

**City Council Meeting Minutes**  
**June 30, 2010**  
**Special Session**  
**5:30 p.m.**

The Xenia City Council met in a Special Session on June 30, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, with the following members present: Jeanne Mills, John Caupp, Dale Louderback, William R. Miller (arrived at 5:55 p.m.), Wesley Smith, Marsha J. Bayless, and Patricia L. Felton (left at 5:38 p.m.).

**Vision Plan Presentation:** Mr. Percival noted the Vision Plan was first presented to Council last year and they wanted to update everyone on things that were accomplished, things that are underway, and things that still need to happen. Progress has been made in a lot of these areas, but they still need to work very diligently to come up with a funding source in order to complete some things on the agenda. He then invited Mr. Merriman to proceed with his PowerPoint presentation and spreadsheet entitled “*Vision Plan Update: Report to City Council on Activities and Initiatives June 2010*”.

Mr. Merriman noted the spreadsheet gets into a lot more in-depth detail, which he will discuss as he proceeds through the PowerPoint presentation titled, “Strategic Initiatives Update: Vision Plan Implementation.”



**2020 VISION PLAN**

- ⇒ September 2009 presentation to City Council
- ⇒ Plan focuses on strengthening or enhancing:
  - Economic Development
  - City Image
  - Quality Service Provision
  - Community Outreach
  - Financial Management
  - Infrastructure

**CITY OF XENIA: STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE**  
A Presentation to the City of Xenia  
November 2008



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**

- ⇒ Economic Development Strategic Plan:
  - General plan elements
  - ED Tax Incentive Policy
  - Buxton Recruitment
- ⇒ XEGC Funding and Activities
- ⇒ Economic Impact Analysis for Annexation/JEDD
- ⇒ Pending JEDD agreement
- ⇒ Economic Development and Recreation

**Local Economic Growth Strategies**

**Economic Development Strategic Plan.** Comprehensive operational plan designed to guide the inter-related economic development activities of the city, including:

- Coordinating the creation of a community marketing plan
- Enhancing economic incentives programs
- Integrating infrastructure improvement programs for economic development purposes
- Implementing retail recruitment program
- Preliminarily complete; planned presentation to be given at 7/8/10 Council work session.

**XEGC Funding and Activities.** Long-term strategy for funding XEGC operations and enhancing service offerings in process.

**Economic Development Impact Analysis Policy.** Policy requiring comprehensive report on the impact (financial, operational, quality-of-life) of any proposed annexation or development; required analysis outlines qualitative and quantitative impact measurements. Complete; approval pending at next XCC meeting.

**Economic Development—Recreation.** Informal effort aimed at researching the recreation service demands of local community and developing a strategy for recruiting commercial recreation ventures. In process; no timeline established.

Mr. Merriman entertained questions.

Councilman Caupp asked about the status of the pending JEDD [Joint Economic Development District]. Mr. Percival said he and Mr. Bazalak met with Xenia Township Trustee John Faulkner. The JEDD on which they are currently working is for the area surrounding Tecumseh Elementary School. They asked the City's Law Director to work with the Township Law Director, Tom Miller, who is also a Greene County Prosecutor, to put together the agreement for that JEDD. The agreement will not only cover the time from the beginning of construction, but will take it into the future so they will continue to generate revenue from that property once the new school is built.

(President Felton left the meeting at 5:38 p.m.)

Based on some analysis, Mr. Bazalak said they envision a 50/50 split with the Township on new revenue. With the existing revenue stream, they would be required to get 63% (two-thirds) of the ongoing revenue in order for the city to get a 50/50 split with Xenia Township because they were already getting some dollars there from folks that work there and reside in the City. They wanted to come up with a mechanism that would share those costs evenly, but he thought it would be reversed on construction, which is one time money.

Councilman Louderback asked who normally negotiates the JEDD agreement. Mr. Percival said he would negotiate the JEDD agreement with the Trustees. Councilman Louderback asked if the negotiation normally involves all three Trustees or just Mr. Faulkner. Mr. Percival said all three Trustees are involved, but Mr. Faulkner is his point person since he is the Xenia Township President. Mr. Faulkner has let the other Trustees know where they are going. If necessary, they can sit down with all three Trustees, but he has not heard there was any consternation and thought all three Trustees were in agreement on the JEDD.

