

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

April 24, 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, Dep. Dir. of Util.; Kirk Niemeyer, Dir. of Public Works; Ric Stolly, Deputy Public Works Dir. I; Warner Roach, Deputy Public Works Dir.; Jessica Begonia, Public Information Officer; Fire Chief Andy Heffner; and Dana Addis, Clerk.

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

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

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:

011-23 A Resolution memorializing the late Jerry Jones, outstanding citizen, and extending condolences to his family on behalf of the Lima City Council. Glenn moved, seconded by Thompson, that the Resolution be adopted on the first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the Resolution. Councilor Glenn extended his condolences to the friends and family of Jerry Jones. He advised Mr. Jones was put in the Lima Senior Hall of Fame for the work he did for Lima Senior kids. Councilor Wilkerson explained Mr. Jones is the uncle of his step siblings and is known as a quality man. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the resolution was adopted on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

PUBLIC HEARING:

President Nixon called to order the Public Hearing for an alley vacation between Calumet Ave. and Grove Ave. initiated by the City of Lima. There being no one else wishing to speak to the alley vacation, President Nixon closed the Public Hearing.

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 March 10, 2023 meeting;
- c. Treasurer's Report for March, 2023.

April 24, 2023

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

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Interim Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2023 budget.
2. From the Fire Chief regarding legislation to amend City Code Section 246.12 to add one additional Deputy Chief to the Fire Department.
3. From the Fire Chief regarding legislation to enter into contract with Statewide Ford.
4. From the Deputy Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to re-apply, accept and enter into an agreement with Water Pollution Control Loan Fund.
5. From the Auditor regarding the March 2023 financial reports.
6. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to enter into contract with the Ohio Dept. of Transportation for purchasing services.
7. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to dispose of several items from the Public Works Department.
8. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to enter into an LPA agreement with ODOT for the Downtown Streetscape Phase 2 – Central Ave. project.
9. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to levy special assessments for the construction so various locations in accordance with Res. 8-22.
10. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to enter into contract and an agreement with Choice One Engineering.

Councilor Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that Communications No. 1 through 10 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare any necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Della Bradford presented Council with the Human Resources 2022 Annual Report. She advised she started with the City of Lima as Human Resource Director in 2022. She explained she has partnered with the Civil Service Secretary, Deb Vobbe, to hold Civil Service Application Workshops around the City with the hopes of eliminating the barrier between the citizens and the City when it comes to employment. She explained a lot of citizens do not know how to apply for positions within the City and had concerns around taking the Civil Service test. She reviewed the statistics surrounding the application workshops. She advised the Human Resources Department has started a new employment orientation program which is a wealth of knowledge that is important for new hires to have on their first day. She advised there were 53 new hires in 2022 and of those 17 were Fire and 3 being Police. She advised she had negotiated one contract being the AFSCME contract which is currently being wrapped up. She advised the department is participating in the TechCred program through Rhodes State College which offers some employees courses that they can take up to \$2,000 and the City is reimbursed the money if the course is successfully completed. The City spent almost \$14,000.00 in 2022 sending employees to different conferences. She advised the City of Lima has their own CDL training program where they can train their own employees that requires CDL training. She further advised the employee is under contract to be employed with the City of Lima for 2 years or they are required to pay the training fee back. Councilor Wilkerson expressed his appreciation to Ms. Bradford and expressed that now is the time to apply for City jobs. Councilor Thompson inquired about the City's harassment and anti-discrimination onboard training. Ms. Bradford advised that is touched on during the new employee orientation. Councilor Thompson explained there could be more training to make people feel comfortable in the workplace. (A complete copy of the presentation is on file in the Council office).

