



on Station #1's squad. The squad at Station #2 was only for basic life support. In 1977, it became a requirement for all newly-hired firefighters to be paramedics, and eventually through attrition, all firefighters became paramedics. Chief Beason continued to support and expand our paramedic program through the purchase of equipment and training. Today, the Division has six cardiac monitors and the skills of Xenia's paramedics continue to expand. He said the Xenia Fire Division takes pride in the EMS service that they provide today. Not only did Chief Beason take pride in the EMS program, he continued to make changes toward increased safety such as updated personal protective equipment for firefighters. He also worked to develop the City's disaster warning systems and contingency plans. Chief Beason was an asset to the Xenia Fire Division and someone he looks up to as a mentor in his position as Fire Chief. He felt it was appropriate and fitting for personnel who go above and beyond the call of duty to receive the "Charles Beason Award of Valor." He thanked Chief Beason for all he has done for Xenia Fire Division. He presented the first "Charles Beason Award of Valor" to Firefighter Levi Dalton. (Applause followed.)

Chief Riggsby said he spoke with Harper's uncle who is a Firefighter/Paramedic in the Cleveland area who talked to the doctors at Cincinnati Children's hospital. He said the doctors have given all the credit to Firefighter Dalton and Deputy Grossenbaugh. Without their intervention, the outcome for Harper would have been totally different.

President Engle invited Firefighter Dalton and others to speak if they wished to do so.

Firefighter Levi Dalton said he was very humbled by what had happened. The timing was key, and he thanked God for how everything played out. He was thankful that everything worked out. Harper has the best parents. They are great people and great neighbors. (Applause followed.)

Maggie Long, Harper's mother, said the event was a nightmare for her and her family, and she would be forever indebted to Firefighter Dalton, who is so humbled by what has happened. She truly believed that Firefighter Dalton's profession was for a reason ... he did not stop and think—he just reacted—and that's what saved her daughter's life. She was so thankful for him and Deputy Grossenbaugh, and Harper will also know about her heroes and guardian angels, which included her husband and her ten-year-old son Aiden who found his sister and called 9-1-1. (Applause followed.)

(Pictures followed the presentation and comments.)

Chief Riggsby acknowledged three other Xenia Fire Division employees, Lt. Travis Dill, Lt. Cory Stroup, Firefighter Ben Boedeker were recognized at Xenia Township by Kettering Hospital on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, for their efforts in saving the life of a 26-year-old postpartum mother who suffered cardiac arrest due to a rare genetic heart disease. (Applause followed.)

**2020 Census ~ Elizabeth Whitaker, Senior Planner, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission.** President Engle invited Ms. Whitaker to make her presentation. Ms. Whitaker thanked Council for the opportunity and said her presentation would not be as incredible as the previous one. (Laughter followed.) She was present to talk about the 2020 Census with Census Day scheduled for April 1, 2020. She shared the following:

### The Decennial Census

- The U.S. Constitution mandates a complete count once every 10 years of every person residing in the United States, including both citizens and noncitizens of all ages, races, and ethnic groups.
- The next Census will take place in 2020 and aims to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.
- A complete and accurate count is vital because the numbers will effect representation, funding, and decision making for the next 10 years.



### Why the Census Matters

#### Representation

- Apportionment of congressional seats between states
- Drawing of congressional and state legislative districts, school districts, voting precincts, etc.
- Enforcement of voting rights and civil rights legislation

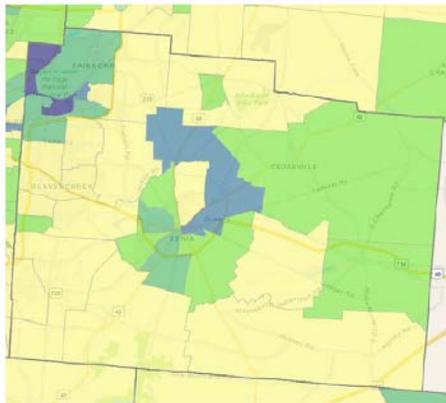
#### Funding

- Distribution of **\$675 billion** in federal funds annually
- Allocation of state funds

