

CITY OF LIMA  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 07, 2025 @ 7:00 PM  
Council Chambers

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

The roll call showed the following members present: Todd Gordon, Anthony Wilkerson, Carla Thompson, Jeannine Jordan, Jamie Dixon, Thomas Jones, Derry Glenn, Jon Neeper

Others in attendance were: Sharetta Smith – Mayor, Shane Coleman – Chief of Staff, Randy Bartels – Auditor, Anthony Geiger – Law Dir., Mariah Cunningham – Assistant Law Dir., Amy Harpster – Public Works Dir., Ric Stolly – Deputy Dir. of Parks and Rec., Mike Caprella – Dir. of Utilities, Sara Weekley – Deputy Dir. of Utilities, Amber Martin – Workforce & Small Business Dev. Dir., Jessica Begonia – Public Information Officer, Meri Foster – Finance Dir., James Baker – Police Chief, Jack McDermitt – Fire Chief

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:**

003-25      A Resolution congratulating the Sharks Special Olympics Basketball Team for their success at the Division Three State Championship.

Jordan moved, seconded by Thompson, that the resolution be adopted on its first reading after having been read. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the resolution be adopted on its first reading by a 8–0 vote.

Councilor Glenn expressed how happy he is for the Sharks team on their success and wished them well. Councilor Wilkerson expressed the fact that the Sharks won as a team is bigger than any score that is put out. He encouraged the team to bond together and stay together. President Dixon congratulated the team on their win and encouraged them to continue to do what they are doing. Coach Wade thanked Council on behalf of the Sharks team.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Elizabeth Osborn, Ohio State University, announced she will be hosting a Mental Health Awareness Event at Faurot Park on May 12, 2025 from 5-7pm. She explained there will be a community scavenger hunt where mental health agencies will set up tables around the park. She expressed anyone of any age can participate and also encouraged donations for raffle baskets.

Dave Smith, 515 Ashwood Ave., addressed the issues with garbage pickup in the City including being charged for additional trash pickup. He referenced a friend of his that is disabled and was told that he had to have the bin to the curb for trash to collect and they are not able to bring the bin back. He also referenced issues his friend encountered taking mattresses to Rumpke. He asked if the residents of the City are getting what they are paying for and how does the trash contract differ from the contracts in the past.

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since all received a copy;
- b. Bd. of Health Minutes of February 14, 2025;
- c. 2024 Lima Municipal Court Annual Report.

Jones moved, seconded by Neeper, that item “a” be received, filed and approved, and items “b-c” be received and filed. Motion carried.

**THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:**

1. From the Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods regarding the recommendation for Northern Heights Rezoning.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that communication be received and filed; that the Law Director prepare the necessary legislation; that the Clerk cause publication of the legal ad and notify abutting property owners of the Public Hearing to be held on May 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

2. From the Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods regarding a proposed revision to Citizen Participation Plan of the Community Development Block Grant 2020-2024 5-Year Consolidated Plan.
3. From the Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coord. regarding legislation to accept minutes and to accept/modify the recommendation of the Tax Incentive Review Committee Council.

4. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to enter into a lease agreement with Quadient Leasing, USA.
5. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to enter into a Lease Agreement with Perry ProTech.
6. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation for emergency repair associated with the Filter Concrete Flume.
7. From the Public Works Dir. regarding a contract with Pavement Management Group.
8. From the Public Works Dir. regarding a contract with Benefactor Group.
9. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with Schimmoeller Construction, Inc.
10. From the Mayor regarding legislation to amend City Administration Code Chapter 252.
11. From the Mayor regarding legislation for an One Ohio Funds Memorandum of Understanding with Mental Health Recovery Services Board – Allen / Auglaize County Peer Center.
12. From the Mayor regarding legislation for One Ohio Funds Memorandum of Understanding with Mental Health Recovery Services Board – Juvenile Court Dedicated Intervention Specialist

Glenn moved, seconded by Neeper, that communication numbers 2 through 12 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

**PETITIONS:**

1. Petition for the Vacation of an alley segment off Grand Avenue between Elizabeth and Main Streets

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the petition be received and filed; that the Law Director prepare the necessary legislation; that the Clerk cause publication of the legal ad and notify abutting property owners of the Public Hearing to be held on May 19, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:**

Erin Schmerschneider, Trebel Energy, provided Council with an update of the City of Lima Electric Aggregation Program. She reviewed the success of the current aggregation program since August 2023 which includes a \$2,442,082 savings which equates to \$500 in program savings per participant. She reminded Council the program has been and will continue to be no fees to enter or exit, no termination penalties and is simply a savings against the utility. She announced there will be an increase June 1, 2025 due to a supply and demand mismatch which is impacting the energy commodity and the energy capacity. She provided examples of the factors that go into the energy commodity and the energy capacity. She explained Trebel looks at the opportune time that they can buy the lowest commodity rate possible to help offset the elevated costs. She provided an Ohio cost component forecast that indicates increased pricing.

