

Proclamation ~ The Haller's 70th Wedding Anniversary. President Engle invited Mayor Mays to make the presentation. Mayor Mays invited Kenneth and Annette Haller to the front of the Council Chambers. She noted Mr. Haller was a retired Xenia Police Sergeant. She then read the proclamation in its entirety, which honors them for their upcoming 70th Wedding Anniversary on May 14, 2019. (Applause followed.)

Steven K. Haller, formerly resided at his parents' home at 233 Omalee Drive, said he is the oldest son of Kenneth and Annette Haller. His parents built their home in Xenia on Omalee Drive in the early 1950s. His father retired in 1980 as a Xenia Police Sergeant. He then worked as a Greene County Veterans Service Officer. He is a WWII Veteran and served in the Navy in the Pacific. His mother raised five children, but she also worked in the cafeteria and retired from Xenia Community Schools. His parents have been an inspiration to him and his siblings, to their grandchildren, and to their great-grandchildren. He was so pleased his family could all be together, and they were honored that Mayor Mays presented his parents with the proclamation.

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

John Caupp, 936 Orville Way, congratulated The Haller's on their 70th wedding anniversary. He was proud to say that his in-laws have been married for 63 years and his parents have been married for 55 years. He did not think Council should change their start time to 6 p.m. because he felt it would be difficult for people to attend. He also commented on the City Manager's proposal to bring Building Inspection Services in-house. He believes the City should be looking at Building Inspection Services as a priority issue, but he was concerned about the City bringing those services in-house, which would require two additional full-time positions. He said 85% of the City's budget is already for wages and benefits, and these new positions would not fully fund themselves. Regarding the option to partner with the City of Fairborn, he suggested that staff speak with some Fairborn business owners because they have shared some complaints with their Building Inspection Services with him. He suggested the City issue an RFP to be followed up with interviews with those private firms. A properly written contract would protect the City's interests, and it would not cost anything to try that for a year versus hiring full-time employees, rearranging office space, and the overhead that would be required to bring those services in house.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

A. President Engle presented **ORDINANCE 2019-09 DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF CITY STREETS AND PUBLIC WAYS BY THE LIGHTING THEREOF WITHIN STREET LIGHTING DISTRICT #3 FOR THE YEARS 2020-2022**, originally introduced by Councilman Smith, and it was read for a second time.

Motion by President Engle, seconded by Mayor Mays, to approve Ordinance 2019-09 as read. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

9. PUBLIC HEARING(S): None.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCE 2019-10 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2019-06 TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Finance Director Ryan Duke respectfully requested additional appropriations for the following purposes:

- Traffic Signals: As all work was completed on the Downtown Safety Project and accepted by the City in late 2018, there have already been numerous follow-up measures necessary for signal timing/coordination, pedestrian crossings, and controller modifications. Through April 2019, the originally encumbered funds for services (\$15,000) have already reached their limit. Because more modifications are anticipated over the next eight months, Engineering staff hopes that the requested amount is sufficient to make it through the remainder of the year.
- The Municipal Court has undertaken the task of digitizing its records to limit its need for storage space, increase work productivity, and provide improved customer service. The Court received a grant to help fund the scanning of many of the archived documents in the Court; however, recent attempts to acquire additional grant funding to finish the scanning have been unsuccessful. The Court is requesting that \$77,287 be appropriated in the Court's Capital Improvement Fund (this is a special Court Fund that is funded through the payment of court costs) to complete the scanning project.

President Engle entertained a motion to pass Ordinance 2019-10 as an emergency.

Motion by Vice President Wallace, seconded by Councilman Louderback, to adopt Ordinance 2019-10 as presented. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

B. Introduction of Ordinance 2019-11 Amending the Official Zoning Map of the City of Xenia, Ohio, to Rezone 14 Parcels with the Addresses of 602-614, 624, 634, 658-672, 680, 728, and 750 Cincinnati Avenue, comprising 6.3 acres, more or less, from I-2 Heavy Industrial District to B-3 General Business District. City Manager Brent Merriman respectfully requested introduction of an ordinance to amend the City's zoning map, adjusting the zoning designation for 14 parcels located along the west side of Cincinnati Avenue and south of the Little Miami Scenic Bike Path. The subject parcels include various properties addressed from 602 to 750 Cincinnati Avenue, which consist of a mix of mostly commercially-used land, including a car wash, a landscaping contractor, a plumbing contractor, and a vacant former ice cream shop. The properties are surrounded with a similar mix of uses. The proposed rezoning was initiated by the owner of 634 Cincinnati Avenue, which is a CAD and machining shop. The owner would like to add a used car sales business on the same property, which is not permitted under I-2 zoning in the updated Land Development Code. Initially, the owner wanted to rezone 634 Cincinnati Avenue to B-3, but staff was concerned that such a rezoning might be considered spot zoning and instead suggested the applicant reach



