

CITY OF LIMA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 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 Councilor Glenn followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

Others in attendance were: Sharetta Smith, JD, MBA – Mayor, Mariah Cunningham – Assistant Law Dir., Anthony Geiger – Law Dir., Shane Coleman – Chief of Staff, Meri Foster – Finance Dir., Della Bradford – Human Resources Dir., Carmillia Zion – Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods, Amber Martin – Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator, Mike Caprella – Dir. of Utilities, Sara Weekley – Deputy Dir. of Utilities, Kirk Niemeyer – Dir. of Public Works, Ric Stolly – Deputy Public Works Dir. I, Jessica Begonia – Public Information Officer, Dana Addis – Clerk, Angel Cortes – Police Chief

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to amend the Agenda by moving Sally Windle from Privilege of the Floor to Reports of Officials. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Dave Smith, 515 Ashwood Avenue, advised on Oct. 30th 2023 he inquired to Mr. Niemeyer about the bid for the pool being approximately 19% over estimate which state law permits 15% or under. He explained Mr. Niemeyer informed him that State Law changed on Oct. 3rd, 2023. He referenced the Schoonover Observatory remodel is being funded by a grant that is \$250,000 and had an Architects estimate of \$126,000 and was to be bid in August of 2023. He expressed the concern of accepting a contract amount of approximately \$281,000 when the architects estimate was \$126,000. He inquired whether the stolen telescope is

going to be replaced and if the City is going to report to the State that they let a job at 226% over estimate.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of previous meeting not read since all received a copy;
- b. Treasurer's Report for June, 2024.

Jones moved, seconded by Glenn, that the consent calendar item "a" be received, filed and approved, and item "b" be received and filed. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Public Works Dir. regarding final Consent Legislation for SR 65 project.
2. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to award the contract for the Wide Area Network (WAN) Circuits.
3. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to award the contract for Primary Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) Circuit.
4. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to award the contract for Secondary Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) Circuit.
5. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to bid and award a contract for improvements for river gate structures.
6. From the Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods regarding legislation to adopt the CDBG/HOME 2024-2025 Annual Action Plan.
7. From the Auditor regarding the June, 2024 financial reports.

Glenn moved, seconded by Thompson, that communication numbers 1-7 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Anne Edwards, committee member for Lima's Poet Laureate, explained the City's Poet Laureate position history is short but has gained considerable attention and support for creative writers and poets in Lima. She referenced the previous Poet Laureate for the City of Lima, Tim Cheeseman, who set a remarkable template for what the program can achieve. She further referenced the various accomplishments of Tim Cheeseman including the establishment of an ongoing

writers group, organized several open mic events, engaged in numerous speaking events and even published an anthology featuring poets from Allen County. She explained Lima stands out as a leader in poetry, programming and participation thanks to inside efforts from Mayor Smith and the initial Poetry Committee. She introduced Lima's new Poet Laureate, Laurin Wolf. Laurin expressed her happiness for being chosen as the City's Poet. She expressed her excitement to share poetry and explained it is an honor to have this type of position as it is a dream come true for any poet or creative writer. She referenced her ideas that she has and expressed her excitement for her proposal to work in the schools with some activities that will culminate into an art project at ArtSpace. She stated she would also like to get into the community deeper with Senior Living Facilities and spreading poetry through those avenues. President Dixon welcomed Laurin to the City of Lima.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:

007-24 A resolution expressing the appreciation of the Lima City Council to Angel Cortes for his outstanding services to the City of Lima Police Department and for his service to the community.

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

Councilor Gordon thanked Chief Cortes for always being available and for being a good honest guy. He expressed his appreciation to Chief Cortes for all of the years he has been with the department. Councilor Wilkerson explained that he hasn't had much interaction with Chief Cortes during his tenure, but the time he has seen him, he has been nothing less than professional and has always been an example for young folks in the community and in the Police Department to inspire to be. He wished him well in his retirement. Councilor Thompson thanked Chief Cortes for his willingness to sit down and have hard and honest conversations and for actually caring about his job and the profession of policing. She explained Cortes knew his officers needed love and to know they were respected and what they were doing was noble work which he did a great job of doing. She wished him well in his retirement as it is well deserved. Councilor Jones thanked Chief Cortes for the open line of communication they have had on his short time on Council. He expressed his appreciation to Cortes for his support on his project, Unity in the Community, and how the officers responded to the event which he believes is a testament to Chief Cortes' leadership. He wished him an enjoyable retirement. Councilor Glenn expressed his appreciation to Chief Cortes for everything he has done and expressed how great of a grandfather he is. He encouraged Chief Cortes to stay involved in the community after his retirement. Mayor Smith referenced Chief Cortes as an exceptional Police Officer, a great leader, a great colleague and also a great family man. She explained in 2 1/2 years, the things Chief Cortes has been able to accomplish is phenomenal and includes: the Flock System, a direct

