

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

August 24, 2020

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; Susan Crotty; Dir. Of DCD; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Util.; Howard Elstro, Dir. of Public Works; Sharetta Smith, Chief of Staff; Chief Martin; and Dana Addis, Clerk.

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

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

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:

013-20 A Resolution memorializing the late Martha (Martie) MacDonell. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the Resolution be adopted on the first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the Resolution. President Nixon said he had the chance to get to know both Mr. and Mrs. MacDonell and there is going to be a void in our community. He expressed his sympathy and appreciation for the contributions that the MacDonell family has made to Lima. Councilor Ehora said Mr. and Mrs. MacDonell were a large part of the community for as long as she can remember. She truly believes that Mr. and Mrs. MacDonell were legends in terms of loving the community the way people should with longevity; volunteerism and they were the best. She expressed her condolences to the family. Councilor Dixon extended his condolences to the MacDonell Family and thanked them for sharing their mother with the Lima Community. He explained his fondest memory of Martie MacDonell was when she was helping in Sally Windle's art class, where she made each student feel like they were an artist. He said the words that Martie would utter, would make any child in the district believe they could do anything when it came to the arts. He said Martie was the reason he joined the cast of Dreamgirls at the Encore Theatre. He said there will be a great void in the community for many decades. Councilor Glenn said Martie loved Lima and he had the opportunity to meet her when they had Young City Council. He said Martie blessed the kids and was a great pioneer of the City. He expressed his condolences and said she will be missed. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neepner and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the resolution was adopted on the first reading by an 8-0 vote. Amy MacDonell thanked Council and expressed the joy it was sharing her mother with the community. She said Jamie's comments about her mother are what her mother was all about. She explained her mother had a vision that transcended so many things and for that she is proud. Parker MacDonell thanked Council and said it was an honor to be a part of the Council meeting. He explained that even

though his parents are gone, their legacy is going to live on in Lima. He said they are going to be supportive of programs in Lima particularly those that involve the arts, children and particularly community unity.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy;
- b. Minutes of Special Council Meeting dated August 10, 2020;
- c. Treasurer's Report for April, 2020;
- d. Treasurer's Report for May, 2020;
- e. Visit Greater Lima's 2020 Annual Mid-Year Report.

Gordon moved that items "a-b" of the consent calendar be received, filed, and approved and that items "c-e" be received and filed, seconded by Glenn, motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to apply for, and if awarded, accept and administer an award from the US Dept. of justice for the Justice Assistance Grant Program. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be amended to omit the sentence "Each entity will receive \$13,638" in paragraph 3. Motion carried. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed as amended. Motion carried.

2. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2020 Budget. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

3. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to make a payment to the Water Research Foundation. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

4. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to amend the contract with Allen Water District. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

5. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to approve the Market Street parking garage rates. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

6. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to amend the contract with Bluffton Paving authorized in Ord. 115-20. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

7. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to enter into contract with Hohenbrink Excavating, Inc. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

8. From the Deputy Dir. of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry regarding legislation to apply for, receive and expend grant dollars from the Sertoma Club of Lima. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

9. From the Dir. of Community Development requesting legislation to place tax assessments. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received, filed and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Steve Cleaves, Finance Director, summarized the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the City's finances. He said the economy still remains in a recession and the future support of the federal government is unknown at this time. He advised the City's income tax receipts are running 10% under budget and the general fund cash balance is forecast to be reduced by \$2.8 Million. The City's hiring freeze has reduced man power by about 9% or approximately 28 employees. He explained the payroll protection program is crucial. He reviewed critical unknowns going forward including Payroll Protection Program, Covid Fund spending rules and regulations, aid to State and local governments and Covid Virus Control, treatments and vaccine. (A complete copy of the presentation is on file in the Council Office.)

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

144-20 An Ordinance amending the 2020 Annual Budget. Ehora moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. Councilor Neeper was unable to vote due to technical difficulties. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

145-20 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept and administer grant funds from the Sertoma Club of Lima. Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, 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.

146-20 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept and administer funds from the U.S. Department of Justice for the Justice Assistance Grant Program (Local Solicitation). Dixon 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,

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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.

147-20 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the Agreement with the Allen Water District. Gordon 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.

