

CITY OF LIMA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 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 President Dixon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

Others in attendance were: Dana Addis - Clerk, Sharetta Smith, JD, MBA - Mayor, Tony Geiger - Law Dir., Eric Pheneger - Deputy Law Dir., Randy Bartels - Auditor, Shane Coleman - Chief of Staff, Meri Foster - Finance Dir., Amber Martin - Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator, Mike Caprella - Dir. of Utilities, Kirk Niemeyer - Dir. of Public Works, Ric Stolly - Deputy Public Works Dir. I, Jessica Begonia - Public Information Officer, Andy Heffner - Fire Chief

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:

004-24 A Resolution Congratulating the Lima Central Catholic Boys Basketball Team for competing in the Division IV State Semi-Final

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the resolution be adopted on the first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the resolution. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion adopted on the first reading after having been read by a 6–0 vote.

Councilor Glenn congratulated the boys for a job well done. He thanked Coach Powell. Councilor Wilkerson explained there wasn't a high expectation going into the year but the team over delivered. He explained the success of the team shows what leadership does. He expressed how proud he is of the team. President

Dixon acknowledged Coach Powell who is part of his family. He congratulated the LCC T-Birds for their success.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Don Baker, 200 Golden Lane, asked Council to consider adopting a non-binding Resolution in support of Article V of the Constitution. He explained this will allow a Convention of the Constitution to review all of the Articles to see what is applicable and what might need to be changed or added. He said the non-binding Resolution will show the people in Columbus that the City of Lima has interest in this subject. He thanked Council for their consideration.

Cleaster White, 656 W. Spring Street, Apt. 402, explained he has lived at Spring Street Senior Lofts for 5 months. He advised MET Housing did not perform an inspection. He expressed his concern with the enormous electric bills he has received. He believes the apartment is wired incorrectly as he is still being charged for electricity when everything is turned off.

David Smith, 515 Ashwood Avenue, expressed his concern to Council about housing. He advised the 4th quarter of 2023, investors bought 26% of the country's most affordable homes. He further advised in the past it has been noted that in Lima, the percentage of housing that is investor-owned is about twice the state average. He explained last week of the 33 land transfers, 27 were to investors leaving only 6 to individual homeowners. He referenced the vacant properties in Lima and encouraged the City to offer incentives for residents to build new homes. He expressed the need to focus on assisting current homeowners with needed repairs to their homes. He referenced the landlord registry. He suggested the City revisit the level of City income tax aggregate for rental income.

Jacob King, 900 Brice Avenue, on behalf of Low Vision Coalition, introduced Pam Shrader and Shawn Oden. He explained that Pam, Shawn, and himself are visually impaired. He explained one of the challenges of being visually impaired is navigating a community without being able to drive. He expressed the Low Vision Coalitions' support of the Calbe Road Project. He knows visually impaired individuals make up a small minority in this community, which is why he is also speaking to Council not only as a visually impaired person but as a Professor. He explained Kirk Niemeyer and his team have done a lot of research on the Cable Road project and their plans are not just for the traffic we have today, but they also account for traffic up to 20 years in the future. He referenced his walk home from the bus stop which is littered with cars. He particularly likes the Cable Road project because it puts sidewalks on Cable Road, making it safer for people with low vision to navigate that part of town.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the Previous Meeting not read since each received a copy
- b. Treasurer's Report for March 2024
- c. Bd. of Health Minutes of March 8, 2024

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, 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 Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a liquor permit application for Four Seasons Tees, LLC

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, 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 Michael Buettner regarding concerns with the proposed Cable Road Project.
3. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to amend Ordinance 290-21.
4. From the Civil Service Board Dir. regarding the recommendation to amend the classification of Stormwater Manager.
5. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to dispose various items in the Public Works Dept.
6. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to purchase a CAT Generator.
7. From the Dir. of Public works regarding legislation to enter into contract with VMCCC for parking garage management services.
8. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to modify the Voluntary Demolition Project.
9. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to apply for, accept, and expend funds from the Dept. of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program.

10. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to apply for, accept, and expend funds from the AR-Hale Family Foundation.
11. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to apply for, accept, and expend funds from the H and B Family Foundation.
12. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2024 Budget.
13. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to dispose of various electronic equipment.
14. From the Clerk of Court regarding a contract for desk replacements for the Lima Municipal Court Clerk's Office.
15. From the Mayor regarding legislation for the sale of 893 N. Cole Street.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that communication numbers 2 through 15 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

PETITIONS:

1. Petition by City of Lima to Re-Zone 3 Commercial Corridors to Class I Business

Jones moved, seconded by Thompson, 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 June 3, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Deb Vobbe provided Council with the Civil Service Board 2023 Annual Report. She advised herself and Human Resources Director Della Bradford, went out into the community each quarter and created workshops at Ohio Means Jobs and the Lima Library where they would provide information on Civil Service test taking, which proved successful. She advised the Board approved 2 reinstatements and 1 Civil Service Rule amendment. She reviewed the number of various types of examinations that were performed in 2023 along with the number of appointments that were made in 2023. Councilor Thompson referenced possible security issues when testing online. Mrs. Vobbe advised the exams are proctored whether it be taken virtually or at Rhodes State. Councilor Glenn referenced the expense of the proctor. Mrs. Vobbe explained there is a charge for each test. Councilor Wilkerson thanked Deb Vobbe and the Civil Service Board for all that they do. President Dixon also thanked Deb Vobbe and the members of the Board for a job well done. (A complete copy of the Annual report can be found in the Council Office).

Fire Chief Andy Heffner provided Council with the Fire Department 2023 Annual Report. He advised in 2023, the Lima Fire Dept. hired 9 firefighters and trained an additional 11 new hires. He referenced the various ways the Fire Department serves the community including but not limited to providing new car seats for children, implementing a smoke detector program, and providing mutual aid to other departments. He reviewed statements from Deputy Chief Jack McDermitt, Brian Stewart and Lee Short. He explained firefighters provide the bulk of the response within the City and provide a variety of duties. He advised the department ended 2023 with 76 total personnel. He announced the Sertoma Firefighter of the Year was Miles Conrad. He referenced the seniority list and highlighted all of the individuals who could retire at any time along with those remaining who have experience and those that do not have experience. He further referenced the lack of room for vehicles in Central Station. He explained Station #3 is starting to show it's age and is in need of improvements. He explained they are looking to replace their extrication tools which are at the end of their life.

Chief Heffner advised in 2023 there were 6,156 total calls for service. The soft billing approach for EMS services collected \$741,881.00. He reviewed the various Fire Safety Inspections that were performed in 2023. He also reviewed the Fire Safety Education program statistics. He advised the City of Lima has entered into contract with the Ohio Fire Chief's Association to conduct a feasibility study looking into the possibility of building a new fire station and training ground. Councilor Glenn referenced the list of firefighters who can retire at any time. Chief Heffner does not anticipate a mass exit of employees, but rather an exit over 5 years. Councilor Wilkerson is proud to say the Lima Fire Department does a wonderful job of serving the community and commended Chief Heffner and his firefighters for their professionalism and their desire to serve Lima. (A complete copy of the report can be found in the Council Office).

Mayor Sharetta Smith explained the presentation intends to provide a set of facts and research around migration into the U.S. and the State of Ohio and to talk about the "why" around the influx. She referenced the the history, geography and demographics of Haiti. She reviewed the Haitian migration patterns and the various reasons individuals want to leave the country. She explained emigration out of Haiti is the largest flows in the Western World. Data shows that 88% of Haitian immigrants live in Florida, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut. She advised 0.4% of all Haitian immigrants live in Ohio. She explained the data shows this influx is connected to temporary agencies recruiting for jobs. As of Feb., 2024, recent data shows that there are 852,000 Haitian immigrants in the US. She summarized the various statistics regarding the immigrants' age, education, pathways and naturalization. She reviewed the three main statuses that individuals can come to the United States and become naturalized which include Refugee and Asylee, Humanitarian Parole, and Temporary Protected Status. In summary of local data, there have been 550 applications for Federal and State of Ohio assistance programs and the

Allen County Public Health Department has performed 963 tuberculosis screenings between January 2023 and March 2024. Lima Police Department has reported seeing an increase in overcrowding of homes and apartments designed for single-family occupancy. The Lima Municipal Court has seen an increased need for interpreters and Mercy Health has seen an increase of language lines by 75% in the past 12 months.