#### Decision Making

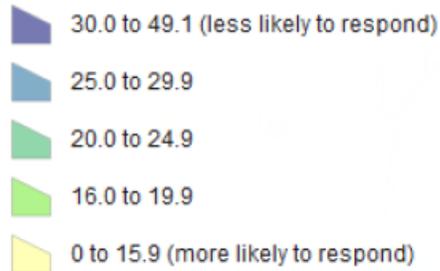
- Informs future planning efforts for tribal, federal, state, and local governments
- Influences organizational decisions of businesses and non-profits
- Guides research

Ms. Whitaker shared a slide showing numerous ways the census data is used including, but not limited to, the following: decision-making and budget planning at all levels of government, drawing school district boundaries, planning for public transportation services, understanding labor supply, etc. She said local participation is important and showed the following slide of estimated 2020 Census participation in Greene County:



#### Census 2020 Low Response Scores

Low Response Score:



Ms. Whitaker explained that an inaccurate count costs a community important resources. For example, for FY2015, each missed person from the 2010 Census represented a fiscal loss of \$1,206 in Ohio across five Health and Human Services grant programs. She noted that more than 300 federal programs use census-driven statistics to allocate funding. Further, the number of Ohio’s congressional seats is determined by the census. She encouraged collaboration with the Census Bureau, including the establishment of a Complete Count Committee and subcommittees, as follows:

#### Operational Support

- Provide space that can be used for testing, on-boarding, training, etc.
- Provide lists of residential institutions
- Provide lists of shelters, service providers, and transient locations
- Promote temporary job opportunities

#### Promotional Support

- Form a Complete Count Committee
- Encourage census participation in newsletters, on websites, alert systems, drop-in articles, etc.

- A volunteer committee established by tribal, state, and local governments, and/or community leaders, to increase awareness about the census and motivate residents in the community to respond.

#### Why Form a CCC?

- Increase the response rate for residents completing their questionnaire through a focused, neighbor-to-neighbor program.
- Utilize the local knowledge, expertise, and influence of each CCC member to design and implement a Census awareness campaign targeted to the community.
- Bring together a cross section of community members whose focus is 2020 Census awareness.

#### Benefits of a CCC

- Speaks the language of and knows the pulse of the community and will help ensure an accurate 2020 Census count.
- Gains valuable knowledge about the Census process and develops a plan to impart that knowledge on the community.
- Increases participation ratio and response rate by continuing awareness of the 2020 Census.

She noted that Greene County has expressed an interest in forming a Complete Count Committee. She said subcommittees could include the following: business, community organizations, faith-based, homeless, veterans, senior citizens, etc. She encouraged residents to contact her or visit MVRPC's 2020 Census Resource Page if they had any questions or wanted more information. She then entertained questions from Council.

**MVRPC 2020 Census Activities**  
Elizabeth Whitaker, AICP  
[ewhitaker@mvrpc.org](mailto:ewhitaker@mvrpc.org)  
937.531.6541

**MVRPC 2020 Census Resource Page**  
[www.mvrpc.org/data-mapping/census-data-center/2020-census-resource-page](http://www.mvrpc.org/data-mapping/census-data-center/2020-census-resource-page)

Councilman Louderback thanked her for the presentation. He said he participated in a group in Greene County but was not certain if it was the Complete Count Committee. He believed the East End was a lower participation area. Ms. Whitaker agreed, which she speculated could be attributed to the colleges in that area. Councilman Louderback asked if college students should be counted. Ms. Whitaker said yes—they should be included wherever they spend the majority of their time. Councilman Louderback said he was concerned about funding ramifications if there is an undercount. Ms. Whitaker agreed. She shared that a 1% undercount in Ohio would result in a loss of funding estimated at \$139 million per year for only five programs—and there are 300 programs in Ohio.

Councilman Smith asked if door-to-door census takers are still used. Ms. Whitaker said yes, and they are currently hiring them. However, she said this census would be the first one that residents can respond over the phone or in writing—door-to-door census takers will only come knocking if residents do not respond at all.