She explained they do know the AEP Ohio price-to-compare is expected to increase 35% which will be over \$0.10/kWh. She reiterated the aggregation program will continue with no fees. She advised Trebel is suggesting a three to five year program that includes a cost-avoidant strategy. She asked Council to consider a three or five year term and also whether they would like Trebel to watch the market and transact on behalf of the City of Lima.

Councilor Thompson expressed her interest in how things are framed as she doesn't know if it is opportunity or taking advantage when they talk about large companies being developed and how much electricity they will require and who will benefit and who will pay the cost. She thanked Trebel for their work in providing a cost savings to residents. Councilor Jordan inquired about data showing how much residents are benefiting from renewable energy sources and how much energy is coming from those sources. Ms. Schmerschneider advised each state has its own renewable requirement and Ohio is currently 8% increasing to 8.5% by next year.

Mayor Smith pointed out that the last time this issue was before Council, the ask was 1. to put electric aggregation on the ballot, which does not have to occur again and 2. whether Trebel should be the energy consultant. She explained right now the current electric aggregation program that Lima residents are a part of expires in May so if the City wants to hire a consultant, go to the market and get a price for the program, they will be bringing that to Council in time. Council Neeper inquired about a program that would lock in a rate. Ms. Schmerschneider advised they can lock in every rate except capacity.

Rebecca Phillips, Allen County Regional Planning, explained they are not only Regional Planning Organization but they are also considered an Metropolitan Planning Organization. She presented the Transportation Improvement Program which involves projects that are slated through 2026-2029 in the City of Lima. Colleen Barry explained they are in the middle of the public input portion of preparing the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan. She explained the process of creating a Transportation Improvement Plan. She presented Council with a tutorial of the new interactive projects dashboard located on the Allen County Regional Planning website.

## **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

1. Human Resources Committee Report of March 17, 2025.

Glenn moved, seconded by Gordon, that the committee report be received, filed, and approved. Motion carried.

## **THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:**

- 077-25 (SECOND READING) An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a CRA Tax Exemption Agreement with Shawnee Lakes, LLC a Limited Liability Company, for a project on Allentown Road.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be amended on Page one, in the fifth Whereas to state “notice has been provided to the Boards of the Elida Local School District and Apollo Career Center as required by law. Motion carried.

Neeper moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading as amended. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- 081-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Peterson Construction Company for emergency repairs of leaks associated with the filter gallery concrete flume at the Water Treatment Plant.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- o82-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Quadient Leasing USA, Inc., and IMS of Dayton for the lease of a folder/insert machine for the Utilities Department.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- o83-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Perry Pro Tech, Inc., for the lease of a Konica Minolta printer for the Utilities Department.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- o84-25 An Ordinance adopting an amended Citizen Participation Plan.

Jordan moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- o85-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Schimmoeller Construction, Inc., for the construction of the Lima Veterans Memorial Grove.

Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- o86-25 An Ordinance accepting the Minutes and Recommendations of the Tax Incentive Review Council.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- o87-25 An Ordinance amending Section 252.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, regarding membership, terms and compensation of the City Planning Commission.

Jordan moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

088-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties, in support of the Allen/Auglaize County Peer Center.

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Jones, Neeper. Nay, none. Abstentions, 2; Glenn and Dixon. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote with 2 abstentions.

Tammy Colon, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties, expressed her gratitude for the City's support. She explained while it is exciting to get funding made available to the community for substance use and mental health, it is more effective and efficient when it is done in partnership. She referenced the various entities that are contributing to the project and explained they are hoping to provide good services, efficiently and effectively into the community. Mayor Smith thanked Councilor Wilkerson for holding a Safety Services Committee meeting over a year ago which this funding is a result of.

089-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties, for a Juvenile Court Dedicated Intervention Specialist.

