

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

January 3, 2022

The Council of the City of Lima met in regular session at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Mayor Sharetta Smith; Tony Geiger, Law Director; Anthony DiPietro, Deputy Law Director; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Steven Cleaves, Finance Director; Susan Crotty, Dir. Of DCD; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Util.; Police Major Ron Holman; and Dana Addis, Clerk.

The invocation was given by Councilor Gordon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL showed the following members present: Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE WAS PRESENTED:

001-22 An ordinance appointing Carla A. Thompson 3rd Ward Councilor. Nixon moved, seconded by Dixon, Gordon moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Neeper explained he cannot support the Ordinance because he has spoken with numerous individuals that feel that this Ordinance needs to be taken to an interview process where applications are collected. He further explained this is not due to his personal feelings towards Councilor Thompson. Councilor Thompson clarified she will be abstaining. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn and Nixon. Nay, 1; Neeper. Abstention, 1; Thompson. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-1 vote and 1 abstention by Councilor Thompson.

OATH OF OFFICE:

The swearing in Ceremony and the Oath of Office were given to Councilor Gordon, Councilor Thompson, Councilor Dixon and Council Neeper.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Kelly Smart, 2350 N. Cole Street, expressed her concern with EMF digital theft and harassment.

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THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy.

Gordon moved that item “a” of the consent calendar be received, filed, and approved, seconded by Glenn, motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From Downtown Lima, Inc. requesting 2022 funding.
2. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to enter into contractual service agreements during 2022.
3. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to modify the strength ordinance.
4. From the Fire Chief regarding an exemption request from Lima Allen County Paramedics.

Councilor Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that Communications No. 1 through 4 be received, filed and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare any necessary legislation. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

002-22 An Ordinance amending the authorized employment positions in the Public Works Department by amending Section 246.09 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Ohio. Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

003-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with JP Management. Thompson moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Gordon stated he is grateful to be able to start his third term and is looking forward to serving the 1st Ward of the City of Lima. She thanked wife for putting up with the phone calls and him in general. He thanked his son for holding the Bible and also thanked his Mother for

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attending and keeping him in line. He referenced Matthew 22:36-40. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson reminded people to be conscious of where they are at, to continue masking and social distancing. He encouraged people to vaccinate.

Councilor Thompson thanked her family for staying home and being safe and thanked her son for holding the Bible for her. She thanked those who are being courteous to others during the Pandemic. She is looking forward to being the 3rd Ward Councilwoman and encouraged her constituents to contact her if they have any concerns.

Councilor Ehora said the majority of her term has been spent at home, attending meetings virtually. She said there are a lot of issues to address in 2022 and she is excited to have some sense of normalcy in order to tackle some of the things that they need to tackle. She explained COVID is still here and the losses are staggering. She encouraged people to continue to be courteous to others. She expressed everyone needs to be good to each other and needs to look inside their hearts and decide what their intents are everytime they open their mouths.

Councilor Dixon said Happy New Year to everyone. He thanked his wife, mother-in-law, his parents, grandmother and uncles for attending and being a great support system for him. He asked people to take some time to include those touched by COVID in their hours of meditation. He said people are becoming depressed due to being home for so long. He invited the 5th Ward residents to attend the Peacemaker's Neighborhood Association meeting held on Wednesday, January 19th at 5:30 p.m. located at St. James Church. He wished everyone the best, many blessed days and much prosperity.

Councilor Glenn congratulated the recently sworn in Council members. He said COVID is getting tough. He advised a company will coming in to test individuals for the virus in various locations throughout the City. He expressed the need for everyone to get tested and be smart. He told Kelly Smart he has information for her regarding her concerns. He announced they will be having the 42nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. He announced they will continue to have the Martin Luther King Jr. March on January 17th at 1:00 pm and the banquet will start at 5:00 pm on Sunday, January 16th located at the Civic Center. He looked at the things that were done in 2021 and he encouraged everyone to continue with the great things. He thanked everyone involved in the different programs. He provided examples of those who have received help. He spoke about the importance of helping the homeless especially in the winter when it is cold. He wished everyone a fantastic year.


Councilor Neeper wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed he is looking forward to an end of the crisis that is going on in the country. He announced the Finance Committee will be holding Budget Hearings regarding the Mayor's Budget on January 25th, 26th, and 27th at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. He encouraged everyone to attend and provide input.

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Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, to authorize a Resolution be prepared memorializing Aaron Matthews. He said Aaron Matthews was a common name in the local sports world who has gone way too soon. Motion carried.

President Nixon wished everyone a Happy New Year. He congratulated the 4 new Council Members and expressed he is looking forward to working with them over the next couple of years.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until January 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Dixon, motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President