Mayor Mays said at the recent Mayors and Managers meeting, Mark Boyd gave a similar presentation and mentioned the job opportunities. She shared the website address as follows: [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs).

Vice President Wallace asked staff to determine who in Greene County is doing a Complete Count Committee so Xenia City Government can participate. Ms. Whitaker believed the Greene County Commissioners and its Regional Planning and Coordinating Commission would be leading the effort. President Engle asked Assistant City Manager Jared Holloway to contact the Greene County Commissioners to determine how the City of Xenia could partner with them on this matter.

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

Janice Pitzer, 477 S. Detroit Street, said she has been having a problem for a quite a while with her neighbor's trash. They do not take their out trash when trash day is due because the trash cans disappeared for a month. She has been working with the City's Code Enforcement Officers who suggested she attend a Council meeting. She realized the Code Enforcement Officer is required to serve the owner a notice who is given a certain number of days to remedy the problem, but the owner waits until the very last day to do anything. In the meantime, critters are getting into the trash. This man knows how the system works and asked why he was being given so many chances. She asked why the City did not just send a contractor to clean up the mess. Ms. Fisher said she is currently working with the City Planner on a complete rewrite of the property maintenance code,

which Council can expect to see in the next month or so. However, she noted there are certain due process requirements that must be met. Ms. Pitcher said S. Detroit Street residents leave their trash cans out for several days following trash collection, which did not look good. Most of them are rentals and the tenants just do not care.

Lynette Hodnicki, 487 S. Detroit, said she and her family fell in love with the old historic homes in Xenia and moved here last June. It is obvious which homes are rentals and which are owner-occupied. The rental properties' trash piles draw rats, mice, and other rodents—one of which chewed through the wiring on her husband's car. Now, the paint is peeling off the home and she is concerned about asbestos and lead paint. She was concerned that property values will go down for the 80% of homeowners who take care of their properties. She asked if the City's ordinances were online. Ms. Fisher said yes; she encouraged her to call the Greene County Health Department about the rodents, which is under their jurisdiction.

Victor Simha, 487 S. Detroit, thanked Council and the Firefighters for the jobs they do every day. He commented on a similar event that did not have a happy ending. What Firefighter Dalton did was above and beyond the call of duty and goes to show that seconds matter. As stated, rodents ate through the wiring in his car and they eat through the trash bags that are piled up 5' high, which is a health issue. The trash blows and litters the alley. Secondly, he said S. Detroit Street is a very busy street, and people park on the street in front of the fire hydrants. He sits on the porch regularly and unfortunately, police officers have not stopped to give a warning or citation to those parked in front of the fire hydrants. As he said, seconds matter and he did not want to worry about the Fire Division having access to fire hydrants. President Engle asked Mr. Holloway to work with appropriate staff to put out a reminder about not parking in front of fire hydrants and ask the Police Division to step up their enforcement of this issue. Regarding the trash issue, the City will do what they can within the means available to them per Ordinance. He said the Greene County Health Department may also offer some additional options to alleviate the situation.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. RESOLUTION 2019-C AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH J.P. FRITZ BUSINESS CENTER FOR THE CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 130 E. CHURCH STREET FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING A SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR.** President Engle said Law Director Donnette Fisher has requested that the second reading of this Resolution be tabled due to procedural issues.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to table the second reading of Resolution 2019-C as requested. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

## **9. PUBLIC HEARING(S):**

**A. ORDINANCE 2019-04 AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, TO REZONE THREE PARCELS ALONG GREENE WAY BOULEVARD, COMPRISING 13.6 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, FROM P-1 PUBLIC AND**

**INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT TO B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT**, originally introduced by Vice President Wallace, and it was read for a second time.

President Engle opened the public hearing at 7:51 p.m. and invited those speaking in favor of the rezoning to come forward to speak. No one came forward to speak. He then invited those speaking against the rezoning to come forward to speak. No one came forward to speak. He then invited those speaking neither for nor against the rezoning to come forward to speak. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 7:51 p.m. and invited Council comments. Hearing no further discussion, he entertained a motion.