Mayor Smith referenced the Lima/Allen County Newcomer Coalition which consists of various members across the City and County. She explained the City believes any proposed solution must serve all citizens. She referenced legislation concerning the definition of family which will address the concerns about occupancy and quality of housing in the community which creates an unsafe environment. She advised the City will advocate for additional resources from the State and Federal Government. She expressed the need for increased language services for City government to be able to communicate with individuals as they encounter them. She further requested that all individuals must be treated with dignity and respect regardless of language, ethnicity, race, or country of origin. Councilor Jones announced the Neighborhood Concerns Committee will be meeting on April 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the issue of defining family in the City Zoning Code. Councilor Gordon thanked Mayor Smith for putting the presentation together as there has been a lot of talk around the community. He reminded people to be good to each other as this is a Country where we welcome people into this Country. Mayor Smith confirmed that Lima is not a Sanctuary City. President thanked Mayor Smith for addressing the concern. He reminded everyone to be mindful of the words they speak as a person of African American descendants of slaves, those are the same words that were heard during Jim Crow and the Civil Rights movement. Councilor Thompson emphasized this is a room full of people who are descendants of immigrants if you are not Native American. She explained that immigrants are a blessing especially at a time when we need more employees and workers. Councilor Wilkerson referenced how hard it would be to decide to relocate a family to another country to seek a better life. (A complete copy of the report can be found in the Council Office).

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

o85-24 An Ordinance Amending the 2024 Annual Budget

Glenn 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, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

086-24 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from Senator Sherrod Brown's Congressional Directed Spending Requests FY25 for Riverfront One

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

087-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from Senator Sherrod Brown's Congressional Directed Spending Requests FY25 for Lead Abatement

Glenn 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, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

088-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the Voluntary Demolition Program, as authorized under Ordinance 063-23

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

President Dixon thanked Mayor Smith and her administration for eliminating any barriers that may have prohibited individuals from applying for this program. Mayor Smith thanked Kirk Niemeyer and Kasey Corbet in the Building Department.

089-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Ohio CAT

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, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

090-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Ohio Senate Capital Budget/One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund to relocate the Shay Locomotive Display

Glenn 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, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

091-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Ohio Senate Capital Budget/One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund for the Lima Community Aquatic Center

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

092-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Ohio Senate Capital Budget/One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund for the Cheryl Allen Center

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

Councilor Glenn expressed his excitement and thanked the administration.

093-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Ohio Senate Capital Budget/One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund for the Simmons Field Sports Complex improvements

Thompson 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, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

094-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with govdeals.com or otherwise dispose of various items for the Public Works Department

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

095-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with govdeals.com or otherwise dispose of electronic equipment for the Data Systems Group

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the

ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

096-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Rush Truck Centers of Ohio, Inc., for the Utilities Department, as authorized under Ordinance 290-21

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

097-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the H and B Family Foundation

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

098-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the AR-Hale Family Foundation

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, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

Councilor Thompson thanked Mayor Smith and the organizations for partnering and making this pool happen.

099-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program

Jones 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, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

100-24 An Ordinance amending Section 246.09 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Public Works Department Authorized Employment Positions

Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the

ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

101-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with the Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center

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, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

102-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to transfer ownership of 893 N. Cole St. to New Lima – Housing for the Future

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, Jones, Glenn, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 6–0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Gordon reminded everyone to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson also reminded everyone to be good neighbors.

Councilor Thompson agreed that everyone should remember to be good to each other.

Councilor Jones announced on April 29th the Neighborhood Concerns Committee will hold a meeting to define family. On May 7th there will be a 5th Ward Community Meeting from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. On May 11th there will be a Teachers Appreciation Banquet Fundraiser to honor the educators in our community. On May 18th at Cook Park from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm there will be a community outreach event called “Mending the Gaps”.

Councilor Glenn announced Thursday, April 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the Lima Public Library, they will be holding a Stop the Gun Violence meeting.

Councilor Thompson thanked and recognized the Low Vision Coalition. She announced the Low Vision Coalition will be holding a fundraiser “Dinner in the Dark” on Wednesday, April 24th. She encouraged everyone to visit LVCAC.org to purchase tickets.

President Dixon thanked those who viewed the meeting from home. He welcomed those in attendance to come back to chambers and to continuously be a part of the government process. He referenced an incident that happened in the community that involved the youth. He asked everyone to keep our youth uplifted and continue to speak life into them. He reminded everyone there is power of life and death in the tongue. He reminded everyone to have conversations with children and to be patient with them.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to authorize the absence and salary for Councilor Ehora and Councilor Neeper. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that Council adjourn until May 06, 2024. Motion carried.

Dana Addis, Council Clerk

Jamie Dixon, Council President