

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL  
LIMA, OHIO

April 10, 2023

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

Attending were: Sharetta Smith, Mayor; Tony Geiger, 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 Major John Bishop; and Dana Addis, Clerk.

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

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

Gordon moved, seconded by Dixon, to amend the Agenda by adding Ordinance 76-23. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:

010-23 A Resolution expressing the appreciation of the Lima City Council to Carol Snider for her services to the City of Lima. Nixon moved, seconded by Dixon, that the Resolution be adopted on the first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the Resolution. Councilor Gordon congratulated Carol and expressed how amazing of an accomplishment it is to be employed for so long. Councilor Wilkerson explained his hesitation of working for 60 years speaks well to Carol wanting to serve people for as long as she has. He thanked her for her service. Councilor Glenn explained Carol never said anything bad about her job and always had a smile on her face. He wished her luck in the future. Councilor Ehora congratulated Carol on her retirement and explained she respects anyone who stays in their profession as long as Carol has because it says a lot about who she is and the organization she works for. President Nixon noted he has been around for 32 years of Carol's 60 year tenure and he will miss seeing her around the office. He expressed his appreciation to Carol on her service to the City and wished her well in the future and many winnings in Bingo. 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 resolution was adopted on the first reading by an 8-0 vote. Carol Snider expressed her appreciation to Randy Bartels for being an appreciative boss. She recalled a time when they would perform wage studies and reminisced about the reason her personnel file listed that she wouldn't empty spittoons.

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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 Dixon, motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to advertise for bids and enter into contract for landscaping services for the Field Services Division.

2. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding a request to enter into an agreement with All-Phase Electric.

3. From the Workforce & Small Business Development Coordinator regarding legislation to accept minutes and recommendations of the Allen County Tax Incentive Review Council.

4. From the Dept. of Housing & Neighborhoods Director regarding various contracts with specified parcel mowing providers for 2023.

5. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with Degen Excavating Co., Inc.

6. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to enter into contract with Allen Soil & Water Conservation District.

Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that Communications No. 1 through 6 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare any necessary legislation. Motion carried.

7. From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a liquor permit transfer request for 706 N. Cable Road. Councilor Nepper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received, filed and authorize the Clerk to file with no objections. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Major John Bishop presented Council with the Lima Police Department 2022 Annual Report. He advised on June 3, 2022, Angel Cortes was promoted to Chief of Police. He explained the focus of the Lima Police Department is to reduce crime and increase the quality of life of the residents. The Department implemented officer assignments in specific areas so they can take

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ownership of the area and give direct communication with the residents in the neighborhood. He further explained the Department is embracing smart technologies which allow officers to respond to crime faster and handle the issues in a timely manner. He referenced the new speed trailer. He advised overall there was a slight increase in Part 1 Crimes but the larger crimes were down significantly compared to 2021. He reviewed the different ways the department was able to raise money to give back to the community. (A complete copy of the Annual Report is on file in the Council office).

Kirk Niemeyer presented Council with the Public Works Department 2022 Annual Report. He recited a quote by Woody Hayes. He gave his department employees credit for being supportive in his transition into Public Works Director. He acknowledged the major accomplishments for 2022. He advised the Department was able to secure 13 grants totaling \$15 Million. He further advised there were \$4.8 Million in residential improvements inside the City of Lima. He referenced the labor shortage which is an issue still in 2023 but the Department is working with Civil Service and the Human Resources Department to market their openings and find the best candidates. He referenced the Department's budget and sources of funding. He pointed out the Mayor and Chief of Staff have implemented the Key Performance Indicator which is a new way to track performance in the Departments. President Nixon explained Kirk's transition into the Public Works Director position has gone remarkably well. (A complete copy of the Annual Report is on file in the Council office).

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Councilor Wilkerson thanked everyone who attended the Human Resources Committee meeting on March 30, 2023 and those who had input in the conversation. All members have received a copy of the report. Councilor Wilkerson moved, seconded by Glenn, that the Human Resources Committee report for the March 30, 2023 meeting, be received, filed and approved. President Nixon clarified he will vote to approve the Committee Report but that does not reflect that he is in support of the recommendation. Motion carried by a 7-1 vote, Nixon voting no.

#### THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

067-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept title to the real property located at 928 East North Street and an adjacent vacant lot on East North Street. Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, 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, Nepper 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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068-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to re-allocate unused CDBG funds to create a Microenterprise program for historically disadvantaged populations. Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, 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.

069-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to establish a Safe at Home program. 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.

070-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to establish the Better Together Home Repair Program. Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, 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.

071-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America. Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Thompson thanked the Mayor and her Administration for their efforts to improve the housing quality and help home owners improve their homes and make them safer. She encouraged citizens to reach out and take advantage of the programs. 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.

072-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for landscaping services for the Field Service Division of the Utilities Department. 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.

073-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the purchase of a ¾ ton four wheel drive truck for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Gordon 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.

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074-23 An Ordinance accepting the Minutes and recommendations of the Allen County Tax Incentive Review Council. Neeper 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.

075-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Allen Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD). 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.

076-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Degen Excavating. 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.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, to authorize a resolution memorializing Alberta Lee. Motion carried. Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, to authorize a resolution of appreciation to Hefner T.V. for their years of service to the community. Motion carried. Neeper recited a quote by Harry Truman.

Councilor Gordon thanked Mayor Smith and her staff for meeting with a local business man. He referenced Precious Grundy's new book which he thought was amazing and is grateful for her work for the Lima News. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson recalled a confrontation he witnessed between a clerk and customer at a gas station. He asked everyone to be patient and kind with each other.

Councilor Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, to refer the review of Landlord Registration and Licensing legislation to the Economic and Community Development Committee. Motion carried. She announced there will be a Café Convo on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at Mercy Health from 6-7:00 p.m. where they will be talking with Coleman. She announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will be April 26<sup>th</sup> at 300 West Market Street at 6:00 pm. She reminded everyone that kids are outside playing and to be cautious while traveling. She also encouraged everyone to pick up trash, pick up after their dogs and be nicer to each other.

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Councilor Ehora thanked Councilor Neeper for authorizing a Resolution for Alberta Lee. She expressed the importance of Alberta Lee to the women of the community. She worked the Bridging the Gap event at Lima Senior which was awesome. She referenced the negative things being written in the paper and social media about the City of Lima. She believes the City is doing some great things and there are a lot of programs out there where the City is trying to move the needle as fast as they can. She expressed her frustration about the pickle ball issue that is going around on social media. She clarified the City of Lima is not putting in the dog park that was discussed during the Committee Meeting on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. She asked everyone to give grace.

Councilor Dixon announced the Peacemaker's Neighborhood Association will be meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at 800 E. Franklin Street. He reminded everyone to keep an eye out for dates for the Mayor's Cleanup. He applauded the Mayor's Administration on the work they are doing to improve the neighborhood. He highlighted young individuals who did a good deed for an elderly individual while at Walmart over the weekend.

Councilor Glenn explained he doesn't let the negative talk about Lima get the best of him because he has heard it all. He thanked everyone who attended the Easter Egg Hunt over the weekend where 10 kids received accounts at Superior Credit Union to help ensure kids learn about banking. He explained at the end of the year, whoever has the most in the bank will receive \$100. He encouraged everyone to vote on May 2<sup>nd</sup> because there are important issues. He announced they are kicking off Juneteenth play soon which he is really excited about. He advised his landlord meeting went really well and the bridge is being built between landlords and tenants. He thanked Code Enforcement for doing a good job and taking pride in Lima. He announced there will be a program at Bradfield Center on Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup> to help residents with services that are available. He advised they have enough money in the Chief Davenport fund to send a police officer to school.

President Nixon recognized Precious Grundy for writing a book called "Whispers of Love" which can be found on Amazon and the Lima Library. He asked her to summarize the book. She explained the book is a poetry book about the love of good which was written after she was in a season where she wasn't sure of his love for anyone which in turn brought her deeper into a relationship with him. Councilor Dixon explained he read the book which is a great thing especially for young people who may want to get to know Christ. He applauded Precious for helping lead people back to Christ.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until April 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Dixon, motion carried.

  
Dana Addis, Clerk

  
John G. Nixon, President