Motion by Vice President Wallace, seconded by Mayor Mays, to adopt Ordinance 2019-04 as read. Brief discussion followed. Vice President Wallace noted the limitations are vast in P-1 zoning, but B-3 zoning allows the property to be more marketable. The Roll on this was the following:

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

## **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Emergency Resolution 2019-D Final Legislation for the ODOT U.S. 42 (N. Columbus Street) and E. Church Street Intersection Improvements Project.** Mr. Holloway said he expects this to be the final piece of legislation for the intersection improvements noted above. He said Resolution 2019-D authorizes the City Manager to execute various agreements with ODOT to administer the project and authorizes the Finance Director to execute escrow agreements for payment of the project. He noted this project is mostly funded by an MVRPC grant along with a local match. He respectfully requested passage of the Resolution as an emergency so the documents can be executed in advance of the planned bidding cycle in late March.

President Engle entertained a motion to pass Resolution 2019-D as presented.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to pass Resolution 2019-D as presented. Discussion followed.

Councilman Louderback said this grant is a 75/25 percent grant, which means the City needed to contribute 25% of the project costs, or \$279,000. He misspoke at a previous meeting when he said that money could not be used on streets. It can be. He supports the project because in the last ten years, City crews have had to address a guardrail situation at least a dozen times. This roundabout will slow traffic down and would alleviate that situation. He also supports the project because the aesthetics will be improved at the end of town. He said it was difficult to be awarded MVRPC grant dollars, and if the City of Xenia is fortunate enough to receive a grant from them, they should not turn it down.

Councilman Urschel said he was new to Council, but he has heard around town that this project was not a good expenditure of funds. He also heard most were not familiar with roundabouts and questioned if it would make the intersection safer. He did some research and looked at several National Transportation Safety Board studies and their findings and realized that roundabouts are not traffic circles. Drivers must yield to enter the traffic flow, and the NTSB studies report a 90% in fatal collisions and a 75% reduction in injury collisions that occur in roundabouts vs. standard intersections because the option to speed through a traffic light and T-bone someone is eliminated.

He understands the concern for the elimination of the guard rail, and shared that in high school, a moving van went through an intersection and destroyed their home almost killed his brother. People must slow down for roundabouts, which alleviates many concerns. He understands the City applied for this grant in 2013 and those grant dollars were given for this specific project. If Council does not approve the Resolution, the City will lose those grant dollars and the City will not have improved the safety of that intersection. Further, most of the City's match dollars have already been spent for design and engineering, land acquisition, etc. He felt it would be foolish not to pursue this project—they should not turn down state dollars; otherwise, the next time they ask for a grant, the City would lose some credibility. He asked if a truck apron was part of the roundabout. City Engineer Chris Berger was in the audience and he indicated that a “drive over curb” would be installed as part of the project. Mr. Duke concurred that significant dollars have been spent on this project that the City would lose if they did not follow through with it, but there are still dollars to be spent on the project as part of the City's match requirement.

Vice President Wallace thanked Councilman Urschel for his research on this item. He was familiar with roundabouts as a means of solving traffic problems. He was all for the project, which is in his neighborhood. He travels through that intersection multiple times a day and was interested in the safety of his church members, his students, his neighbors, etc.

President Engle applauded City staff and MVRPC for making this opportunity available and for their work on this project. They all pay state and federal taxes, and this grant project was an opportunity to recoup some of those dollars and invest in this community at a rate of \$3 for every \$1 the City contributes.

The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: Dean motion carried.