Councilman Louderback said Mr. Percival heard wrong. He assumed Council would be involved at some point in time. Mr. Percival said absolutely since Council has to approve the contract. Councilman Louderback said he is tired of the politics coming out of the Township and other places, and he wants it to stop. Mr. Percival clarified that the person with whom Councilman Louderback spoke does not approve of the JEDD. Councilman Louderback said the person Mr. Percival is negotiating with (Mr. Faulkner) said the Council "means nothing to him, because Mr. Percival runs the city, and he does not take anything before this Council." He is getting tired of Mr. Faulkner telling citizens that—we do not operate that way. Mr. Percival said Mr. Faulkner knows the JEDD agreement will have to be approved by City Council. Councilman Louderback thought Mr. Percival needed to make that clear to Mr. Faulkner.



**New Residential Construction Requirements (XCO 1294):** City Council policy and legislative initiative aimed at increasing square footage requirements for new residential construction in order to diversify and better balance the municipal housing stock. Legislation has been approved. For the most part, the process has been pretty positive. There have been some concerns from the County on how it applies to Fair Housing Issues, but work has been done to correct that.

**Design Guidelines:** Legislative initiative intended to describe and outline standards to improve the quality, appearance, and functions of new development and re-developments, consistent with the goals of the Urban Service Area Land Use Plan (Comprehensive Plan) and the Vision Elements and Strategic Goals. Review in process.

**Subsidized Housing Policy:** Informal City Council policy with the goal of balancing local subsidized housing obligations to make them proportionate with Xenia's population as a percentage of county population.

**Promotional Video:** Production of web-based marketing video to highlight the livability and local assets of Xenia. Production in process. Mr. Brodsky said they plan to preview the promotional video with Council at the July 8<sup>th</sup> work session.

**Gateway enhancements:** Aesthetic and accessibility enhancements for targeted community and downtown gateway locations. W. Main Enhancement construction will begin in the summer of 2010; S. Detroit/Bike Spur Enhancement is in design phase this year with construction to begin in 2012; Streetscape at various locations in process. Aesthetic and accessibility enhancements for targeted community and downtown gateway locations, including:

- W. Main at Progress
- E. Main at Whiteman
- N. Detroit at Church
- S. Detroit from Xenia Station to the Eavey Building
- 68 N. at corporation limit

**Tier II Downtown Revitalization Program and Wayfinding/Signage:** Grant-funded downtown revitalization program seeking physical and organizational improvements to the downtown environment; program elements include:

- Façade loan program expansion
- Downtown Revitalization Committee formulation
- Public/private cooperative for investment and redevelopment
- Infrastructure improvements and aesthetic enhancements, including streetscape upgrades, parking lot rehabs, sidewalk and curbing replacements
- Downtown wayfinding/signage program providing directional assistance and municipal building and local attraction identification
- **Status of Program:** Façade loan program in project identification and assessment phase; Revitalization Committee establishment in process; Downtown consultant to initiate economic restructuring initiatives summer 2010; various parking lot and streetscape improvements in construction and pre-construction phases. A better report on those activities will be available this fall, but they want to move forward aggressively with the funding. There is a timeline established as part of the Tier II Grant Program as to when those funds must be spent and when those elements must be completed.

Mr. Merriman entertained questions. None were presented.

**Fire/rescue service delivery:** Assessment of current service delivery obstacles and development of options for alternative service delivery for fire/rescue. Initial work on service delivery obstacles completed by Fire Division in 2007, updated in 2009; no formal initiative to develop service delivery alternatives currently underway.

**Comprehensive Plan Update:** Community-centered process to identify growth priorities and service obstacles, desires in order to update Xenia's Comprehensive Plan, and to provide strategic direction for administration. Initiative has been delayed due to budget limitations and City Planner's retirement; no formal initiative planned at this time and until a new City Planner is hired and has time to get accustomed to the community.