out to surrounding property owners to gauge their interest in a rezoning of a larger area. In following this guidance, the applicant successfully obtained signatures from eight property owners,

endorsing a rezoning of 14 parcels from I-2 to B-3. The proposed rezoning was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission, which held its required public hearing at its May 2, 2019 meeting. The Commission voted to recommend approval of this rezoning. The rezoning satisfies six out of the seven approval criteria in the City's Land Development Code and furthers the intent of the Code, and as such, staff endorses the change.

President Engle entertained introduction of Ordinance 2019-11 as presented.

Vice President Wallace presented ORDINANCE 2019-11 AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF XENIA, OHIO, TO REZONE 14 PARCELS WITH THE ADDRESSES OF 602-614, 624, 634, 658-672, 680, 728, AND 750 CINCINNATI AVENUE, COMPRISING 6.3 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, FROM I-2 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, and it was read for the first time.

C. Administrative Motion Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with DriveOhio. Mr. Merriman said in line with City Council's articulated expectations, staff continuously pursues unique ways to promote economic growth and workforce advancement in this community. They have recently been exploring one such idea, which is DriveOhio—a state-wide, multiagency initiative working in partnership with academia and private research, development and production entities to position Ohio as the nation's leader in advancing Smart Mobility. Smart Mobility is a concept that uses advanced technology to improve how people and goods move from point-to-point efficiently. Examples include car-sharing programs, on-demand ride services, improved access to public transportation, drones, autonomous and connected vehicles, and intelligent transportation infrastructure. Given Ohio's robust automotive history, well-established research and development capabilities along a broad spectrum of transportation areas, including UAVs and avionics, climate and topography, and balanced mix of urban and rural environments, Ohio is perfectly positioned to be a leader in R&D and testing of new transportation technologies. Being positioned in such a way opens Ohio and its communities up to a broad range of economic development opportunities. Similarly, Xenia is strategically located in Ohio in the center of the I-70, 71, and 75 corridors, close to Columbus and Cincinnati, on the doorstep of WPAFB, near the UAS Center in Springfield, and adjacent to Central State University, Cedarville University, and other research centers. Our location could prove economically valuable in the Smart Mobility efforts being pursued in Ohio, if Xenia is positioned effectively in the conversation. To this end, he respectfully recommended authorization to execute an MOU between the City and DriveOhio that would open up possibilities for partnerships in the smart mobility efforts. The MOU did not commit the City to any obligation, nor did it guarantee any benefit, but executing the cooperative agreement positions the City to pursue opportunities to participate. Upon approval to execute the agreement, City staff and their partners will begin to work with DriveOhio to identify projects that can benefit the Xenia community. City staff will make Council aware as specific opportunities are identified.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to authorize the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Xenia and DriveOhio. Brief discussion followed. Councilman Urschel said as they discussed in the previous Special Session, this will allow the City to partner with State organization, and Xenia may be a potential test and evaluation location for DriveOhio. As mentioned, very rich research and development was already occurring all around them including at WPAFB and private corporations. He said it would be a

shame if they did not take advantage of this win/win opportunity. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

D. Administrative Motion Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Change Order #1 with John R. Jurgensen Company for the 2019 Street Paving Program and Establishing a New Not-to-Exceed Cost of \$383,482. Mr. Merriman said with the award of the bid for the 2019 street program, the City received a favorable bid total, coming in well below the budget estimate. As a result, just over \$73,000 remains from the original budgeted amount in the General Capital Fund appropriation to complete additional street rehabilitation work this year. A few sections of W. Second Street were not included in that particular project due to either grant-ineligibility and/or because of an anticipated lack of funds; therefore, Engineering Staff recommends they focus the remaining resources to finish off two (2) specific sections of Second Street between Church Street and S. West Street and S. Progress Drive to the U.S. 35 bridge overpass. If any funds remain after inclusion of those two sections of W. Second Street, a portion of Wilson Drive between Morningside Drive and Meadow Lane could be addressed to deal with degradation at that location due to poor drainage conditions. To authorize this additional work, he requested authorization to execute Change Order #1 with John R. Jurgensen Company for the 2019 Street Program and establish a new Not-to-Exceed Cost of \$383,482.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Vice President Wallace, to authorize the City Manager to execute Change Order #1 with John R. Jurgensen Company for the 2019 Street Paving Program and establish a new not-to-exceed cost of \$383,482. Brief discussion followed. President Engle thanked staff for their continued efforts to do all they can to improve City streets with the available resources. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

