

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

March 8, 2021

The Council of the City of Lima met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. via audio/video communication.

Attending were: Mayor David Berger; Tony Geiger, Law Director; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Steven Cleaves, Finance Director; Kari Keener, Dir. of Human Resources; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Utilities; Susan Crotty; Dir. Of DCD; Howard Elstro, Dir. of Public Works; Sharetta Smith, Chief of Staff; Major Cortez; and Dana Addis, Clerk.

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

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

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy;
- b. Board of Health Minutes of January 8, 2021;
- c. Visit Greater Lima 2020 Annual Report;
- d. Public Works 2020 Annual Report.

Gordon moved that items "a" of the consent calendar be received, filed, and approved and that item "b-d" be received and filed, seconded by Wilkerson, motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Mayor requesting legislation for the establishment of a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). Moved by Thompson, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed; that the Law Director prepare the necessary legislation; that the Clerk cause publication of a Legal Notice as provided by law. Motion carried.

2. From the Mayor regarding a letter of support for the DORA received from Downtown Lima, Inc. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

3. From the Dir. of Community Development regarding legislation to place tax assessments. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

4. From the Dir. of Community Development regarding legislation to enter into contract with WOCAP. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

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5. From the Dir. of Community Development regarding legislation to enter into contract for services of a Vehicle Enforcement Officer. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

6. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to allow for the Water Supply & Treatment processor and plant software upgrade. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Thompson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

7. From the Dir. of Utilities requesting legislation to pay Synagro Central. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Ehora, that the communication be received, filed and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

8. From the City Engineer regarding a virtual public meeting to discuss various safety improvements along Main Street and Market Street in Lima's Central Business District. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. President Nixon explained this meeting is a virtual meeting and he hopes the link will be published on the City of Lima website where it is easy to find so people can understand what all is involved in this project. He typically does not support roundabouts, particularly in an area like this which strikes him as problematic due to pedestrian traffic. Motion carried.

9. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to enter into contract with Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

10. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to purchase real property for the Jackson St. & Findlay Road Improvement Project. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

11. From the Auditor regarding the contract labor report for February, 2021. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Thompson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

12. From the Chief of Police regarding Asset Forfeiture funds received. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Pilate Bradley presented Council with the Civil Services 2020 Annual Report. He gave a brief synopsis of the various examinations that took place throughout the year. He highlighted there have been 38 announcement whether original employment or promotional advancement received by the Civil Service Board. He summarized the various rules and regulations that were amended, rescinded and/or repealed. President Nixon commended Pilate, the rest of the Board and Debra Vobbe for the work that was done the past year. (A complete copy of the report is on file in the Council office.)

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Susan Crotty, Dir. of Community Development presented Council with the 2020 CAPER. She explained the projects that serve low to moderate income areas. She reviewed the money received for program year 2019-2020. She explained they received an acceptance letter from HUD. She highlighted the Spring Street Senior Lofts were completed a little over a week ago and are now accepting applications of income qualified residents over the age of 55. She provided a summary of the Emergency Repairs and First Home Lima statistics. She reviewed the various Community Development projects including police support services, demolition, neighborhood support, park improvements, property maintenance code enforcement and street/curb reconstruction. She gave a brief synopsis of the various economic development programs including Career Pathways in Advanced Manufacturing and the Start-Up Lab. She explained the Fair Housing program and the inability to perform field tests due to the pandemic. (A complete copy of the report is on file in the Council office.)

Gary Lewis presented Council with a summary of the Downtown Lima Military Banner Program. He explained the program is currently being implemented by small towns and the purpose is to recognize military veterans. He explained the various organizations that are currently involved in this project. He explained they are seeking assistance from the City to hang the banners throughout the City. Mayor Berger advised this is a surprise to him and the other banners in Downtown have been contact with Downtown Lima, Inc. who in turn has a separate contractor that puts the banners up and takes them down and rotates them. President Nixon explained he is in support of the program and will support anything the City can do, but he recommended he get in touch with Howard Elstro or the Mayor to determine what support can be provided. (A complete copy of the report is on file in the Council office.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Councilor Wilkerson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the Human Resources Committee Meeting Report of March 1, 2021 as submitted in writing be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

042-21 An Ordinance levying special assessments for property maintenance code charges on premises in the City of Lima, Ohio. Thompson moved, seconded by Glenn, 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.

