

CITY OF LIMA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 09, 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 Gordon 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, Shane Coleman – Chief of Staff, Randy Bartels – Auditor, Anthony Geiger – Law Dir., Eric Pheneger – Deputy Law Dir., Carmillia Zion – Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods, Edward Moore – Public Works Department, Della Bradford – Human Resources Dir., Warner Roach – Deputy Dir. of Public Works, Mike Caprella – Dir. of Utilities, Amber Martin – Workforce & Small Business Dev. Dir., Jessica Begonia – Public Information Officer, Debra Vobbe – Civil Service Board Dir./Sec., Ron Holman – Police Major, Andy Heffner – Fire Chief

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, amend the Agenda by adding Mayor Sharetta Smith to Reports of Officials to give 6 month update. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES:

171-24 An Ordinance appointing Jeannine Jordan as 4th Ward Councilor.

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.

Jeannine Jordan was sworn in as 4th Ward Councilor.

The record reflects Jeannine Jordan is present after being sworn in.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE READ:

008-24 A Resolution expressing the appreciation of the Lima City Council to Andy Heffner for his outstanding services to the City of Lima Fire Department and for his services to the community

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the resolution be adopted on its first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the resolution.

President Dixon thanked Andy Heffner for his service. He explained reading the resolution, he was able to see how Andy grew through the ranks which shows it is possible for anyone in the City to be able to grow through a department. He thanked Andy for his dedication and also thanked Andy's family for allowing him to serve. He recalled seeing Andy Heffner driving the fire truck during the Fire and Police Christmas event. Dixon explained if he were to look up the definition of a leader, Andy would be right there. Andy Heffner expressed his appreciation to his family because he couldn't do the job without a family that is supportive.

Councilor Gordon explained Andy always leaves Council with a good feeling in their heart and a smile on their faces. Gordon thanked Andy for his service and expressed he is grateful for knowing him. Andy thanked Gordon.

Councilor Wilkerson explained the short time he has been on Council, he has developed a wonderful relationship with Andy. He acknowledged the energy Andy has brought to the Fire Department employees which has helped them serve effortlessly and with compassion. He recalled when Andy gave his granddaughters a tour of the Fire Department.

Councilor Thompson explained Andy has been an example of servant leadership from the very beginning. She advised she has never doubted Andy's devotion to his job and particularly the men and women that work with him. She explained Andy has always given credit where credit is due and he makes sure the people who work with him are appreciated, protected and know their own value. She referenced Andy's humor and expressed he will be missed. Andy explained he has always told fire officers unless they are in service to their people, they are doing it wrong.

Councilor Jordon explained she has not heard complaints about the Fire Department but she has heard praise for them in all sorts of situations which has to speak well of Andy's leadership. She hopes Andy has great plans for retirement.

Councilor Jones recalled when he first started Council and Andy showed up personally to one of his 5th Ward community events and provided all of the energy and information. Jones explained that event helped him gain the confidence in

Andy knowing he could reach out to him for assistance and support. Andy explained that level of service will continue as Chief McDermitt is a great man of character and also believes in the service model.

Councilor Glenn expressed his appreciation to Andy. He explained he has always been free to speak openly to Andy Heffner. He referenced the various events he has done with Andy. He explained in his tenure he has never seen a closeness like he sees with the Fire Department. He explained he is losing a friend in Andy. He thanked Andy's family because Andy has put a lot of time into the City of Lima. He wished Andy well in his retirement.

Councilor Neeper explained he and Andy have had many conversations over his tenure, and explained he is going to miss a friend, a sounding board, and an advisor. He expressed the importance of spending time with family in retirement. He expressed his appreciation to Andy for his comedy in the midst of boring budget hearings. He knows the Fire Department is in great hands and will be able to carry on the legacy of what Andy has started.

The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the resolution be adopted on its first reading by an 8-0 vote.

Chief Andy Heffner thanked Jesus Christ for allowing him to be Chief in his home town which is what made it so special. He explained he has been blessed with great firefighters and officers which is what makes a great leader. He expressed the importance of everyone working in collaboration which is what he has done. He thanked Mayor Smith and explained it is because of her leadership and their collaboration is why the Fire Department is great. He also referenced the support he has received from Council.