E. Administration Motion Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract for the Renewal of Property and Liability Insurance through Montgomery Insurance and the Public Entities Pool of Ohio, for One Year, Effective May 1, 2019. Mr. Merriman said the City of Xenia must maintain sufficient liability and property insurance to protect the interests and assets of this community. Action must be taken annually to renew the insurance. The City has a standing association with the Public Entities Pool (PEP) of Ohio, with local brokerage services provided by Montgomery Insurance and Investments for coverage. Through the course of the past year, the City has experienced acceptable service from the arrangement with PEP and local partners, Montgomery Insurance. In preparation for the renewal this year, the City Manager's Office and department heads have spent considerable time reviewing assets, services and potential areas of liability. This has resulted in a comprehensive update to the City's covered asset listings and tweaks to the coverage plan that should help better protect the City's interests in the event of incidents that would invoke coverage provisions. During the review process, they reviewed the scope of coverage provided for the City's closed landfill from a liability standpoint, which is not covered by PEP. They only have liability coverage for negligence of actions. He is working with staff to look at options with regard to whether the City needs to obtain environmental insurance for the site that would cover other incidents relative to the natural processes of a closed landfill. Given the service the City has received and the continuation of the guaranteed rates, staff

in gas tax, the City will receive approximately \$530,000 per year. That amount along with the \$500,000 already budgeted totals over \$1 million for street improvements. Mr. Duke concurred. Councilman Louderback asked Mr. Merriman to explain the 221 Fund. Mr. Merriman said the proceeds from the gas tax are receipted into the 221 Fund (Streets Fund), which is the fund they use to pay for street maintenance operations (includes snow plowing, filling pot holes, etc., and all the labor associated with those functions). The fund typically operates at a deficit between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per year, which requires it to be supplemented with General Fund dollars. With the additional gas tax revenue, the Budget Committee discussed if they should offset that operating deficit first to ensure the continuance of those maintenance services and use the remaining amount for street rehabilitation and enhanced maintenance. All things considered, the General Capital Improvement Fund dollars that are earmarked for street rehabilitation along with additional gas tax revenue and other limited use 228/229 funds totals about \$1.1 million or more per year for streets. He said the increase is great, but it only represents about half of what they should be spending on streets per year to begin to improve the average PSI rating. They still need to develop a long-term strategy and viable plan to address the street issue. Councilman Louderback said if the street levy had passed [in November 2018], it would have brought in \$1.3 million per year for 10 years. Governor DeWine needs to release some of the local government funds, noting the State's "rainy day" fund is up to \$3.1 billion. He commented on all the cuts and unfunded mandates by the State in recent years including estate taxes and tangible personal property taxes.

Councilman Urschel said it was a pleasure to serve on the committee and work with Councilman Louderback and President Engle. He appreciated receiving a lot of background information during the process. He said some specific points were added to the detailed priority list including looking at strategies to recoup or reduce expenses in underfunded areas including the Municipal Court, which is mandated by the State of Ohio. Due to the way the Ohio Revised Code is written, the City of Xenia takes a large part of the burden to provide a court that also serves some surrounding townships and villages. City Council cannot change that, but they can pursue a change with the municipal court judges and State representatives. The committee asked the City Manager to start looking at that issue and their desire to have one single municipal court that serves the entire County, which would eliminate duplicative costs between the two existing municipal courts (one in Xenia and one in Fairborn). This change would also allow them to share the burden/cost of the court. Another item they discussed was with regard to medical transport, which is not a state-mandated activity but the City provides that service. The City absorbs the cost of providing both emergency and non-emergency medical transport. They need to study how to recoup costs and not add to their workload or add additional employees. Regarding City infrastructure, one priority was to seek long-term solutions for street conditions including a Pavement Management Strategy. He did not want to only focus on what is spent per year—they need 20- to 30-year projections that dictate which streets will be improved, when that work will take place, and how they will be improved (maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement). They literally need a roadmap to track the work and realize the effect of those improvements or lack thereof. Regarding employee retention and attraction, the Committee put forth a priority to assess current staffing with regard to City infrastructure funding and efficient municipal services. Finally, under "Build a Healthier Community," the Committee felt that a number of factors are putting a strain on municipal services that could be addressed through partnerships with social services and the local faith community.

