

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

March 27, 2023

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; Eric Pheneger, Deputy Law Director; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Shane Coleman, Chief of Staff, Della Bradford, Dir. of Human Resources; Andria Perkins; Dir. Of Housing & Neighborhoods; Carmillia Zion, Deputy Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods; Amber Martin, Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Util.; Sara Weekley, Deputy Dir. of Utilities; Kirk Niemeyer, Dir. of Public Works; Ric Stolly, Deputy Public Works Dir. I; Jessica Begonia, Public Information Officer; Police Chief Angel Cortes, 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, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Absent: Ehora

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:

008-23 A Resolution honoring Hofeller, Hiatt and Clark for 125 years of service to the Lima community. Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the Resolution be adopted on the first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the Resolution. Councilor Neeper thanked the family for all of their efforts they have put into the City of Lima as 125 years is a huge accomplishment. Councilor Wilkerson explained when he thinks of Hofeller, Hiatt and Clark, he thinks of how they value their customers which he thanked them for. Councilor Glenn thanked Hofeller, Hiatt and Clark for their 125 years of service to the community. Councilor Dixon explained 125 years speaks volume for providing a service to the Lima community. He expressed the importance of Councils' support of the small businesses in the City of Lima. He thanked the Hofeller family for their dedication to the City. President Nixon thanked the Hofeller crew for their involvement in the community and wished them well in retirement. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the resolution was adopted on the first reading by a 7-0 vote. Phil Osman thanked Council for the recognition.

009-23 A Resolution memorializing the late Matthew Myers, outstanding citizen, and extending condolences to his family on behalf of the Lima City Council. Neeper moved, seconded by Thompson, that the Resolution be adopted on the first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the Resolution. Councilor Neeper expressed his condolences to the Myers family. He thanked the Myers Family as being a firefighter is not an easy job. He recalled how he became friends with Matt. He pointed out Matt's dedication to the citizens. Councilor Gordon also recalled back to when he first met Matt and how they became camping neighbors. He expressed how great of a guy

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Matt was and it is nice to know that everyone else feels the same way. He expressed his condolences to the family. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Glenn, Nepper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the resolution was adopted on the first reading by a 7-0 vote. Rebecca Myers thanked Council for the Resolution.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Robert Williams was not present to speak.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy;
- b. Bd. of Health Minutes of February 10, 2023;
- c. Treasurer's Report for January, 2023;
- d. Treasurer's Report for February, 2023.

Gordon moved that item "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 Auditor regarding the February 2023 financial reports.
- 2. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2023 budget.
- 3. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to enter into contract with Statewide Ford.
- 4. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with Ohio CAT.
- 5. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to amend Ordinance 249-22.
- 6. From the Civil Service Secretary regarding the recommendation for the GenNext Program Site Leader position.
- 7. From the Civil Service Secretary regarding the recommendation for the Human Resources Intern position.
- 8. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to enter into contract with Master Maintenance.

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9. From the Building Administrator regarding legislation to establish permit fees for a Voluntary Demolition Program.

10. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to purchase a temporary easement for the ALL-West St. Bridge project.

11. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to enter into an LPA agreement with ODOT.

12. From the Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coord. regarding new program allocations and program planning in the Dept. of Workforce and Small Business Development.

13. From the Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coord. regarding legislation to accept the minutes of the 2022 Tax Incentive Review Council meeting and to accept/modify the recommendations of the TIRC.

14. From the Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods regarding new program allocation and planning in the Dept. of Housing and Neighborhoods.

15. From the Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods regarding legislation to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America.

16. From the Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods regarding a new program allocation and program planning in the Dept. of Housing and Neighborhoods.

Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Thompson, that Communications No. 1 through 16 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare any necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Deb Vobbe presented Council with the Civil Service 2022 annual report. She advised the Civil Service Board in conjunction with the Human Resources Department has initiated informational workshops at various locations in order to provide various hiring information to the community. She advised 37 exams were performed in 2022, 17 of which were competitive, 17 were non-competitive and 3 were promotional. She explained the promotional exam candidates are increasing slightly although safety services is still down. She advised starting this year, the safety services exams will be administered via testing centers and virtual testing in hopes of increasing the amount of candidates. She advised there were 57 appointments resulting from the testing and 1 reinstatement. President Nixon asked if the new safety services method of testing is going to be expanded to some of the other skilled jobs. Vobbe explained it is possible, but the safety services testing is being done through the National Testing Network who has been

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administering tests for a number of years and is testing for 207 cities within the State of Ohio. She further explained there are various other companies that offer testing for other positions but is not as developed as they prefer. President Nixon expressed his appreciation for the Civil Service Board and all of the work that they do. Deb Vobbe pointed out that the attendance rate has increased from 50% to approximately 80-90%.