approach to making changes, moving from pin point policing to beat policing and his deliberate attempt to build the moral in the Police Department and make sure that every man and women in blue knows they are respected and are appreciated for the work that they do. She thanked him for his service. President Dixon expressed it has been an honor to work alongside Chief Cortes and recalled back to the first phone call he received when Cortes took the Chief position asking him to contact him directly with any issues rather than go to social media which has been there relationship ever since. He referenced a standoff situation that Dixon was present for. He thanked Cortes for his leadership, stewardship, his ability to be effective in the community and for all he has done for the men and women in blue. He explained Cortes has paved a road that has many accomplishments which he thanked Cortes for. He wished him well in his retirement and encouraged him to take his time and enjoy the next chapter in his life.

Chief Cortes said his 33 years has gone by fast and he wouldn't trade it for the world. He referred to the last two years as Chief and the many things they have been able to accomplish. He expressed that he will miss the City and the Police Department but he looks forward to moving on to do other things. He explained he will always be available if anyone needs him for consult. He referenced the Officer Wellness Program which is not yet complete but will give the officers the outlet they need when they are going through tough times. He explained Major Baker presented two new hires with their badges and during so he referenced the importance of supporting officers as they see many things that they hope regular citizens will never see. Cortes thanked Council and Mayor Smith for supporting the officers and thanked soon-to-be Chief Jim Baker for being there for 2 years with him.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

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

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

159-24 An ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of ODOT Final Resolution, enter into contract, and disburse funds for the completion of the ALL SR 65 0.00/3.94, PID 109803 project with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

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

160-24 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for river gate structure improvements.

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

161-24 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Charter Communications, Inc. dba Spectrum for the primary dedicated internet access circuit.

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

162-24 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with TSC Communications Inc. dba Telephone Service Company for the Secondary Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) Circuit.

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

163-24 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with TSC Communications Inc. dba Telephone Service Company for the Wide Area Network (WAN) Circuits.

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

164-24 Adopting the 2024-2025 Annual Update to The Lima Consolidated Plan (2020-2024), and authorizing submission thereof to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

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

I. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Glenn thanked the NAACP for holding a banquet over the weekend which was hosted by Councilor Jones. He explained the NAACP gave a lot of scholarships out which he appreciates the work. He said the air conditioning program is going well which he loves so much. He thanked everyone who has donated and shown hometown pride. He referenced a discussion he had with a group from Buffalo regarding the Haitian community and the need to meet with the Law Dir. to discuss the legalities surrounding him meeting with the group. He

expressed his appreciation to Mayor Smith and Chief Cortes for answering the various questions.

Councilor Gordon referenced a friend who visited Lima and expressed how much Lima has changed after driving through the downtown area. He expressed how proud he is of the City. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson referenced a post he made on Facebook which made him realize how quick people are to respond. He also referenced a phone call he received from a resident and cautioned people to think about the words they are going to say and how it will affect the person on the other end of the conversation. He reminded everyone to be good neighbors, look out for and help each other.

Thompson moved, seconded by Jones, to refer Ordinance 158-24 to the Public Works Committee. Motion carried.

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

Councilor Thompson announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will be meeting Wednesday July 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lima Public Library. She encouraged people to check out their neighborhood associations as it is a great way to find out community news, community efforts and ways they can be more involved if they should choose. She welcomed the new Poet Laureate, Laurin Wolf, who works alongside her husband and she considers a friend. She knows Ms. Wolf cares about her craft, cares about her students and was already doing the work in the community at Allen Oakwood and other places.

Councilor Jones referenced the NAACP Scholarship Banquet which mean so much to him. He explained his grandfather, Mr. Charlie Wilkerson, was very active with the NAACP and his mother was a Youth Advisor for the NAACP. He said the most important part of the event was that Lima really came together in unity as he seen three different organizations come together and send the children off well. He recognized and thanked Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the Boys and Girls Club from the Bradford Center, and the NAACP. He believes there is a bright future ahead for the children who were recognized.

President Dixon wished the Council Clerk a Happy Birthday. Dixon inquired about a speed trailer being placed on Brentwood Avenue behind LCC as he has received several calls regarding speeding in that area. He inquired about additional patrol in the area of Wendell and Judkins where there have been complaints of wild parties happening. He acknowledged his oldest nephew and oldest niece who were in attendance to see how Council works and to see what their uncle does at work. He thanked his family for being in attendance and expressed his love for them.

ADJOURNMENT:

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that Council adjourn until August 05, 2024. Motion carried.

Dana Addis, Council Clerk

Jamie Dixon, Council President