**Utility Billing Policy Updates—Initiation Fee:** A fee for new utility accounts was created by ordinance on 11-24-09. Council approved a check scanning software purchase funded by this revenue stream in June 2010.

**Financial Management Information Systems:** Mr. Merriman said Mr. Duke has been working on obtaining a software program(s) to link to the Finance database that will be designed to improve the efficiency and accuracy of departments' financial management. It is in development, but a completion date has not been set because it is taking a lot longer than expected.

**Recreation Enhancement:** Mr. Merriman said he and Vice President Mills discussed a proposed initiative aimed at assessing and nurturing cooperative opportunities and partnerships to expand the number and diversity of local recreation offerings, particularly if the November Levy fails. It is still a preliminary plan, but the process outline and participation list have been proposed. No date established to initiate stakeholder meeting.

Mr. Percival said HVS is a private recreational business that is currently collecting data and will have a report back to the developer within the next two months, at which time they also hope to move that private process forward.

Councilman Smith asked why there are no trash cans at Spring Hill Park. Mr. Merriman said there is an order for the park benches, trash cans, and shelters for Spring Hill Park. Councilman Smith said he was at Spring Hill Park yesterday with his kids. It is a nice park but there was trash on the ground and he wondered why there were no trash cans. Councilman Louderback said he requested trash cans for that park six months ago. There is no reason why they have to wait for new trash cans; trash cans could be put out there now. Mr. Merriman said he would make sure there were some trash cans at Spring Hill Park on an interim basis. Councilman Louderback said that is what Mr. Merriman told him six months ago.

Mr. Merriman entertained further questions. None were presented.

**Vision Launch Committee—Focus Group:** Facilitated roundtable discussion of select local leaders assembled to provide feedback on current state of City and Vision and Strategic Goals. Focus groups and assessment completed fall 2009.

**Community Survey:** Survey of Xenia residents designed to assess community impressions and desires on issues ranging



from public image to service provision with a pretty positive response from the Focus groups last year. The survey helped them understand the community's position on the Levy and issues ranging from the downtown to recreation initiatives, etc. Last survey completed in 2009. They discussed how often they should do surveys (annually or every two to three years), which will be discussed with Council for recommendations. No survey update currently planned or budgeted for 2010.

**Communications Policy—Press Releases:** Policy and procedures for creation and dissemination of public information press releases. Policy implemented in 2009; standardized PR template currently in use. They have seen incidents where having a designated process in place benefitted finding a missing resident.

**Community Newsletter (aka "The Xenia Communicator"):** Community newsletter aimed at connecting Xenia citizens with service offerings, highlighting local service and infrastructure improvements, and enhancing the direct-reporting capacity of City leaders to their constituency. Newsletter launched in spring of 2010. Continuing publication timeline and goals currently under discussion to determine how frequently and to what extent they want to publish the community newsletter and how much money can be spent to publish it. They preliminarily discussed publishing the newsletter twice a year.

Councilman Caupp asked what it cost to publish the community newsletter. Mr. Bazalak said it cost \$7,000, and they will look at the costs to see if they can do it more cost effectively next time. Obviously, they want to get the best quality product at the least cost.

Mayor Bayless asked about the effectiveness of the community newsletter. Mr. Percival said that depends on how people choose to get information. Certain segments of the population watch television, others visit our website or Facebook, while others will read the newsletter if it is mailed to their home. The newsletter is just a different way for them to try to reach everybody.

Councilman Caupp thought another Community Newsletter should be sent the first of October before voters receive their absentee ballots. Mr. Percival said they discussed sending another Newsletter at the end of September or the first of October for that reason. Mr. Merriman said they can also ask on a future survey if the Community Newsletter was effective.

**Social Media Outreach—Facebook Account:** Creation of City Facebook page to provide on-line presence and visibility of City and to offer local Facebook users with an additional on-line information outlet. Mr. Merriman said there has been a lot of debate about the value of Facebook. He felt Facebook had some relevance and they have seen a lot of positive outcomes. The page is still active, although our presence has been scaled back a bit.