**B. Introduction of Ordinance 2019-05 Amending Section 1490.03(b)(4), titled “Vegetation,” of the City of Xenia’s Property Maintenance Code.** Ms. Fisher said the City adopted a new Property Maintenance Code in 2014 and has had time to work with that code and determine changes that need to be made to make things more efficient. She and City Planner Brian Forschner are in the process of a rewrite of the entire Property Maintenance Code, which Council will see in the next few months, but they must address grass cutting right away. The growing season takes up most of the Code Enforcement Officers’ time. Currently, for any grass that is over 10” tall, the property owner must be notified each time before the City can send a contractor to cut the grass. Unfortunately, there is a process that must be followed, and in the meantime, the grass grows taller and taller. One proposed change would make notification more efficient. She explained that the City would put a reminder in the newspaper on April 1 and on the City’s website every year that reminds all citizens and landowners to mow their grass. The first time the City finds a property with grass that exceeds 10”, the property owner would be sent a letter. After that, if the grass exceeds 10” again, the City will mow the grass and assess the property owners. She and Mr. Forschner feel the amended notification process will address issues with absentee owners as well as save City dollars because a summer Code Enforcement Officer position could be eliminated. This amendment will increase the administrative fee from \$100 to \$150, which is still below state average. When the City sends a contractor to mow the grass, and invoice will be sent for grass cutting that includes the administrative fee. If the invoice is not paid within the time

allowed, an additional \$50 fee will be added and the total cost will be assessed to the property taxes. Finally, this amendment will also address dead or decayed trees that create a hazard. She noted the City will only assess the properties; property owners will not be charged with the criminal code also.

President Engle entertained introduction of Ordinance 2019-05 as presented.

Councilman Louderback presented ORDINANCE 2019-05 AMENDING SECTION 1490.03(b)(4), TITLED "VEGETATION," OF THE CITY OF XENIA'S PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, and it was read for the first time.

Councilman Louderback asked if the notice would be in the Xenia Daily Gazette and on the website. Ms. Fisher said yes, which is a newspaper of general circulation. Councilman Louderback asked if the notice could also be included in utility bills. Ms. Fisher said yes.

Vice President Wallace inquired about his acreage on Eden Roc. If a notice is posted on Eden Roc, he or his staff may not always see it. He was thankful that Code Enforcement Officer Judd Muterspaw always lets him know when there is a problem. He agreed that all lots should be cut and maintained, but farmland should not be expected to look like a residential lawn. Mr. Forschner said the first notice would be mailed, but noted there was also a change for properties larger than 10,000 square feet. The required mowing setback would be reduced from 100' to 50'. He understands both sides of the issue and realized people want green areas to look nice, but he also realized it was unreasonable to expect that lots over 10,000 would be regularly maintained. Councilman Urschel asked if lots over 10,000 are required to be mowed at least twice per year. Mr. Forschner said yes (aside from the required setback).

Councilman Urschel asked how much the City pays for private lot contract mowing per year and if the City recouped those costs. Mr. Forschner said the City spends \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year on mowing contractors, with a net revenue of \$26,000 in 2016, \$14,600 in 2017, and \$42,500 in 2018. Expenses include the contractor, Code Enforcement Officers, and members of the Finance Department to assess those costs. Mr. Duke asked if the revenue numbers included what was assessed to the County and could possibly still be on the books. Mr. Forschner said the numbers provided represented only what was collected and not all that was assessed. Councilman Urschel asked how the process worked. Mr. Duke said the City certifies assessments a few times per year, which is done by Resolution. When Council approves the Resolution, it is taken over to the County Auditor's office to assess those fees to the properties. The City then receives two settlements per year from the County for all property taxes, including assessments. Ms. Fisher said the City would not receive all assessed costs. She explained if a property is foreclosed and goes to a Sheriff's sale, those costs are wiped out. Mr. Forschner agreed.

Councilman Louderback inquired about the City's seasonal workers, specifically if those working at Shawnee Park were in-house employees or contractors. Mr. Duke said those are in-house seasonal employees. Councilman Louderback asked who mows the lots with grass that exceeds 10". Mr. Forschner and Mr. Holloway said private contractors mow those private lots.