Ric Stolly presented Council with a review of the activities in the Parks Department over the last winter. He explained that the department was able to catch up on some other maintenance since there wasn't as much snow this year. He advised the busiest part of the winter was being involved in the youth boys and girls basketball league which started on December 3rd. He reviewed the basketball season statistics. He referenced the planning that they are doing for the Spring 2023 season including the ECHO program, the Lima Locos 2023 season. He explained none of the Parks activities and programs would be possible without the support of Council, the vision of the Administration and a committed and passionate City staff.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Councilor Gordon advised the Utilities Committee met on March 6, 2023 to discuss the electric aggregation. All members have received a copy. Gordon moved, seconded by Dixon, that the report be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

055-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for HOME-ARP funding. Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, 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.

056-23 An Ordinance accepting the minutes and recommendations of the Tax Incentive Review Council. Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, 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.

057-23 An Ordinance amending the 2023 annual budget. Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, 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.

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058-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Statewide Ford to purchase six police cruisers for the Lima Police Department. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Mayor Smith advised Council that this Ordinance is being presented due to supply chain issues that were encountered last year during a purchase so some of the vehicles were budgeted for the 2022 year. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, 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.

059-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd., authorized under Ordinance 249-22. Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, 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.

060-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Ohio CAT for equipment repair at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Gordon 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, Thompson, 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.

061-23 An Ordinance amending Section 246.14 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Human Resources Department, authorized employment positions. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, 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.

062-23 An Ordinance amending Section 246.19 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Workforce & Small Business Development Department, authorized employment positions. Thompson 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, 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.

063-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to establish a voluntary demolition program. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, to amend the Ordinance by substituting a replacement page for page 1 & 2 of Exhibit A. Motion carried. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading as amended. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes as amended on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

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064-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an LPA Agreement with ODOT for the ALL-West Street Bridge Project; PID 115921. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, 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.

065-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to purchase a temporary easement for the ALL-West Street Bridge project. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, 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.

066-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Master Maintenance for cleaning services. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Thompson, to amend the Ordinance in the first section by striking the words “totaling \$8,055.46 monthly for such services for both buildings, plus Floor Maintenance Care the cost for which will be based upon a square foot price” and replacing that verbiage with “a three year period” and authorizing the Law Director to provide a clean copy. Motion carried. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed as amended on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes as amended on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Glenn announced there will be a landlord meeting on March 29th from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Wingate. He also announced there will be an Easter Egg hunt on April 8th at Hoover Park from 12-2:00 p.m. He further announced on April 23rd at 3:00 p.m., there will be a play about Malcom X and Martin Luther King Jr. located at the Encore Theatre. He expressed his condolences to the Jerry Jones family. Glenn moved, seconded by Dixon, to authorize a Resolution memorializing Jerry Jones. Motion carried. Glenn thanked the volunteers that helped out with the trees over the weekend. He loves to see neighbors helping neighbors.

Councilor Neeper congratulated the Mayor for her State of the City Address last week which was informative and very well attended. He addressed the rumor that there is nothing to do in Lima. He explained there is not a night that goes by that there isn't something to do in Lima. He listed the various businesses in the City of Lima that have things to do and expressed the need to market the City more so that there are things to do. Neeper moved, seconded by Thompson, to refer the issue of the Downtown Dog Park in the Community & Economic Development Committee. Motion carried. He reminded everyone to slow down and pay attention while driving.

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Councilor Gordon referenced Main Street being full of cars on Saturday evening. He wished everyone a Happy Easter and reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson thanked the Civil Service Board for all that they do to move the City forward. He referenced a co-worker stating the City of Lima won't hire "us" which made him furious. He expressed his belief that the City has moved forward in their efforts to get not just citizens of the City of Lima, but also those who look different than those who were hired in the past. He explained it is the community's responsibility to sell why it is important to be a member of Lima safety services. He encouraged the citizens to change their dialogue about the City's safety services and start talking about the good they provide in hopes of encouraging the youth to inspire to be a member of safety services.

Councilor Thompson thanked the various organizations that have been supporting the ONU HealthWise Bus Tour which is currently held on Mondays in the 3rd Ward. She referenced a discussion she had where the individual mentioned all of the resources the City of Lima offers, but they can't get people into the doors. She explained when inside the doors, no one looks like or sounds like you, individuals are not going to walk into those doors. She has found with the bus tours, the citizens do want to be healthy and want care. She referenced an individual who came on the bus and found out he had a blood clot. She explained in Lima it is easy to find things to do especially for the community size. She referenced the Community Survey. She thanked the Mayor and her Administration for the voluntary demolition program legislation.

Councilor Dixon referenced the resurrection and asked everyone to go forth and spread love. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

President Nixon moved, seconded by Thompson, to authorize a Resolution of appreciation to Carol Snider for 60 years of service with the City of Lima. Motion carried. Nixon moved, seconded by Thompson, to authorize the absence and salary of Councilor Ehora. Motion carried.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until April 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Dixon, motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President