The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

G. Administrative Motion Approving the Schedule of Bills in the amount of \$395,484.58. Mr. Duke requested the payment of bills in the amount of \$395,484.58.

President Engle entertained a motion.

Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Dean, to approve the schedule of bills in the amount of \$395,484.58. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

A. Board for Recreation, Arts, and Cultural Activities: President Engle said BRACA met on Tuesday, May 7. He reported the annual free Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success despite the weather with over 700 children collecting 10,000 eggs. He thanked Xenia firefighters and Public Service employees for their donation of many Easter baskets, Huffly for its donation of 10 bicycles and the Green Machine as the grand prize, and Xenia Nazarene Church for cooking and providing hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone. He was pleased to report that all “spots” for the Bloom with Xenia ... Adopt-A-Spot program have been adopted, which has been the best year yet for volunteerism. He thanked all “adoptees” and Mr. King for coordinating the program. He reported the Community Garden Plots on Towler Road are ready for adoption for only \$20 per lot for the growing season (October 31)—some plots are still available. The annual free Youth Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, June 1, at Shawnee Park. Those interested in sponsoring the event or donating door prizes should contact City Clerk Michelle Johnson. Per the special presentation earlier in the evening, the Tree Committee named three 2019 Heritage Trees. He noted a long-time and original member of the Tree Committee, Thais Reiff, recently retired. He said there are 12 new trees at Shawnee Park, which were provided through a grant from Xenia Rotary. Finally, the Arbor Day celebration at Xenia Christian Academy went very well.

B. Traffic Commission: Councilman Dean said the May meeting was cancelled due to lack of agenda items. Mr. Merriman informed Councilman Dean that his office received a request that will be forwarded to the Traffic Commission for their consideration in June. Councilman Urschel asked for an evaluation of the traffic light at N. Detroit and Wilson. When trying to turn left off of Wilson onto N. Detroit to head south, the crosswalk light from the “do not walk” to “walk” cycles continuously and the light never turns from red to green.

C. Planning and Zoning Commission: President Engle said due to Councilman Smith’s absence, his report would be provided at their next Council meeting.

D. Board of Zoning Appeals: Mayor Mays said the Board of Zoning Appeals met on Monday, April 22, 2019, on three variance requests as follows:

- Variance to allow a 45' x 200' permanent outdoor display area in a parking lot on the west side of Rural King, which was denied.
- Variance to allow a driveway for a future Aldi store on a proposed extension of Hospitality Drive to be located 76 ft. from a future intersection with Greene Way Boulevard, which was approved.
- Variance to allow a 6 ft. tall wood privacy fence in a front yard, filed by Housing Solutions of Greene County for the property located at 520 Brandywine Lane, which was approved.

12. APPOINTED OFFICIALS REPORTS AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

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

Mr. Merriman provided the following updates:

- He thanked the voters of Xenia for approving the Operating Levy Renewal and entrusting staff with those resources to provide critical services.
- The substitute State Budget Bill is currently under deliberations among several committees. He noted highlighted the following three points:
 - o Local Government Fund (LGF) Increase: As introduced, LGF funding levels were preserved at a +9.1% increase in FY 2020 with an additional +1.8% increase in FY 2021. An additional 11% over two years is nice but did not come close to the 50% funding cut a decade ago. He appreciates the move in the right direction, but he would like to see full restoration of those resources.
 - o Municipal Net Profit Estimated Payments: The substitute bill did not change the existing language which mandates that if a municipality receives a negative distribution from the state for business net profit filings (through the new state centralized collection of municipal net profit revenues), the municipality must pay the amount of the deficiency to the state from unrelated sources of municipal income to balance the state's books. As discussed at Mayors and Managers, the bill makes absolutely no sense other than making the State of Ohio whole at the expense of local government. This is not a step in the right direction.
 - o Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS): The substitute bill allocates \$2 million over the biennium to offset local government user fees for every radio that each City owns due to the expiration of local reimbursements, which is nearly \$100,000 for Xenia alone. The League appreciates this partial reinstatement of the local fee offset for MARCS, but the need is at least \$4 million in funding over the biennium for these public safety service expenses.
- He attended a ribbon cutting at Caesar Ford Park. He commended Greene County Parks and Trails and Greene County Commission for doing a fantastic job of helping to transform the park, which is the largest park in their network. Significant investments have been made to revitalize that asset, which is only a few minutes away and tremendously under utilized. They are planning a summer concert series, “Summer Fest,” which will begin on Saturday, June 1. He encouraged everyone to take advantage of these nearby opportunities.
- Finally, he encouraged everyone to attend the first Neighborhood Night Out of the season on Tuesday, May 21, at Shawnee Elementary School. It is a great opportunity for residents to learn more about the City’s partners and interact with City staff. He thanked Kroger for their significant donation, Xenia Community Schools for their efforts including hosting the events, and all other partners including local universities and social service providers.