148-20 An Ordinance authorizing the Auditor to make a payment to the Water Research Foundation. Gordon 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.

149-20 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Hohenbrink Excavating, 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.

150-20 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Bluffton Paving as authorized in Ordinance 115-20. Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, 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.

151-20 An Ordinance approving the standard parking rates for the Market Street Parking Garage. 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.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Glenn explained he has had a lot of sleepless nights with all of the shootings happening. He thanked Councilor Dixon for stepping up and telling them what to do because the black on black crime has to stop. He said his mind has been going nonstop trying to figure out a solution to stop them from killing one another. He said they will be registering voters in the Fifth and Sixth Wards on Sunday. He said he has had a lot of calls regarding the increased price in cable. Councilor Glenn moved, seconded by Gordon, to refer the issue of cable rates and service to the Public Works Committee. Motion carried 7-1 with Nixon voting no. He thanked everyone that

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helped out when the child was burnt in a fire.

Councilor Neeper thanked local law enforcement for the increased activity after concerns being raised by Council members. He has seen a lot of activity and vehicles pulled over.

Councilor Gordon thanked Derry for referring the cable rates to Committee because he has some questions his self and if anything, he can educate himself and others of the different avenues to help the constituents. He expressed the importance of enforcing the noise ordinance. Chief Martin explained the noise ordinance is regularly enforced but there are difficulties of enforcing it in Court. Gordon thanked Caprella for handling a water issue for him. He reminded everyone to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson reminded everyone when they are calling into the Police Dept. to slow down in their words so the dispatcher can understand what is being requested. He reminded everyone to wear their masks in public and respect other's distance.

Councilor Thompson thanked Superintendent Ackerman and all of the employees of the Lima City Schools for the work they have put in to get the children back in school safely. She is homeschooling her child and the teachers have been accommodating and she feels the district did a great job of preparing the best they could in a horrible situation. She has noticed Census workers out and explained the workers kind and are marked with "2020 Census". She expressed the importance of completing the Census. She thanked Dr. Glenn for his work with the Social Justice Committee. She announced on September 19th from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. they will be holding a drive through voter registration at 875 W. Market Street. She announced the Neighborhood Impact Week will be happening starting Monday, September 21st. She announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will be meeting in person and Zoom this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

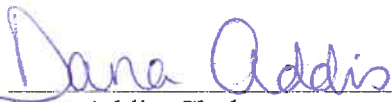
Councilor Ehora gave examples of incidents that have recently happened where neighbors were helping neighbors. She explained the importance of watching out for your neighbors. She said school is back in session and the drag racing and motorcycle noise is back along with parking problems which she is working with Chief Martin to find a temporary resolution considering they do not have the police force to enforce every single complaint. She explained they are doing the best they can and said Code Enforcement is cooperative and awesome about giving the history and options. She said in a world where you can be anything, be kind.

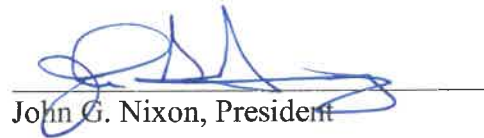
Councilor Dixon referenced the violence that has been happening in the City. He thanked law enforcement and Chief Martin for assisting in additional patrolling in those areas. He said there comes a point where they need to stand up as a culture or a community and say enough is enough. He explained too many times it is spoken of police brutality, but this time it is them laying their own individuals in the street. He does agree there may be bad apples in law enforcement but that doesn't make them all bad apples. He explained it is the same for the black community and culture. He said they just need to weed the bad out from the good. He said young men are making

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permanent decisions based on temporary situations. He asked the community to get the former restored gang bangers out in the community to teach the young men and women that making these decisions is not the way to go. He is willing to sit down and have a conversation so everyone can voice their concerns to come up with a solution. He said we need to worry about the safety of all and not just a few. He thanked Mr. Kirk Niemeyer for providing the traffic report for St. Johns Avenue. He asked Chief Martin for additional patrolling in the St. Johns area. He said the Porch Patrol is taking place at different locations and Autumn Swanson can provide the times, dates and locations. He requested a meeting with Tony Geiger and Susan Crotty regarding the property located at 1573 E. Elm Street which has become an issue over the last 2-3 years. He asked everyone to continue to pray for each other, wear their masks and be kind.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until September 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Neeper, motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President