

CITY OF LIMA  
COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE  
MEETING REPORT  
OCTOBER 07, 2024 @ 8:00 PM  
Council Chambers

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Dixon called the Council of the Whole Committee meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Others in attendance were: Dana Addis - Clerk, Sharetta Smith - Mayor, Anthony Geiger - Law Dir., Mariah Cunningham - Assistant Law Dir., Edward Moore – Public Works Dept., Ian Kohli – City Engineer, Shane Coleman – Chief of Staff, Jessica Begonia – Public Information Officer, Jack McDermitt – Fire Chief, James Baker – Police Chief

**ITEM OF DISCUSSION**

1. Traffic Calming

The Committee met to continue the discussion of traffic calming after reviewing the information provided by Ian Kohli. Councilor Wilkerson reminded everyone of the importance of educating our drivers. He referenced a statement “just because we post more speed limit signs, doesn’t mean it’s going to slow people down” which he believes goes back to the education portion and until people change their habits and change their ways, it won’t make a difference what signs are placed out there. Councilor Jordon expressed her fascination with all of the different ways to address traffic calming. Councilor Jones believes education is first and foremost and that targeting certain areas with signage will also play an important part in calming traffic. Councilor Neeper expressed the need to do something that is a well-rounded strategic plan that is not something that is done in one night. He referenced the City of Delaware where every corner has a 4-way stop. He expressed the need to look into removing the misplaced stop signs within the City of Lima and re-evaluating the ones that aren’t there. Neeper addressed the need for immediate measures to be taken along with the comprehensive plan which may include enforcement of speeding by the Police Department. President Dixon referenced the various cities he researched and pointed out their traffic calming initiatives including installation of speed tables, installation of speed

signs with cameras, the use of handheld radars by the residents so they can see what the actual speed numbers were in their community, hold neighborhood watches and increase of police patrolling. He further referenced Hilliard's creation of a comprehensive plan which included an education piece to the various traffic calming measures.

Ed Moore, Public Works, explained he has been listening and it has come clear that there needs to be something done about the traffic and speeding in the City of Lima. He advised there must be a strategic approach to the speeding issue and referred to the Traffic Commission which he believes should be addressing these issues. He referenced the longer term traffic calming, neighborhood safety type program which will need additional resources brought in to implement as the City Engineer cannot do. He advised if the City is serious about solving the problem long term, the City must allocate resources towards it. He expressed the importance of partnering with Council as they bring proposals to the table. He advised they will need to bring in a consultant to prepare a long term plan for the City. Councilor Thompson inquired about whether the Traffic Commission advises of alternate solutions to a problem when it is brought to them. Ed Moore advised he is just now learning about the Traffic Commission but he expressed the possibility of re-figuring it to fit the needs of the City.

Ian Kohli, City Engineer, expressed the need for more input from the residents so they can determine what the core issues are so they can offer solutions. He referenced the different strategies that other communities are using and expressed the need to work with some of the ideas they currently have as part of the short term solutions and then coming up with a more comprehensive approach as part of the long term solution. He advised the City just kicked off the Safe Routes to School travel plans through ODOT where they will be issuing surveys to parents and students of various City schools to determine how to make the travel safer. He further advised the City received funding for the Safe Streets for All study which will focus on eliminating all serious and fatal crashes in the City including pedestrian travel. He explained the plans typically take about 2 years to complete. He advised he has requested additional funding in their Professional Services account back in July for 2025 for additional funds to look at the residential piece of traffic calming. Councilor Glenn referenced the use of Traffic Officers who work part time as a short-term solution.

Mayor Smith advised she will direct the City Engineer to provide in writing what additional information the Traffic Commission needs to make decisions. She further advised they will not wait until the 2025 budget to put out an RFP or RFQ to look for a consultant as she will use resources from the Mayor's office to get that done. Councilor Wilkerson encouraged the school survey be provided to all the Catholic Schools in the City also. He cautioned everyone to do it right so they don't have to do it over again.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Dixon, Council President  
JD/dma

# Council of Whole

10/7/24

Meeting

Name

Shane Coleman

Jessica Begonia

Ian Kohli

~~Ed~~ Moore

Jack McDermitt

~~Jim Baku~~

Bob Friedman

Jacob Espinosa