**Website Enhancement:** Periodic programming and aesthetic updates to City web portal. The City's website has grown by leaps and bounds since they did the comprehensive rehab on it a few years ago. Over the next year or two the website will need to be updated to keep it relevant. They are pleased with the amount of traffic it receives. For example, the City Planner's position was posted on the City's website and a few other professional websites, and there has been a really good response, which indicates a lot of folks are using the website for information. Money was budgeted for the website in 2011.

**Brand Use Guidelines:** Policy outlining acceptable uses of City seal, logo and tag; provides technical information on brand graphics as well as access to electronic templates of brand graphics. Draft guidelines completed to give the city exclusive rights to use the tag line. Electronic resources available on intranet; service mark registration.

Mr. Merriman entertained comments. None were presented.



**November Ballot Issue:** Issue to be placed on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot calling for .5% income tax increase, the proceeds from which will be used for public safety services and capital (50% of total additional revenue) and streets and general capital expenditures (50% of total additional revenue). Ordinance for ballot measure approved by Council.

**27<sup>th</sup> Pay Reserve:** Accounting measure and policy standard established to ensure that City's reserve fund requirements include annual set-aside consideration for "27<sup>th</sup>" pay phenomenon. Policy has been implemented.

**General Capital Set-Aside:** Financial Management goal that provides for a (minimum) 5% set-aside for general capital improvements program. Policy goal has been established, but given the difficult budget circumstances, they are not able to fund this as they would like. The November ballot initiative includes this consideration.

**New Fund Creation: Fire/Police and 911:** Financial management policy and budgeting function that provide for individual service funds for fire/police operations and capital improvements and 911 operations and capital improvements. The 270 fund for fire/police currently in use; 250 fund for 911 currently in use. The Tax Budget is on the agenda for next regular session; the 911 and Fire/Police funds are a part of that budget process.

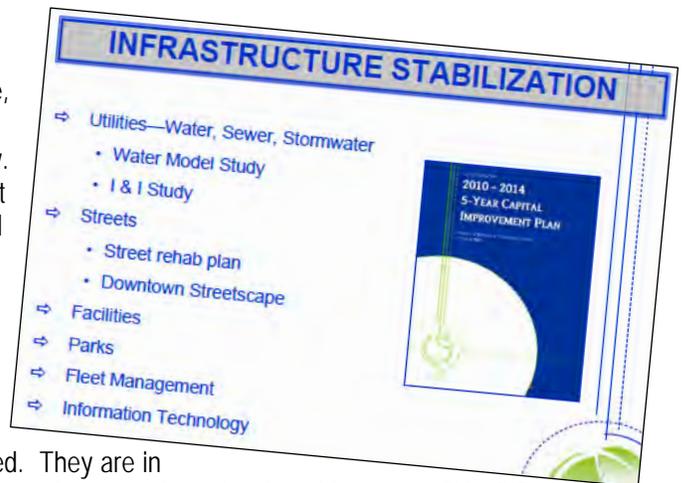
**Financial Management Policies and Initiatives:** Collection of financial management policies and goals established in cooperation between administration and City Council and updated annually, to provide for accountability and stewardship of financial resources. Financial management policies in place; to be updated with 2011 budget.

Mr. Merriman entertained comments.

Vice President Mills asked where the repairs for the Shawnee Park retention wall fits into the budget process and if it went under General Capital set aside. Mr. Merriman said that would be the funding source but they also looked into other funding sources, such as grant funding from stormwater since it is an extension of the stormwater system. If they had the money, it would be easier to do the repairs under General Capital because all the components are a function of the park.

**Utilities—Water, Sewer, Stormwater.** Prioritization of and technical and financial planning for utility systems' compliance, sustainability, and/or expansion; planning elements include:

- Water System Modeling and improvement Study. With Council's approval and authorization, a contract will be awarded. A key component of that work will be to layout a five year prioritized list for capital improvements that focuses on stabilization of the system, what they need to do to expand the system if there was a significant increase in commercial/retail/industrial development so that they have the capacity to absorb that expansion.
- Sewer Inflow and Infiltration Study recently completed. They are in the process of analyzing those results and will use them as they develop this year's 5Yr CIP development using a two prong focus. (1) Continue to expand the city's sliplining program to stabilize the existing sewer lines; (2) It will give them the ability to do targeted replacement where they know they have significant collapse and failure of those sewers.
- Water model set to begin summer 2010



(Councilman Miller arrived at 5:55 p.m.)

