

CITY OF LIMA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 05, 2024 @ 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 Neeper followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Others in attendance were: Dana Addis – Clerk, Sharetta Smith – Mayor, Randy Bartels – Auditor, Eric Pheneger – Deputy Law Dir., Carmillia Zion – Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods, Warner Roach – Deputy Dir. of Public Works, Ric Stolly – Deputy Dir. of Parks and Rec., Jessica Begonia – Public Information Officer, Meri Foster – Finance Dir., Ron Holman – Police Major, Andy Heffner – Fire Chief

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Janis Sunderhaus, 1471 W. Market Street, expressed her concerns related to the filling of the vacant Fourth Ward Council seat. She advised she understands there were seven applicants who submitted applications to fill the vacancy and that recently it has been reduced to three candidates which she learned from one of the candidates who said she received a phone call telling her she was no longer a candidate. She questioned whether there was a public vote eliminating the four candidates, what criteria is being used to evaluate candidates and will that information be shared with the fourth ward residents. She expressed her concern that decisions on who will represent the fourth ward are being made behind closed doors and with no input from anyone who lives in the fourth ward. She asked that the process be reviewed by the City Law Director to determine if all of Ohio's Sunshine Laws are being followed and report back to the community. She asked for transparency and that a fair process be followed.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes from the previous meeting not read since all received a copy;
- b. Bd. of Health Minutes from June 14, 2024;
- c. Bd. of Health Minutes from June 25, 2024.

Jones moved, seconded by Neeper, that the consent calendar 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 Division of Liquor Control regarding a liquor permit application for 3Bees Rentals, LLC, 1440 Bellefontaine Ave.

Jones moved, seconded by Glenn, that communication number 1 be received, filed, and authorize the Clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of no objections. Motion carried.

2. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to amend Ordinance 038-23.
3. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to grant a temporary easement to American Electric Power.
4. From the Auditor regarding an agreement for Cyber Insurance with Stolly Insurance.

Neeper moved, seconded by Thompson, that communication numbers 2 through 4 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Melissa Mayes, Allen County Children Services, expressed the need in having foster parents in the City of Lima and Allen County. She expressed that all children need a safe and stable home with caring and loving parents that provide sound guidance throughout their lives. She explained children in foster are no different and deserve the same treatment. She explained being a foster parent is much more than providing a house as it offers hope, and a sense of belonging. She further explained foster children enter the foster system at no fault of their own and come to the agency with a history of instability and trauma. She explained foster parents provide a sanctuary where children can heal, thrive and grow. She advised Allen County Children Services has 31 foster homes of which only 1/4 of those homes are accepting children at this time. She further advised that there are

approximately 15,000 children in Ohio and 400,000 in the U.S. She mentioned some of the children that are in the Allen County system must be sent to group homes which are located in the larger cities. She expressed there is a need for families in Allen County so children can stay in our community. She explained her contact number is 419-227-8590. Councilor Glenn advised he went through the training and was a foster parent to a 1 year old who he had until she was 11 years old. He explained it was a great experience.

Lieutenant Thomas, Lima Police Department, explained 4th of July came with a lot of rain and decreased attendance for the celebration of fireworks. He advised there were more food trucks this year and there were no complaints. There were two medical calls which LACP assisted. He advised the event was a collaborative effort of various City, County and State departments. He further advised that there were no criminal complaints this year which is phenomenal.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

1. Council of the Whole Committee Report of July 15, 2024;

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

2. Council of the Whole Committee Report of July 16, 2024;

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

3. Council of the Whole Committee Report of July 30, 2024;

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

4. Joint Neighborhood Concerns and Economic & Community Development Committee Report of June 5, 2024;

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

5. Neighborhood Concerns Committee Report of July 1, 2024.

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

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

158-24 (SECOND READING) An ordinance enacting Section 412.015 of the Codified Ordinances of Lima regarding the placement of dumpsters.

Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be tabled. Motion carried.

165-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to grant a temporary easement to American Electric Power to extend services to 201-207 South Central Avenue.

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, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

166-24 An Ordinance authorizing a second amendment to the contract with RB Jergens Contractors, Inc., as authorized under Ordinance 038-23.

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, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

I. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Neeper reminded everyone that Tuesday, August 6th from 4-6pm is the City of Lima National Night Out. He encouraged the public to attend.

Councilor Gordon reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson referenced a phone call he received from a constituent who was disabled and concerned about his grass getting high. Wilkerson stated by the time he could get someone out to his house to help, someone else had already cut the grass. He reminded everyone it is the little things they do to that make our lives so much better. He reminded everyone to be good neighbors.

Councilor Thompson thanked Councilor Glenn and all of the foster parents. She explained Ms. Mayes' sister chose to be her mother as she spent her first year in foster care. She encouraged anyone who is thinking about being a foster parent, to do it as it is a rewarding experience. She announced Walk with the Doc is on Saturday at the YMCA at 9:00 a.m. She announced the Bradfield Center is having a back to school festival Saturday from 9-12 p.m.

Councilor Jones announced the 5th Ward Community Forum will be held on August 21st with the Peacemaker's Neighborhood Association at 5:30 p.m. located at 800 Franklin Street. He announced there will be a Teacher's Appreciation Celebration held on August 31st at the Howard Johnson Hotel from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. He advised all nominations can be sent to him via email.

Councilor Glenn referenced Ord. 158-24 and advised that the issue has been placed in Committee for discussion. He re-assured his constituents that the dumpster issue will be addressed. He explained Hoover Park and Kibby Corner Neighborhood Associations are coming back which he is happy about. He referenced Mayor Smith's presentation at the Rotary Lunch which she did a great job explaining how the City is growing and what the City's plan for the future is. He referenced the upcoming election and explained he is not going to tolerate the racism that is going on. He explained the amount of hatred in the country right now is ridiculous. He encourage people to vote who they want to vote for and not to hide behind the church.

President Dixon invited everyone out to National Night Out from 4-6 p.m. at Faurot Park. He thanked Lt. Thompson and Ms. Mayes for giving their reports. He explained his grandparents have been doing foster care for over 20 years and have opened their homes to over 150 children who come back home to visit during the holidays. He encouraged those who can't have children to consider foster parenting. He thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting. He explained children are going to be starting school and he asked that everyone be mindful of the children at the bus stops and walking to school.

ADJOURNMENT:

Gordon moved, seconded by Glenn, that Council adjourn until August 19, 2024. Motion carried.

Dana Addis, Council Clerk

Jamie Dixon, Council President