

**XENIA CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2020
9:00 A.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER: President Smith called the February 15, 2020, Special Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at Browne Hall at the Athletes in Action Campus, 1201 Moody Drive, Xenia.

2. ROLL CALL: Vice President Edgar Wallace, Councilman Thomas Scrivens, Councilwoman Rebekah Dean, Councilman Cody Brannum, Councilman Levi Dean, Mayor Sarah Mays, and President Wesley Smith were present. City Manager Brent Merriman, Assistant City Manager Jared Holloway, Finance Director Ryan Duke, Assistant Finance Director Jason Lake, Law Director Donnette Fisher, and City Clerk Michelle Johnson were also present.

3. COUNCIL RETREAT: Mr. Merriman said it has been many years since Council has met for a retreat to align their vision, set priorities, etc. He thanked Denise Davis and Diane Dixon from 3F Coaching for facilitating the day's events. He noted both ladies live and work in Xenia and want to see the City succeed. He then turned the meeting over to Ms. Davis and Ms. Dixon.

Ms. Davis thanked Council and staff for the job they do for the City of Xenia. She knows they each have a lot of responsibility. Introductions followed.

Team Building and Communication: The group reviewed the general characteristics of the DISC (Dominance, Influence, Steadiness, and Compliance) assessments.

The group recessed for lunch from 12 noon to 12:55 p.m.

Council Vision Statement: The group divided into pairs to develop draft Council Vision statements. An ad-hoc committee was established including Mayor Mays, Councilman Brannum, and Councilman Dean, led by Mayor Mays, to develop a final vision statement to submit to all Council members for review and adoption. Ms. Johnson collected the draft statements to scan and email to Mayor Mays. Mayor Mays established a deadline of March 26, 2020. Ms. Dixon suggested the final vision statement be clear, concise, and easy to understand.

Priorities. Council members each revealed their top priorities for staff (in no particular order) as follows:

- Infrastructure improvements (streets/water/sewer/etc.)
- Intergovernmental (County/City/Township/Schools) relationships including entities outside of Xenia (i.e., universities/colleges, WPAFB, etc.)
- Economic Development (business expansion/retention; add new businesses; redevelopment of Xenia Towne Square)
- Environmental concerns, specifically the closed landfill
- Fiber buildout, establish utility for revenue
- Public Health/Wellness (homelessness, drug addiction, overuse of EMS/9-1-1/urgent care/emergency room services)
- Public Safety (school resource officers, K-9 unit, fire station/fire district, etc.)
- Upgrade employee benefits package (attraction/retention of employees)

The group reviewed 2020 administrative projects that have already been initiated or need to be pursued in 2020:

- 2020 Administrative Projects that must be pursued/already initiated
 - Charter Review
 - PCI Study Assessment/Strategic Street Rehab Plan
 - Storm Sewer Funding Model Upgrade & Capital Buildout Out Plan
 - Citizens Academy and Community Outreach Programming
 - Finance/Payroll/Utility Billing Software Conversation/Implementation
 - Trash Collection Services RFP or Exercise Option
 - XTS RFP and Redevelopment

Regarding trash collection services, Mr. Merriman explained they are nearing the end date of the contract with Rumpke. However, there is an option to extend the contract for two years. He noted the last time the contract was competitively bid, Rumpke was the only bidder, and there are really only two large trash collection companies in this area, the other being Waste Management. He feared if the contract is rebid, Rumpke's new proposal could be higher than the two-year option prices that are included in the current contract. Councilman Brannum said they need to revisit the Public Service component of bulk trash collection. All agreed.

The group reviewed the following short- and long-term priorities and discussed which items could be eliminated and/or delayed (in *italics*):

- Short-Term Priorities (2020+)
 - Fire Station 32 Relocation/KHN Lease
 - Income Tax Collection Services Contract (RITA)
 - Fire Division Task Force (call volume reduction strategies, Paramedicine Program, etc.)
 - Public Service Department Review and Modernization
 - *Downtown Parking Meter Installation* (combine this item with the Market Street Rehab/Courthouse Square Project)
 - *X-Plan Update* (this could be delayed another year)
 - Employee Compensation/Benefits Evaluation and Report
 - Collective Bargaining Contract Negotiations
 - *Web Portal Update*
 - CSU Annexation Phase II
 - NIMS Training and Emergency Operations Exercise
 - Closed Landfill Compliance and Mitigation Plan
 - Insurance Program for Closed Landfill Liability
 - Community Outreach and Marketing Strategy
 - *OSU/CSU Extension Programming/Prosperity Counsel (USDA Grant programming)*
 - Automated Meters Transition
 - *Market Street Rehab/Courthouse Square Project* (see note above on Downtown Parking Meter Installation)

Mr. Merriman said the NIMS training and Emergency Operations Exercise process takes about six months to plan and execute. Regarding landfill compliance and mitigation, this issue was one of his top three priorities. He noted mitigation strategies can be very expensive and briefly talked about a separate insurance policy for landfill compliance. President Smith said they should look into getting insurance as soon as possible. Councilman Brannum asked for more information on

the CSU annexation. Mr. Merriman agreed to bring all Council members up to date on this issue at a later date to include providing them with an updated impact analysis.

- Intermediate-Term Priorities (2021-2022)
 - Fiber system buildout
 - *Re-evaluate Building Inspection service delivery* (All agreed that unless service delivery becomes a problem, the service with Greene County will remain “as is.”)
 - Creation of inter-jurisdictional “GreeneNet”
 - Nuisance Abatement Task Force
 - Annexation of All City-Owned Properties

There was a brief conversation about the Nuisance Abatement Task Force, which would include the Fire Inspector, Code Enforcement Officers (Property Maintenance), Police Officers, et al. Some members did not feel it was needed at this time due to too many other higher priority projects and/or not enough personnel, while others felt it was needed to improve at-risk neighborhoods and maintain and improve the City as a whole to improve the marketability of the City to attract new, higher income families and new businesses.

- Long-Term Priorities (2023+) and Broader Policy Areas for Consideration
 - Collier Property Acquisition/Rehab (Council requested more information on this item)
 - Water Softening & Enhanced Filtration (compliance)
 - Drug Enforcement
 - Homelessness Abatement and Rehabilitation
 - *Parks & Recreation Services (Formal Programming)*
 - *Community Survey* (This should be a Council—not staff—priority)
 - Advancing Partnerships with Xenia Community Schools
 - Public Safety Funding—Staffing for Community Policing and Emergency Medical Service sustainability
 - *Municipal Court Consolidation* (concern was expressed about practicality)
 - Fire/EMS Service Partnerships/Consolidation
 - 911 Center/Dispatch Consolidation
 - Economic Expansion Programming

Regarding the Municipal Court Consolidation, Mr. Merriman said the Xenia Municipal Court operates in the red by at least \$500,000 every year, which requires a General Fund transfer that is paid by Xenia taxpayers. Ms. Fisher said she did not believe this could be achieved locally. The Supreme Court will not come in if the two local judges do not agree to it; therefore, this would have to be pursued through the Ohio Municipal League and Ohio Municipal Attorneys Association.

4. ADJOURNMENT: President Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Michelle D. Johnson
City Clerk

Wesley E. Smith
President, Xenia City Council