**Street Rehabilitation:** Prioritization of and financial planning for comprehensive street rehabilitation; assessment effort includes "pavement condition index" (PCI) rating for all streets:

- Thoroughfares/state routes
- Local residential streets
- Curbing/sidewalks
- Streetscape
- PCI ratings require update

Mr. Merriman said he worked with the City Engineer on street rehabilitation to develop a comprehensive plan as if they had the money today to tackle the streets. They would like a logical process in place if/when money is available.

**Facilities:** Assessment of facilities' current condition and long-term facility use plans; includes current and projected City facilities. No planning or assessment currently in process. It is definitely an area of deficiency on which they need to focus in the near future to provide some long-term space use and facility plans for:

- City Hall
- Public Service Center – desperately needs generator back-up power particularly in the winter when there are a lot of activities with streets.
- Fire Stations 1 and 2
- Simon Kenton facility

**Parks:** Improvement program outlining the capital plans for parks improvement and rehabilitation according to Comprehensive Parks Plan (a component of the City Comp. Plan); includes Shawnee Park, Xenia Station, Franklin Park, and a dozen neighborhood parks. No assessment currently planned; Comprehensive Parks Plan requires updating.

**Fleet Management:** Updating and expansion of Fleet Management Program. Review of garage model proposed; fleet management system currently under review. They are aggressively looking at fuel efficiency standards and whether the system they have in place today in terms of the operations done in-house is more cost effective than contracting it out, and what direction they want to take in the future for maintaining that system.

**Information Technology:** Comprehensive Information Technology Improvement Plan covering hardware and software systems build out and maintenance, fiber optic communication system implementation, and various other technology programs. Expenditures for information technology capital were reduced significantly. Providing fiber optics lines in City facilities is important and a valuable asset because it not only provides more viable communication, but also reduces the operating costs they pay to Time Warner monthly to use their fiber optic lines. The entire category of information technology is in limbo, not due to any fault of Mr. Cardenas, Mr. Bazelak, or their staff, but because there is no money right now. The 5 Yr CIP development is in process and will be provided to Council later this summer.

Mr. Merriman said the Goals and Initiatives derived from the Vision Plan should be reinforced in Budget Priorities. The next thing they would like Council to consider is their budget priorities.

Vice President Mills entertained questions.

Councilman Miller apologized for arriving to the meeting late. He asked what would happen in the worst case scenario with no additional resources coming in after November. Obviously, we have budget priorities and a Vision Plan, but we will have to throw it all out and start over if the levy does not pass in November. Obviously, we want the Parks and Recreation Department up and running, more people to take care of parks; more fiber optics; a new HVAC unit for City

Hall, etc. If the levy does not pass in November, where do we start? Will we have to do this all over again and decide what will and will not survive?

Mr. Percival said the budget is being prepared based on the *current* revenue stream and not on additional revenue. They will look at the current complement of individuals in each department and division to make sure they have the appropriate number of people based on the projected revenue. There will probably be very little—if any—capital improvements other than paying for the current debt service. There is no street program this year and there will probably not be a street program next year unless they get some grants and local revenues to use as a local match. They will continue to provide the highest quality of service they can based on the existing revenue. That is the worst case scenario. The best case scenario is if they are able to obtain additional revenue, employees will be rehired and services will be provided at a different level. They will be able to do the street repairs as they proposed prior to the last levy. With an additional \$500,000 a year, they will be able to do major projects such as the Shawnee Park retaining wall repair. Those projects cannot be done now due to lack of revenue.

