

CITY OF LIMA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 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 Jones 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: Dana Addis – Clerk, Sharetta Smith – Mayor, Shane Coleman – Chief of Staff, Randy Bartels – Auditor, Anthony Geiger – Law Dir., Mariah Cunningham – Assistant Law Dir., Carmillia Zion – Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods, Della Bradford – Human Resources 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., Ron Holman – Police Major

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Dave Smith, 515 Ashwood Ave., referred to the current residency requirements of elected officials and addressed the issues that arose in the last Mayoral election.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read as all have received a copy.

Jordan moved, seconded by Thompson, that item “a” be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a liquor permit for Winning Spot Sports Lounge, LLC, 692 S. Main Street.

Glenn moved, seconded by Thompson, that communication number 1 be placed on a second reading and authorize the Law Director to prepare and file a request for a 30-day extension with the Ohio Division of Liquor Control. Motion carried.

2. From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a liquor permit application for Veterans Memorial Civic Center, 128 E. Spring Street.

Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that communication number 2 be received, filed, and authorize the Clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of no objections. Motion carried.

3. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with Sports Facilities Management, LLC.
4. From the Mayor regarding appointments to the Board of Adjustment.
5. From the Mayor regarding an appointment to the Design Review Board.
6. From the Mayor regarding an appointment to the Tax Incentive Review Council.
7. From the Mayor regarding appointments to the Urban Forest Council.
8. From the Mayor regarding an appointment to the Traffic Commission.
9. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to release old body cameras to Fort Jennings Police Dept.
10. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to advertise for bids and enter into an agreement for the purchase of a trouble truck.
11. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to amend Ordinance 031-25.
12. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to pay Harper Industries Inc.
13. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with CDM Smith.
14. From the Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods requesting Council refer rezoning of various parcels to the City Planning Commission.

15. From the Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods regarding legislation to enter into contract with Martin + Wood Appraisal Group, Ltd.
16. From the Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods regarding an update to the Home Update Program Policy and Procedures.
17. From the Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods regarding an increase in the minimum income requirements for the First Home Lima Down Payment Assistance Program.
18. From the Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods regarding legislation to enter into contract with New Lima.
19. From the Auditor regarding legislation to enter into a lease agreement with Perry ProTech and Konica Minolta.
20. From the Auditor regarding the January 2025 finance reports.
21. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2025 annual budget.
22. From the Mayor regarding legislation to extend the DORA for St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Jones moved, seconded by Glenn, that communication numbers 3 through 22 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Betsy Billingsley, Executive Dir. of Visit Greater Lima, provided Council with the Visit Greater Lima 2024 Annual Report. She expressed appreciation to Christine Pleva who retired in May after 23 years of service. She also expressed appreciation to Sharree Brenneman-Reehling who retired in June after 38 years of service. She expressed the Eclipse event was amazing as they distributed over 7,000 glasses to various individuals and the hotels were full. She introduced Visit Greater Lima's new online storefront where various apparel and accessories can be purchased and the proceeds will go towards the Destination Development Grants. She referenced the various types of advertisements Visit Greater Lima has done in the last year. She advised there were 9 Destination Development Grants totaling approximately \$67,000.00 awarded to local non-profit organizations within Allen County in 2024. She advised there were 2 First Timer Grants awarded and 2 Retention Grants awarded in 2024. She referenced the various marketing platforms used and advised there was a 119% increase. She explained the Geo Catching Trail is still going strong as they are seeing visitors from all over the United States. She expressed Visit Greater Lima strives on increased tourism and through that economic development which they hope to continue with some of the latest

programs as they are changing a few things to reach more people in 2025. She thanked Council for their support.

Ric Stolly, Dep. Dir. of Parks and Recreation provided Council with a wrap up of the fall and winter activities in parks and recreation. He recognized the Maintenance Supervisor, Keith Monford, who did a great job with his staff ensuring people are safe. He referenced the parks involvement in leaf removal in the winter along with snow removal in the winter. He advised in 2024 they put together 30 new picnic tables that you will see disbursed throughout the various parks in the City. He reviewed the various winter recreation programs including the youth basketball program and youth WOYBL League. He referenced the various local schools that were district champions all have students who were involved in the City's youth basketball program. He expressed the youth programs have helped the high school sports experience at the high school level a little bit better. He explained the success of the City programs is not possible without the support of City Council, the vision from the Administration and having a staff that is committed and has a passion for the development of the children in the community.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

1. Neighborhood Concerns Committee Report of February 18, 2025.

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

2. Public Works Committee Report of February 26, 2025.

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

3. Neighborhood Concerns Committee Report of February 27, 2025.

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

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

056-25 An Ordinance amending the 2025 annual budget.

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.

- 057-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Perry Pro Tech, Inc., and Konica Minolta for the lease and maintenance of seven copiers.

Glenn moved, seconded by Jones, 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.

- 058-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Sports Facilities Management, LLC, for the Public Works Department.

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.

Councilor Thompson referenced Lima's diverse population and inquired about the company's intention for recruiting and retaining employees. Eric McCafferty, Sports Facilities Management, explained this venue will have a Vice President of Operations who oversees the facility, a General Manager on the ground which is selected through a national search. He expressed at the end of the day, the approval of who is in that role is with the City. He explained the employment of lifeguards and other part time staff is through grass roots marketing through the local community. He explained there will be routine training programs which will ensure growth within the employees. He explained Sports Facilities Management currently operates 78 venues throughout the country so there is room for growth for employees within the organization. He advised the cost of admission has not been finalized and those rates will be a collaborative effort between Sports Facilities Management and the City. He referenced the various types of local activities that can be done to bring a unique experience for everyone.