**C. Administrative Motion Approving the Schedule of Bills in the amount of \$234,594.75.**  
Mr. Duke requested the payment of bills in the amount of \$234,594.75.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Smith, to approve the schedule of bills in the amount of \$234,594.75. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

## **11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**A. Mayors and Managers:** Mayor Mays said they met on February 13<sup>th</sup> in Riverside where Mr. Boyd gave a presentation on the 2020 Census, which was very similar to Ms. Whitaker's presentation.

**B. Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission:** Councilman Louderback said Ms. Whitaker also provided his report.

## **12. APPOINTED OFFICIALS REPORTS AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

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

Mr. Holloway said the forecast calls for snow this weekend, and he asked residents to move their cars off the streets and into driveways to allow Public Service workers to more easily maneuver the streets to clear the roads as quickly as possible. Councilman Smith asked if the City's salt supply was sufficient. Mr. Holloway said he had not heard of any supply issues and noted orders have been placed and received throughout the winter season.

Mr. Duke said the Finance Department received notification that the Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA) issued the City of Xenia a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for their 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which was available on the City's website. He said it was the City's 32<sup>nd</sup> award, which speaks to the good stewardship and proper accounting for public funds. He thanked City Council, City staff—especially Assistant Finance Director Jason Lake—and Finance Division staff for their efforts and support in receiving this award. He felt that the City of Xenia goes above and beyond noting that municipalities are not required to file a CAFR—they are only required to file financial statements. The CAFR includes much more information. In addition, he noted that tax season is here, and he encouraged folks to come early and beat the rush. He said staff is available to assist residents in preparing their City Income Tax returns between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Councilman Louderback said he asked for a fleet maintenance report at their last meeting, and he appreciated those who put it together. He asked if they purchase cars on a three- or five-year schedule. He also asked how the lease agreements are working out. Mr. Holloway said the schedule depends on the actual vehicle needs with most of them are on at least a five-year schedule (aside from police cruisers) with some stretched out to ten years or longer depending on wear and tear on the vehicle. He said the lease agreements are working out very well. The first cycle of trucks used for Code Enforcement is not complete yet, but the vehicles have very little mileage and wear and tear, which means they can be sold at a premium price and will reduce the lease payment amounts for the next cycle. Councilman Louderback said he was trying to save the City as much money as possible and asked which employees took their City vehicles home and if that was necessary.

Mr. Holloway said some Police Division employees take their City vehicles home so they can respond directly to a scene if necessary. Mr. Duke said the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and two Public Service employees also take their City vehicles home. Councilman Louderback asked if those employees could drive their own personal cars and get mileage reimbursements. Mr. Holloway said they can look into that, but as stated, they take their City vehicles home so they can respond directly to the scene so they do not have to stop at the City building first.

President Engle asked about the number of cities that complete a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mr. Duke said he did not have that information with him but believed it was a small number of overall governments noting that townships and villages would probably not prepare a CAFR and some cities do not prepare them. President Engle believed it was a safe bet that the GFOA did not haphazardly hand certificates of excellence out, and the City of Xenia has reached a remarkable accomplishment. He congratulated Mr. Duke.

Councilman Urschel thanked Mr. Duke and Mr. Holloway on the research they did on the proposed state fuel tax increase and the benefit that would be realized with that additional tax, which is approximately \$600,000 to \$700,000 in additional revenue per year for the City of Xenia based on the number of registered vehicles in the municipality. Mr. Duke agreed the projected revenue was about \$620,000 annually and noted the tax is currently slated to include an inflationary factor that is tied to the CPI<sup>1</sup>. This tax would not be a complete solution to provide the funding needed to address the City's street issues, but it would be a significant infusion of dollars. It was nice to see a bill come through that affects local governments in a positive way from a revenue standpoint.

Councilman Urschel asked how the state fuel tax revenue would affect the funding deficit for street improvements. Mr. Berger said it would cover about 41% of the funds needed based on the most recent street assessment. Councilman Urschel said the street issue is an ongoing issue and revenue needed to be continuous as well. If anyone had any opportunities to voice their support of the gas tax, he encouraged them to do so. Mr. Duke said the State of Ohio has a fairly low cost per gallon at 28 cents per gallon. Surrounding states are much higher, including Indiana and Michigan at 40+ cents per gallon. Pennsylvania has the highest cost in the country at 77 cents per gallon. When considering total traffic in the State of Ohio, Ohio is the fourth highest state for lane miles traveled every year, and this is a terrific way to approach street improvements because those driving through Ohio will pay that tax.