Councilman Caupp asked if there was a grant available for repairs to the Shawnee Park retaining wall. Mr. Percival said they tried three or four different grant scenarios and will try to go through the State Capital Program. Councilman Caupp thought there should be green funds somewhere to repair the retaining wall. Mr. Percival said he thought they could use different stormwater funds, but every time they applied for grant funding, the projects were denied. They continue to try to find a way to fund it. As Mr. Merriman said, the best way to repair the retaining wall would be if they use General CAP funds to get it done because it is a project that needs to be completed.

Mr. Bazalak said regardless of what happens in November, they need to focus on these core elements. What they do with those core elements will change whether or not they are able to get the additional revenue source. Economic development will be important regardless of whether the levy passes in November, which they will discuss more at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. One of the reasons they wanted to have this meeting for Council to review the Vision Plan Update is they will see some of the accomplishments under those various areas that have occurred since September when the initial 20/20 Vision Plan was given to Council. As he looked through the Matrix, many things were accomplished in that short time frame. He realized the focus has been on the levy failure and all the efforts everybody made to try to get that passed. However, other things are going on at the same time besides the levy effort. If Council will go back and review the Matrix, they will see a more in-depth list of things that have been done.

Councilman Miller said the reason he asked the first question was to make sure the Xenia Daily Gazette gets some of the information.

Mr. Merriman said a lot of the initiatives in the Vision Plan are aimed at expanding the tax base, creating a quality of life environment, economic development incentives, etc., that not only will help increase the tax base, but also expand it so there are more opportunities for revenue to come in and not just a tax increase on which they can hang their hats.

Vice President Mills entertained further questions. None were presented.

**Ideas and Recommendations for 2011 Budget Priorities.** Based on Councilman Miller's earlier comments, Mr. Percival said they have priorities that are going to be there regardless of our funding source. They would like to discuss what Council's budget priorities are for 2011 and in the future.

Councilman Miller said his priority is economic development. He used to wish for the other priorities, but he would rather use every dime the city has to attract new business and put people to work.

Councilman Louderback said everyone knows we are in the worst recession since the Great Depression, so this is not business as usual. In his opinion, there are some tough cuts they have not made that need to be made. He did not think they could afford to hire a City Planner until November, and maybe not even then. The Engineering Department and the Law Department have operated without assistants for six months. He proposed that the City Manager and Finance Director operate without assistants in the future. We need cuts at the top of the Fire and Police Divisions because we have too many chiefs and not enough indians. They need to reopen the contract with the Firefighters Union. He did not know if Council or management could do that, so he would need to get some legal advice. He will state publically we cannot afford the increase the Firefighters Union got ... the levy did not pass and we cannot afford the additional \$125,000. We need some assistance from the firefighters just like we had assistance from our non-union employees. We cannot operate as normal as they have in the past. He strongly suggested they reopen the Firefighter's Union contract.

Councilman Louderback referenced the Xenia City Charter Section 9.07 (D) Transfer of Appropriations. *"At any time during the fiscal year the City Council may by ordinance or resolution transfer part or all of the unencumbered appropriation balance from one (1) department or major organizational unit to the appropriation for another department or major organizational unit. The Finance Director may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation balances for any department or organizational unit, provided that such transfers are within existing appropriations and shall report such transfers to the Council in writing in a timely manner."*

Councilman Louderback asked if that meant they could transfer money from one fund to another that is not in the budget. Mr. Percival said the Charter section refers to *unencumbered* balances – the non-appropriated monies. They cannot transfer money from Enterprise Funds (water, sewer, sanitation, streets) to the General Fund, but they can transfer money from the General Fund to the General Capital Improvement Fund. For example, they cannot take money from the Water Fund and put it in the General Fund.

Mr. Bazalak said the Charter refers to the final appropriations ordinance they do at the end of the year. For example, if the Fire Department's budgeted amounts came in under what they expected, and the Police Department's budget went over what was allocated, the City Charter gives Council the authority to transfer money within those departments. In this example, the Police Department's budget could be increased and the Fire Department's budget could be reduced. At the end of the year, the final appropriations ordinance transfers those appropriations between the General Fund Departments. Councilman Louderback said that answered his question.

