to floor, door to door, and spending money. Everyone has to present a positive image. He said people see and read them even though they may not see them, and they draw conclusions about what they see. Therefore, his job is to present a good picture to the public. The City has a golden opportunity, and it is going to be all hands on deck to make Xenia a special place; he already thinks Xenia is special. People come to Xenia and maintain a residence here from all around the world. He is thankful for the opportunity to serve and hopes to earn respect and cooperation during his time on Council. He looks forward to being the best City Councilman he can be.

Councilman Dean said he agrees that the roads are a real issue and need to be addressed, but it is important to remember that the roads didn't get this bad overnight and will not get fixed overnight. He feels the City needs to aggressively pursue options to fix them, but it is going to be a long-term fix—not overnight or in a few years. They need to make a plan and stick to it. He suggested exploring all possible options except for a tax increase. He did not think the community would support a tax increase. He ran against tax increases, and he was also against a street tax. He congratulated Mr. Holloway, Assistant City Manager, on the birth of his daughter.

Mayor Mays said she participated in a community service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 15th, which was put on by the Xenia Area Association of Churches and Ministries and the African American Ministers Association. It was an incredible event to participate in. There were several hundred people in attendance from churches throughout the City of Xenia. It was fun and exciting to see people come together for a common purpose. She participated in the choir, which was also made up of multiple churches. It was great to do something together in a positive fashion. It was a very refreshing event, and she was pleased to see so many people in attendance despite the snow. It was a glimpse of what heaven can be like when they come together as the people of God to work together. It was an honor to congratulate Mr. Jon Dobney on Tuesday, January 18th as the new Director for the Greene County Parks and Trails. She attended Ms. Pennewitt's funeral and shared the following verse with the public that Ms. Pennewitt lived by, which was Micah 6:8 "*What does the Lord require of you but do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?*" She noted the importance of the verse and what it means to each person. What a wonderful verse for Phyllis to live by, which she has taken on as a theme for herself over the next four years. It was a beautiful service and she was honored to be a part of it. She congratulated Councilman Scrivens on joining Council and the Assistant City Manager on the birth of his daughter.

Vice President Wallace welcomed and congratulated Councilman Scrivens and the Assistant City Manager on the birth of his little girl. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend Ms. Pennewitt's home-going, but he certainly had a lot of respect for her. He was able to attend

Mr. Pennewitt's service last year. He appreciated Ms. Pennewitt, and noted she was a sweet person. He agreed with Mayor Mays that the Dr. King service was phenomenal.

President Engle welcomed Councilman Scrivens to Council; he was certain he will not disappoint. He congratulated the Assistant City Manager on the birth of his little girl and is pleased they are all doing well. He asked if they have chosen a name. Mr. Merriman said her name is Pippa. President Engle also attended Phyllis Pennewitt's service. He had a church and special relationship with both Phyllis and her husband, and he is deeply saddened that they have both gone on to their reward, which he was confident they are enjoying together. Phyllis was very special to him and provided him with his first suggestion and influence to join Council. He had great respect for her beforehand and greatly appreciated her and [former Councilwoman and Mayor] Pat Felton's assistance during his early years on Council.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilman Smith, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to adjourn the Regular Session at 8:29 p.m. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

Michelle D. Johnson
City Clerk

Michael D. Engle
President, Xenia City Council