Vice President Wallace said he would like staff to develop another resolution to oppose the notion of municipalities taking care of the State’s shortfalls, which is another instance of the State getting whole on the backs of local governments. They cannot sit around and let that happen—local municipalities need to voice their opinions. If the federal government did that to state governments, the state governments would not be happy and would not tolerate it. Mr. Merriman wholeheartedly agreed. He said Xenia is a home rule community, and they feel very strongly about their ability to operate the City in a manner that provides good stewardship and is lawful but also retains local control. The centralization of these taxation issues should be a huge red flag for everyone. He encouraged anyone with questions about this subject to contact City staff. Ms. Fisher said the State of Ohio wanted to take over income tax collections, but they are not willing to take on the liability to do so. Centralized collections of municipal income tax was a money-grab by the State of Ohio. Councilman Louderback agreed. Citizens need to fight for their tax dollars, and they need to

contact their State representatives. Governor Kasich attained a \$3.1 billion rainy day fund, but Governor DeWine is keeping it. It needs to be distributed; a lot of streets could be paved with that money. Citizens voted down the street levy, but they can fight for those tax dollars to come back to Xenia. Vice President Wallace asked if a resolution could be prepared as he requested. Ms. Fisher said yes; she can have something prepared for their consideration on May 23.

Councilman Urschel said he was pleased that the City's operating levy renewal was passed. However, it was advertised that it was a 3.5 mill levy when in actuality, the net effect is less than 1 mill. Per the Ohio Revised Code, the City is only allowed 10 mills for "inside millage" and anything else is considered outside millage. Mr. Duke said the City receives 3.2 in inside millage from the County. Councilman Urschel said inside millage goes with the actual assessed values of the land. Therefore, he explained that the 3.2 mills (inside millage) will increase as land values increase. The value of all outside millage, including the City's 3.5 mill operating levy, remains the same value as the year it was passed. Mr. Duke agreed. He said the operating levy was first put in place in 1959, but the law relative to the assessed value was changed in the 1970s. Councilman Urschel said the City's 3.5 mill operating levy has only been renewed, and the assessed value is based on property values from the 1970s. The City is not receiving \$3.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for this operating levy—the City is actually receiving about \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which will continue to decline until the operating levy is replaced. Council and staff will need to discuss replacement versus renewal of this operating levy in the future to bring the value back to current assessed values.

Mr. Duke said to Councilman Urschel's point, the 3.5 Mill Operating Levy that was renewed generates about \$420,000 annually, which is essential revenue to allow them to provide critical core services. He agreed the 3.5 mill levy's net value is closer to 1 mill. Regarding the State's measure as it relates to municipal income tax, the State did not think through all of the consequences of taking on the collection of municipal income taxes. He has spoken with State of Ohio Department of Taxation staff and when he asks them why they are doing things a certain way, he has been told "we didn't think of that." The State of Ohio even had to appropriate several million dollars to deal with some of the consequences that "they didn't think about." They are trying to fix the unintended consequences, but he believes that most municipalities would prefer that they go back to allowing local municipalities to maintain control at the local level. He reported that City staff has experienced some very significant issues with estimated tax payments including significant decreases since the State has taken over. The State is incapable of providing legitimate answers as to why there are significant changes including decreased revenue. He supports the resolution that Vice President Wallace requested, but several resolutions have been passed over the years opposing the centralization of income tax collections. Unfortunately, so far the State is not paying any attention to them—from Xenia and many other municipalities. He hopes at some point the State will realize that by trying to simplify things, they are only making things more complicated. Councilman Louderback said he realized a piece of paper might not mean a thing to State officials, but elections are coming up and voters can speak loud and clear. President Engle agreed. Elections are the citizens' time to be heard.