Councilman Louderback asked approximately how much money they have in the Water and Sewer Fund. Mr. Merriman predicted the yearend balance in the Water Fund would be just under \$1 million and \$700,000 would be in the Sewer Fund. Mr. Bazalak said it would be more for both operating and capital funds. Councilman Louderback clarified that money is untouchable. Councilman Miller said the money has to be used for water or sewer projects. Councilman Louderback said he understood that. He clarified even though they are laying off firefighters, they cannot touch the water or sewer funds. Councilman Miller said that was correct.

Councilman Smith asked why money from the Enterprise Funds could not be transferred. Mr. Percival said State law will not allow that. Enterprise funds must be used for that particular purpose and cannot be used for anything else.

Councilman Louderback thought Council would have to make some very difficult decisions and the buck stops here. It was very critical to him that they reopen the Firefighter's contract.

Councilman Caupp said there is no reason to put out a wish list because there is no money. They need to stick to the necessities. His priorities are streets, curbs, stormwater, and sewers. There are areas that need to be repaired. Economic development is important, but he felt putting out a wish list would just be spinning their wheels right now.

Councilman Miller thought the number of catch basins that need to be replaced were counted. Mr. Percival said there are 700 catch basins that need to be replaced. Councilman Miller thought it would be great to replace all the catch basins, but that is not possible. Mr. Percival said the list will continue to grow. The longer they have to wait to do street repairs, the worse the storm sewers will be because water gets under the streets and pushes up the catch basins.

Councilman Caupp asked where streets were listed as a priority in the citizen's survey. Mr. Percival said 77% of citizens said streets are important<sup>1</sup>. Councilman Miller agreed citizens felt streets were a priority. He noted it took Fairborn five tries to pass their street levy. It may be different in Xenia based on the survey.

Mayor Bayless said her interest is economic growth activity. She asked Mr. Percival when the 2010 Census would be finalized. Mr. Percival said April 2011 is typically when the final Census figures are available. Mayor Bayless said she did not see how anything can be done if they do not have business.

Councilman Smith said his priority is economic development. If the economy does turn around, Xenia will be in competition with every city in the area to get new business. If the city lags behind, it will create an even worse situation.

Councilman Caupp felt they had enough priorities out there that are still not completed.

---

<sup>1</sup> Citizen's survey results: The highest percentage of support from respondents was for a streets improvement levy, with 74.2 percent of respondents indicating that they would support such a levy. More than half of respondents also expressed support for a fire levy that created a new fire station (55.7 percent) and a parks improvement levy (55.7 percent). Less than half of respondents (45.3 percent) expressed support for a police levy that would build a new criminal justice center.

Councilman Miller asked about the priority list from last year. Councilman Caupp noted one priority on last year's list was the Shawnee Park retention wall repair; he thought there were five items on the list. Mr. Percival agreed that was one priority. Another priority staff and Council identified in the past was a 20" redundant water line parallel from the Water Plant into town.

Vice President Mills said another project Council identified as a high priority was diking around the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Vice President Mills agreed that economic development should be a priority and that it would be difficult to create a wish list. Many things are important, such as having a safe city, jobs, streets, and parks. However, what good is having a park like Shawnee Park if you cannot walk on the sidewalks around the lagoon due to repairs being done. She did not see how they could begin to work on a wish list without economic development bringing in new jobs and creating an atmosphere for new growth. When the economy picks up, they should be two steps ahead of other communities.

Mr. Brodsky said he appreciated the fact that Council is very supportive and wants to promote economic development. Although they are not seeing new businesses hiring 200 employees, things are turning around because they are seeing incremental improvements. A new company is in the process of moving into the Industrial Park. He has already met with a business that is purchasing new machinery and hiring new employees. Tomorrow he is meeting with another company that is planning to add some machinery and bring back additional employees. As of this afternoon, the city's unemployment rate was down—although not significantly—it was better than a few months ago. More importantly, the overall number of people employed is up and the number of people in the work force is up, which means the fall in unemployment is not because people have moved out or given up. The labor force and number of people employed is up. Some small businesses that laid off people 18 months ago are bringing those people back, so things are getting better.