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Jordan, Thompson, Jones, Neeper. Nay, none. Abstentions, 2; Glenn and Dixon. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote with 2 abstentions.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

Councilor Glenn explained he has been daydreaming a bit as he is grieving his nephew who passed away due to suicide which has been tough on his family. He explained there will be three Town Hall meetings on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to ensure all 6<sup>th</sup> Ward residents can attend. He encouraged everyone to complete the community survey. He asked for volunteers to come forward for the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Neighbors Helping Neighbors program. He announced there will be a 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. He referenced the Rumpke issue and explained if a medical slip is provided to Rumpke, they can sign up for a service that

will pick up the garbage cans for residents. He thanked President Dixon for bringing up the lack of street lights in the Pre-Council meeting.

Councilor Neeper explained he attended the Community for Kids Luncheon to bring awareness to child abuse. He encouraged everyone to wear blue on Wednesday for child abuse awareness. He referenced a volunteer event he and other Council members attended on Friday at Freedom Elementary School where they passed out food boxes to kids to ensure they have food for the weekend. He announced Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> is the Lima Game Show at the Civic Center put on by Downtown Lima Inc. He also announced the Safety City Open House is on Saturday from 10-2pm where they will honor long time Officer Bob Butler. He thanked Councilor Glenn and Councilor Jones for holding the Easter Egg Hunt in his ward.

Councilor Gordon thanked the Lima Police Dept. for the extra work they have been doing in the First Ward. He thanked all of the speakers for the information they shared this evening. He referenced the Game Show Night which is a fun event and encouraged everyone to attend. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson referenced the volunteer event at Freedom Elementary which he has a wonderful time at. He explained all of the children who received boxes said thank you which moved his heart. He further referenced the teachers and staff that have a genuine compassion and care for children. He acknowledged Mayor Smith's State of the City which moved him. He acknowledged the police officers and firefighters in uniform that were in attendance which he is proud of. He explained Mayor Smith referenced the amount of people in the City who are in need of childcare and the cost associated with the childcare. He referenced the low rate of African Americans retiring from their careers. He expressed his gratitude for being able to retire. He encouraged businesses to employ individuals who look like the community they serve.

Councilor Thompson provided the definition of "Diversity" and explained there is no positive or negative connotation with the word Diversity as it is simply a state of being. She expressed her belief that Diversity is something that should be celebrated and she is appreciative of the diversity on Council and throughout the City of Lima. She referenced the Bridging the Gap event she attended over the weekend. She expressed the importance of staying informed of the things that should be advocated for in the community as the Food Bank and Children's Hunger Alliance are facing massive federal budget cuts. She explained she is seeing an uptick in people that are saying they have a car, a job, some sort of post-secondary education and they still need food. She asked everyone to think about how hard it is to do anything when they are hungry. She expressed how grateful she is that the City is supporting the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board because the work they do is vital and very important. She thanked Mayor Smith and her fellow Councilors for the work that they do with regards to mental health. She announced they are looking for individuals to host Walking with the Wards which starts on April 8<sup>th</sup>. She announced the Community Needs Survey is on the City of Lima



website until April 19<sup>th</sup> and encouraged the public to participate in the survey. She encouraged everyone to attend Walk with a Doc at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the YMCA.

Councilor Jordan explained there is a proposal in the House of Representatives to cut library funding drastically. She provided quotes of the importance of libraries. She encouraged the public to call or write Speaker of the House, Matt Huffman, to encourage him to reconsider cutting library funding. She thanked the Lima Symphony for an incredible season.

Jordan moved, seconded by Thompson, to authorize a Resolution honoring Mary Stepleton for her services as Director of Churches United Pantry and her service to the Lima community. Motion carried.

Councilor Jordan announced this month is National Poetry Month which has a lot to do with mental health.

Councilor Jones expressed the State of the City was an excellent event and he enjoyed the students that performed. He explained he also enjoyed assisting the National Hunger Alliance at Freedom Elementary. He said he also ran into the Spread the Love van on Friday. He thanked Neeper for his donation to the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday.

President Dixon acknowledged Chancellor Gary Cates who was in attendance.

Councilor Glenn encouraged everyone to attend the City of Lima Schools Superintendent Interviews on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 at South Middle School.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to adjourn until April 21, 2025. Motion carried.

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Dana Addis, Council Clerk

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Jamie Dixon, Council President