043-21 An Ordinance levying special assessments for the 2020 Combined Sidewalk Project, Project No. 1-20 for construction of certain described sidewalks in accordance with Resolution No. 06-20, adopted February 10, 2020. Ehora 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.

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044-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract for Junk Auto and Vehicle Violation Enforcement. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, 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.

045-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with West Ohio Community Action Partnership. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Dixon thanked his colleagues for their hard work and dedication. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote. Councilor Thompson was unable to vote due to technical difficulties.

046-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to purchase or accept donations of real property for the Jackson St. & Findlay Road Improvements Project. Ehora moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote. Councilor Thompson was unable to vote due to technical difficulties.

047-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Brandstetter Caroll, Inc. Ehora moved, seconded by Dixon, 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.

048-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with CCI Systems. Gordon 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 Ehora wished all women a Happy International Women's Day. She expressed appreciation for the Junk Auto Enforcement Ordinance because it has been an issue that has recently come to the forefront for her. She explained she is seeing a lot of speeding and trash along the roads and asked everyone to respect the City and neighborhoods. She asked everyone who is walking their dogs to pick up any dog waste and be respectful. She encouraged everyone to get the vaccine as it becomes available. She explained her experience of getting the vaccine. She also encouraged everyone to continue wearing their masks.

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Councilor Dixon announced a vaccination clinic will be held on March 13, 2021 from 1p.m. to 4p.m. at Philipppian Missionary Baptist Church. He expressed the importance of being vaccinated especially in the African American community. He wished all women in his life and throughout the community a Happy International Women's Day. He encouraged residents to pick up trash to help out with the litter. He congratulated the Lima Senior High Boys' Basketball Team for their win district championship. He wished them the best of luck.

Councilor Glenn encouraged residents get vaccinated. He said they will be working hard to get people vaccinated. He said they received funding for kids to pick up trash in some areas around the City. He is glad to see junk auto being taken care of. He explained they will be kicking off their housing project soon and they are hoping to do eight houses this year. He said there are a lot of resources for people in the City. He expressed his appreciation to the women in his life.

Councilor Neeper reminded everyone to slow down and be mindful of the kids that are out playing.

Councilor Gordon thanked Gary Lewis and everyone involved in the Military Banner Program. He encouraged everyone to support our veterans who honored our country by being in the military. He reminded people to be good to each other.

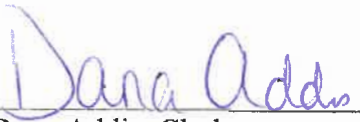
Councilor Gordon reminded everyone that March 14th is the deadline for applying for the police officer test and he encouraged those interested to apply. He explained as a veteran, he gets a little jealous when he drives through the smaller towns and sees the banners dedicated to veterans. He would like to see his face on a banner one day. He asked everyone to be mindful of the loud music they are playing while driving.

Councilor Thompson asked those interested to call Crime Victim Services to register for the Art Therapy Group classes throughout the month. She asked everyone to spend March learning how women have contributed to making the world a better place. She acknowledges the reason why minorities have a lower vaccination rate being they don't necessarily have a reason to trust the medical system. She encouraged everyone to look into the information available about the vaccination and talk to their doctors about it. She asked everyone to do their part and be courteous to other people. She announced the CLA will be holding a Mayor Candidate Q&A with Autumn Swanson on March 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom and Facebook Live. She has noticed the excess trash in the neighborhoods and suggested thinking of creative ways to involve children in cleanup so they understand the importance of not littering. She announced students from the OSU Social Work Program have put together a We Love Lima Community Pick Up on April 17th. Information will be available on the Central Lima Neighborhood Association Facebook Page. She thanked Susan Crotty, the Dept. of Community Development, Sharetta Smith, Jackie Fox and Anna Schnippel for stepping up to help make sure there weren't homeless residents last month. She appreciates the quick response time to various concerns regarding housing and maintenance.

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President Nixon inquired about City Wide Pride dates. Susan Crotty advised they are still planning on holding it in May. Nixon wished all women a Happy International Women's Day. He reiterated the expectation of a report back from administration regarding the Military Banner Program.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until March 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Dixon, motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President