Mr. Brodsky understood they are in a very difficult economic time, but he asked Council to please keep in mind there are a lot of things that go into economic development. If they do not have the services, facilities, and schools, there will be no economic development. Economic development is selling the city to existing businesses that want to expand in Xenia or to attract new businesses that are looking for a place to locate. There has to be a reason for those decisions, but there are a tremendous amount of things that go into it. Obviously, education is important. Fortunately new schools are being built as a result of the passage of the school levy, and Xenia being designated as a *District of Excellence* is helping a lot. Council cannot slash everything to the bare bone because that ultimately affects their ability to sell the city and to get economic development.

Councilman Louderback asked Mr. Brodsky for his suggestions based on the money the city has to work with. Mr. Brodsky said he understood there is only so much money available and that they must work within that budget. Councilman Louderback said he hears that every day and was not being facetious, but he wanted to know how Mr. Brodsky would fix the problems. If services cannot be slashed, what can they do?

Councilman Louderback asked Mr. Brodsky if there was a positive or negative job growth in Xenia last year. Mr. Percival said the job growth last month was positive. Councilman

Louderback said he understood the job growth last *month*, but the job growth in Xenia has been negative for years. He asked Mr. Brodsky if it is correct that CMS is laying off people. Mr. Brodsky said CMS laid off a few people. Councilman Louderback said CMS had 160 employees and is now down to 40 employees. BARCO is laying off people. We don't have any economic development in the City of Xenia; we did not have economic development when times were good. Now Mr. Brodsky is telling Council to not slash services, so explain to Council what they can do without slashing services. Where is the positive growth that Mr. Brodsky has been talking about? He believes in calling a spade a spade. Where is the positive growth in Xenia – there is none!

Mr. Brodsky disagreed with Councilman Louderback. Councilman Louderback said if a business starts the year with a certain number of employees and ends the year with the same number of employees, where is the economic growth? Mr. Brodsky asked if Councilman Louderback was referring to city employees or private employers. Councilman Louderback said he was referring to the total number of people employed in the City of Xenia. Mr. Brodsky said according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics data as of today, unemployment was 13.5% in March and down to 11.8% in May. Councilman Louderback asked how those figures addressed people who have just quit looking for jobs. Mr. Brodsky said the total employment in January was 11,267; February 11,291; March 11,391; April 11,539; and May 11,622. Those are not huge numbers, but they are seeing an increase in total employment and not just the rate, because there are businesses who are recalling laid off employees.

Councilman Louderback said he understood economic development, but he regrets that Mr. Brodsky said this Council should not be slashing the budget to the bone. If Mr. Brodsky can come up with a better idea, he should.

Mr. Bazalak said there has been a significant reduction in employees over the last number of years. Since 2003, 36 positions have been reduced. In 2003, 15 positions were laid off, 9 full-time positions were laid off in 2009, and 12 positions, including fire and police, were laid off in June 2010, which totals 36 positions. Councilman Louderback said he understood all the cuts they went through; Mr. Bazalak is preaching to the choir. There are people saying let's do it this way or that way. If Mr. Brodsky has a better idea, bring it to us. That is what he tells all the other citizens because he is very tired of all the "armchair quarterbacks."

Mr. Percival thought they all hear that every day. They have heard why don't you lay off "X" such as the Public Service Department, which they can't do. What he continues to say is that they work extremely hard to provide the best possible services based on the available revenue. He felt everyone in this room has made decisions based on that thought process. They must decide what they can buy or the best possible service they can provide with the money they have.

Councilman Louderback said how the Appointed Officials could have negotiated a contract to give employees a raise if our levy fails. Mr. Percival said the contract with the Firefighters Union was negotiated back in 2008. Councilman Louderback said he did not care if the contract was negotiated in 2000. Mr. Percival said the Firefighters Union contract was negotiated in 2008 before the economic downturn. Councilman Louderback said he understood contracts, but that was just poor negotiations! Now the levy has failed and the city is giving the firefighters an 11% raise because that is what was negotiated in a contract. Now you tell me that is smart business. Mr. Percival said the Firefighters Union contract was negotiated in 2008, prior to the economic downturn. Councilman