- 059-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to transfer up to 6 Watch Guard Vista body worn cameras from the City of Lima to Fort Jennings for its Police Department.

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, 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.

President Dixon thanked administration as he has seen the various donations made to other communities to utilize which shows community and partnerships with other communities. Mayor Smith thanked President Dixon for the acknowledgment and advised all of the credit goes to the Lima Police Department as they do an excellent job being the leading Law Enforcement Agency for the

region. She thanked the Lima Police Department and Council for their support of the Department as they stand up to be that leader.

- 060-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with CDM Smith, Inc. 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.

- 061-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Harper Industries LLC for 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.

- 062-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with All Terra, Inc., as authorized under Ordinance 031-25.

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.

- 063-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for a truck for the Field Services Division of 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.

- 064-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with New Lima-Housing for the Future, Inc., as authorized under Ordinance 232-24.

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.

- 065-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Martin – Wood Appraisal Group, Ltd.

Thompson moved, seconded by Jones, 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.

066-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to temporarily extend the hours of the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, established by Ordinance 083-21.

Thompson 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.

067-25 An Ordinance confirming the appointment of Doug Daley to the Board of Adjustment.

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.

068-25 An Ordinance confirming the appointment of Grant Sullivan to the Board of Adjustment.

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.

069-25 An Ordinance confirming the appointment of Michael Ley to the Board of Adjustment.

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.

070-25 An Ordinance confirming the appointment of Daisey Jones to the Board of Adjustment.

Thompson moved, seconded by Jones, 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.

071-25 An Ordinance confirming the appointment of Bailey Joseph to the Board of Adjustment.

Thompson moved, seconded by Neeper, 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.

072-25 An Ordinance confirming the appointment of Alicia Anderson to the City of Lima Tax Incentive Review Council.

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

073-25 An Ordinance confirming the appointment of Sally Windle to the Design Review Board.

Jones 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.

074-25 An Ordinance confirming the appointment of Evelyn Smith to the Urban Forest Council.

Thompson 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.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Jones thanked Ms. Zion for providing a report of the various housing programs within the City to the Neighborhood Concerns Committee. He advised \$672,442.00 has been spent on home repairs for 2024 which he believes is an incredible job. He thanked Dr. Glenn for holding the John Lewis event.

Councilor Glenn expressed it is important to let residents know how much money is being spent on the City and the great job Ms. Zion is doing in Housing and Neighborhoods. He thanked those involved in putting together the legislation on trailers. He thanked everyone who attended the John Lewis event and acknowledged the various award winners.

Glenn moved, seconded by Jordan, to refer reclassifications to the Human Resources Committee. Motion carried.

Councilor Glenn announced the Human Resources Committee will meet on Monday, March 17th at 6:00 pm. He presented Councilor Neeper with the Furl Williams Award as he was not able to attend the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Award Ceremony. He explained Neeper and his wife support Lima and are very involved in the community. He advised Councilor Thompson received the Mary Coleman Award. He referenced a meeting he attended regarding trailers which he appreciates because he's excited to see everyone involved in keeping the City clean.

Councilor Neeper reminded everyone it's getting warm out so be mindful when driving as kids will be out playing. He referenced the local basketball teams and expressed the City is very fortunate as we have some great talents from all schools.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, to authorize the preparation of a Resolution honoring the Lima Sharks for winning the State Championship. Motion carried.

Councilor Neeper congratulated the various high school wrestlers who performed at the State Wrestling Tournament over the weekend. He thanked Councilor Glenn for the award and the appreciation.

Councilor Gordon reminded everyone next weekend is the St. Patrick's Day Celebration and encouraged them to be safe and cautious as they celebrate. He thanked Betsy Billingsley for her report and expressed her work does not go unnoticed. He thanked Dave Smith for his words as history is important. He referenced the aquatic center and how exciting it is especially now that it is getting close. He welcomed Mr. McCafferty and Sports Facilities Management to Lima. He referenced the wonderful people that are working hard to make Lima better and expressed Lima is a great place to work. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson referenced Wednesday which is not only his birthday but the day that he retires from his career. He referenced his meeting with his financial advisor where he learned that only 20% of the country has a pension compared to his father's era where about 80% of the country had a retirement or pension. He encouraged young individuals to take retirement into consideration when choosing a career. He reminded everyone to be good neighbors.

Councilor Thompson thanked Councilor Glenn for the lovely ceremony. She reminded everyone to pick up their trash especially now that the wind is blowing. She expressed pickup up what is left on the curb makes a big difference in how the neighborhood is perceived. She attended the All City Band Concert from Lima Senior High which was amazing. She referenced the Orchestra concert which is coming up on Tuesday the 18th at Lima Senior High. She encouraged everyone to attend and support the students. She announced the Lima Central Neighborhood Association will meet Saturday, the 15th at 3:00 pm at the Lima Public Library.

Councilor Jordan mentioned she has been on Council for 6 months and explained everyone has been extremely helpful answering questions. She referenced the Lima Symphony which she attended over the weekend. She encouraged everyone to attend a show. She referenced a surgery she had on her hand not long ago and expressed how great the rehab facility has been at St. Rita's Medical Center.

President Dixon wished all of the women a Happy Women's History Month and thanked them for all that they do to make the world a better place. He also wished his mother a Happy Women's History Month and thanked her for all she does for him and his family.

Dixon moved, seconded by Thompson, to refer communication number 14, the rezoning of various parcels, to the City Planning Commission. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Gordon moved, seconded by Jones, that Lima City Council adjourn until March 24, 2024. Motion carried.

Dana Addis, Council Clerk

Jamie Dixon, Council President