Councilman Louderback asked if all those dollars are for streets. Mr. Duke said the revenue would go into the City's 221 fund, which are primarily used for maintenance and personnel costs. He said a Maintenance Worker's salary is charged to multiple funds (water, sewer, sanitation, storm, etc.) with 20% coming from the 221 fund. The current gas tax revenue that is received was not enough to cover the cost of 20% of those salaries, and the 221 fund is subsidized with a transfer from the General Fund. If the proposed state fuel tax increase is passed, it would provide enough revenue to cover maintenance costs as well as contribute additional amounts for street improvements. He said the legislation is broad and states that the revenue can be used for repair, maintenance, snow plowing, etc. Councilman Louderback said he was against the gas tax. He said the State of Ohio has a \$2+ billion rainy day fund, which they got by cutting local government funds and Xenia's revenue was decreased by \$600,000. He believed Governor DeWine could return those local

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<sup>1</sup> Consumer Price Index

government funds to municipalities and use that rainy day fund for infrastructure improvements. This tax will affect low-income people who are driving back and forth to work.

Ms. Fisher had nothing further to share.

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

Mayor Mays shared the following:

- Sunday, February 17: She attended a celebration of Black history month at United AME. Former Mayor Marsha Bayless put together an incredible praise service with several area churches whose choirs sang together and separately for a beautiful celebration!
- Wednesday, February 20: She sat down with the Xenia Area Chamber of Commerce, WCSU, WBZI, and WYSO about partnering together to bring more music to the Xenia Community Festival. She was excited to report that some really neat things are taking shape that could lead to some exciting partnerships and musical events.
- Thursday, February 21: She said “Coffee with the Mayor” on WCSU 88.9 was broadcast live from the Coffee Hub courtesy of Nike Seay, a junior at CSU, who is doing a phenomenal job. She thanked Councilman Urschel for joining her on the program.
- Saturday, February 23: She attended the Xenia Area Chamber of Commerce annual awards dinner. She congratulated all the award recipients, especially the City’s own Steve Brodsky. He is the Development Director and an excellent representative for the city, he is a servant to this community, and his love for Jesus is obvious in the way he works and serves this community.
- Monday, February 25: She hosted area Mayors for lunch here in Xenia.
- Wednesday, February 27: She attended a ribbon cutting for Old Fort Bank, which is now a full-service bank in Xenia on Progress Drive. She extended her congratulations!
- She spoke with Dr. Michael Miller from Payne Theological Seminary at the awards dinner who wanted the community to know about an exhibit currently on campus, which is “exploring human origins, what does it mean to be human?” The traveling exhibit is from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History. Payne is the first seminary to ever host an exhibit as well as the first private institution to host an exhibit from the Smithsonian, which will be available until May 10<sup>th</sup>. Those interested in scheduling a visit should call (937) 376-2946, extension 203.
- She congratulated the Finance Director and Assistant Finance Director on the award based on their stewardship and fiscal responsibility.

Councilman Louderback announced the 2019 Xenia Job Fair at Xenia High School to be held on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 1-2 p.m. for high school students and 2-5 p.m. for the public. He said the XHS Basketball team was in the second round of tournament action, and he wished them luck as they face Miamisburg.

Councilman Smith thanked audience members and those watching from home. He said they are fortunate to live here because many communities have many more problems than Xenia. He visits his daughter in New York and it is very sad to see all the homeless there. Xenia takes care of their poor with Interfaith Hospitality and Bridges of Hope who help our homeless. He commended the City’s first responders for all they do, noting that these skilled workers constitute the majority of the City’s employees.

Councilman Urschel did not have anything further to share.

Councilman Dean did not have anything further to share.