Andy Heffner presented Council with the Lima Fire Department 2022 Annual Report. He explained the Department has made it their mission to make it known to the public that they are welcome to apply for any positions within the Fire Department. He advised the Department has had 17 new hires in 2022. The City of Lima employs experienced fire fighters and works in conjunction with other Fire Departments throughout the County. He advised in 2022, the department had more than 355 total man hours of training. He explained the Fire Secretary, Jean, does a wonderful job and makes sure the Department runs smoothly. He advised Joe Lombardo is the Fire Investigator for the City of Lima and is assisted with investigations by Shawn Allgire and Beau Smith. The Department is currently looking to hire three more firefighters in order to have a good balance between the firefighters work and home life. In 2022, Emily Bowsher was nominated and selected for the Firefighter of the Year Award. Emily has pioneered a child safety seat inspection/installation program and has become the liaison between the Fire Department and the Red Cross smoke detector program. Chief Heffner reviewed the 2022 seniority list which highlighted that currently there are 17 firefighters are eligible to retire at this moment. He advised the firefighters have maintained the fire stations. He reviewed the cost of bunker gear which has gone up in 2022. He reviewed the reserved medic statistics and EMS revenue which increased in

April 24, 2023

2022. The department paints and maintains 1,336 fire hydrants per year. He explained the Department is resuming business walk throughs so firefighters can become familiar with the buildings and create a plan. He advised there were 82 house fires in 2022. Councilor Ehora referenced the amount of individuals that do not have Carbon Monoxide detectors. Chief Hefner expressed the Carbon Monoxide are rather expensive compared to Smoke Detectors. Ehora advised her Operations Manager told her that the Lima Fire Department is doing a great job as the incident commander on gas galls. Councilor Ehora expressed she is Ms. Bowsher's biggest fan. (A complete copy of the presentation is on file in the Council office).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Councilor Thompson advised the Economic & Community Development Committee met on April 3, 2023 to hear a presentation on the Central District Dog Park. All members have received a copy. Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the report be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

077-23 An Ordinance vacating an alley segment between Calumet Avenue and Grove Avenue. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

078-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Allen County Property Management, LLC. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

079-23 An Ordinance amending the 2023 annual budget. Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

080-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept a grant from Water Pollution Control Loan Fund for the Utilities Department. Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to amend the Ordinance by replacing the word "grant" with the word "loan" and authorize the Law Director to provide a clean copy. Motion carried. Gordon moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading as amended. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

081-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to establish the Better Together Small Business Revolving Loan Program. Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

082-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to establish the Better Together Façade Improvement Loan Program. Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

083-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Statewide Ford to purchase vehicles for the Lima Fire Department. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

084-23 An Ordinance amending Section 246.12 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, regarding Fire Department authorized employment positions. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

085-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the purchase of sodium chloride (salt rock). Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

086-23 An Ordinance levying special assessments for the 2022 combined sidewalk project, project no. 1-22, for construction of certain sidewalks in accordance with Resolution 008-22, adopted May 23, 2022. Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

April 24, 2023

087-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with govdeals.com or to otherwise dispose of vehicles for the Public Works Department. Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

088-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a LPA Agreement with ODOT for the ALL SR 65 6.75 Downtown Streetscape Phase 2 – Central Avenue Project; PID 115561. Ehora moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

089-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Choice One Engineering for professional engineering services for the Public Works Department. Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared he motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Glenn thanked everyone for participating in the Easter Egg Hunt. He wished Mr. Joe Henderson a Happy Birthday. He announced they are looking for volunteers for the Sixth Ward Clean up. He further announced there will be an annual small business award on July 7th and they are currently taking nominations. He encouraged everyone to vote even though it isn't a big election. He expressed his excitement about the new exercise program at Lima Towers. He explained the Martin Luther King and Malcom X event held at the Encore Theatre was a success and he thanked everyone for their participation.

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to approve the absences and salary of Council Dixon and Councilor Neeper. Motion carried. He thanked Della Bradford for her efforts in the Human Resources Department. He also expressed appreciation to Chief Heffner. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson encouraged individuals to know the task they are taking on and make sure they are prepared including calling before digging.

Councilor Thompson thanked Della Bradford for the employee updates she sends periodically via email. She announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will be meeting Wednesday, April 26th at 6:00 pm.

April 24, 2023

Councilor Ehora advised the naming of the Lima Senior Auditorium is Thursday, April 27th starting at 7:00 p.m. where they will dedicate the auditorium to Joe Henderson. She congratulated Chris Jackson for being named the new Executive Director of the Bradfield Center and wished him the best. She announced there will be a Public Information meeting located at the LACNIP building on Thursday, April 27th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the future of the Roosevelt Building. Ehora moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to honor Don Jenkins Jewelers. Motion carried.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until May 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Wilkerson, motion carried.



Dana Addis, Clerk



John G. Nixon, President