Ms. Fisher had nothing further to share other than expressing her discontent with what the State has done to local municipalities; it is very important for citizens to understand that the State is taking and keeping *their* tax dollars. They need to let state legislatures know that it is not okay.

B. Mayor and City Council:

Mayor Mays shared the following:

- April 26: She thanked the City's Tree Committee on their celebration and planting of a tree at Legacy Christian Academy in honor of Arbor Day. All elementary grade levels contributed with poems, bible verses, and tree facts. It was a very fun event!
- April 26: She attended the 88th Air Base Wing 75th Anniversary Celebration.
- April 27: She stopped by to congratulate and wish well the Xenia High School Football Team at their first annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. She was looking forward to supporting this yearly event. She regretted not being able to stay for the duration of the event.
- April 27: She attended the Xenia Hall of Honor and congratulated this year's inductees: Gary Allen, Scott Anger, Elaine Hughes, and Doug Yates, who are all very valuable citizens in this community.
- April 29: She had the privilege of hearing Mr. Ronald Todd II, Minority Affairs Liaison to the Governor, speak at an event at the Republican Headquarters in Xenia; he is a wonderful speaker.
- May 2: She attended the Greene Memorial Prayer Breakfast and had the privilege of praying for our government and first responders on the National Day of Prayer. Later that day a prayer event at the Courthouse was technically canceled, but people kept showing up despite the weather, and eventually 100+ people came out to pray for our city, county, state, and country.
- May 3: She attended the first First Fridays of the summer, which was a great evening with great attendance. She thanked the many vendors and volunteers who put on this event.

Councilman Louderback thanked all the voters for renewing the City's 3.5 mill operating levy. The revenue is much needed. However, they may need to make some changes in the future because the revenue is based on 1970s property values. He receives a lot of calls about pot holes, which he did not mind, but residents can call Public Service directly at 376-7265 to report them.

Councilman Dean said the State budget passed the House today.

Councilman Urschel said the Bridges of Hope drop-in shelter operates as the first opportunity for housing with no time delay for single men, single women, and couples who are in need. Families typically go to Interfaith Hospitality on S. Detroit Street or Community Action Partnership in the East End. Unfortunately, the Bridges of Hope shelter was shut down on April 30th due to the expiration of the temporary occupancy permit. To obtain permanent occupancy, a sprinkler system must be installed in the facility. He was happy to share that private funds and a matching grant have provided the funds needed to proceed with procurement of the sprinkler system. They will file a petition for another temporary occupancy permit while the sprinkler system is being installed. He hopes the shelter can re-open in about a month, which provides a safe environment, shelter, breakfast and dinner, and showers. They have a great relationship with local law enforcement including City Police and County Sheriff Departments. The cost to the faith community is about \$15 per person per night to provide the food and shelter versus about \$80 per night when those in need had to go to a local motel. The other scenario involves an arrest for vagrancy just to get them off the street and safe, which costs about \$170 per night. He thanked everyone who has donated to Bridges of Hope in the past. They look forward to a better partnership between the faith community and the residents at Bridges of Hope. He said if each of the 80 churches in Xenia was willing to sponsor one person and work with him or her, they could ensure his/her housing, counseling, and exposure to those with stable income, stable housing, and stable families. Councilman Louderback asked the average attendance per day. Councilman Urschel said about 50 to 60 residents per evening with 65% male and 35% female residents. Councilman Louderback asked where those residents are going in the interim period while Bridges of Hope is closed. Councilman Urschel said they are homeless; they are camping in the woods, squatting in vacant buildings, and on the streets.

Vice President Wallace said he was glad to receive the update on the Bridges of Hope, and everyone needs to do all they can to get that occupancy permit expedited. Councilman Urschel said County Building Inspection told them 30 days. It would be wonderful if the permit could be expedited. Mr. Merriman said he would pass the message along to the City's Fire Inspector who works directly with County Building Inspection.

President Engle said when he gave his BRACA report, he neglected to talk about the Tree Committee's Winter Photography Contest. He encouraged everyone to view the winning photos and other entries that are on display in the first floor lobby of the City Administration Building.

13. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilman Louderback, seconded by Councilman Urschel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. No discussion followed. The Roll on this was the following:

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

Nays: None motion carried.

Michelle D. Johnson
City Clerk

Michael D. Engle
President, Xenia City Council