009-24 A Resolution expressing the appreciation of the Lima City Council to all teachers in the City of Lima

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Jones, that the resolution be adopted on its first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the resolution be adopted on its first reading by a 8-0 vote.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Tyson was not present to speak.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since all received a copy;

- b. Minutes of the Special Council Meeting of August 14, 2024 not read since all received a copy;

Neeper moved, seconded by Thompson, that the consent calendar that items “a and b” be received, filed, and approved. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

- 1. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to sell scrap metal.
- 2. From the Auditor regarding legislation to accept the amounts and rates as determined by the Allen County Budget Commission.
- 3. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to De-Asset LPD office equipment.
- 4. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to apply for and accept an award from the US Department of Homeland Security.
- 5. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to de-asset police patrol bicycles.
- 6. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with Apollo Career Center.
- 7. From the Chief of Staff regarding legislation to submit applications to the Ohio Public Works Commission.
- 8. From the Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator regarding legislation to accept funds from Mental Health Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize and Hardin Counties.
- 9. From the Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator regarding legislation to enter into a contract with Open Doors Academy.
- 10. From the Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator regarding legislation to enter into contract with ACSM, Inc.
- 11. From the Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator regarding legislation to accept \$20,000 from the Lima Community Improvement Corporation.
- 12. From the Mayor regarding an annexation request of Health Partners of Western Ohio.

13. From the Court Administrator regarding legislation to enter into contracts and accept a grant from the Department of Health & Human Services – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
14. From the Court Administrator regarding legislation to enter into contract and accept funds from MHR SB – Specialty Docket Funds.
15. From the Court Administrator regarding legislation to enter into contracts and accept funds from MHR SB – ATP Funds and associated Administrative Funds.
16. From the Court Administrator regarding legislation to enter into contract and accept funds from MHR SB – Pretrial Services.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that communication numbers 1 through 16 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

PETITIONS:

1. Petition for the Vacation of an Alley between S. Metcalf St. and S. McDonel St. South of W. Market St.

Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, 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 October 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Mayor Sharetta Smith provided Council with a 2024 mid-year report. She referenced the collaborative efforts of everyone in the City and she is proud to say they have been able to accomplish great things under the Better Together Plan. She advised the City has been able to award over \$200,000 for small business fund initiatives and also launched the Arctaris-Lima Opportunity Zone Fund. She explained they were honored to work with the Ohio Mayor's Alliance to receive grant money from the National Fitness Campaign in order to open the Fitness Court along the river walk. She referenced the continued work on the construction of the Lima Community Aquatic Park which is still anticipating opening in 2025. She advised the City was able to secure \$1.6 Million for critical water infrastructure upgrades thanks to the Ohio BUILDS Grant Program. She explained the City is moving towards phase 2 of the Downtown Streetscaping project which will extend through the first half of 2025. She explained the City brought in 9 new police officers and 5 new firefighters since the beginning of the year. The City is continuing to see a downward trend in crime with a 10% decrease in violent crime and 24% decrease in property crime. She advised in the first 6 months of 2024 the city completed repairs to 39 homes through the Better Together Housing Repair

Program and they were able to launch the Rapid Rental Repair Program which is designed to help address the lack of rental housing available in Lima. She added the Rental Registration is up to 3,000 registered landlords in the City. She explained they are continuing to make Lima the place that they know it is and sharing that message with others. She thanked Council for their support.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

1. Public Works Committee August 26, 2024 Meeting Report.

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

Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the committee report to remove Ordinance 158-24 from the table and add it to the Agenda for consideration. Motion carried.

2. Joint Finance & Human Resources Committee September 3, 2024 Report.

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

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

- 169-24 (SECOND READING) An Ordinance amending Section 246.08 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Finance Department authorized employment positions.

Neeper moved, seconded by Jones, that the ordinance be passed on the second reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

- 172-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer State Issue I Funds from the Ohio Public Works Commission for the Public Works Department.

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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

- 173-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract to sell scrap iron, steel, copper, and brass for the Public Works Department and 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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- 174-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to dispose of Police Department office equipment.

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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- 175-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the US Department of Homeland Security as part of the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Wilkerson 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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- 176-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to dispose of Police Department Patrol Trek Bicycles.

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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- 177-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to donate four (4) Police Department cruisers to the Apollo Career Center.

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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- 178-24 An Ordinance accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission, authorizing the necessary tax levies, and certifying them to the County Auditor.

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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- 179-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept a monetary donation from the Lima Community Improvement Corporation.

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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- 180-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties to support the ECCO program.

Jordan moved, seconded by Neeper, 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, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. Abstain, 1; Glenn. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote with one abstention.

- 181-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Open Doors Academy to support the ECCO Program.

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, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. Abstain, 1; Glenn. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote with one abstention.

- 182-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with ACSM Inc. for Phase One of the Wayfinding Program.

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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 8–0 vote.

- 183-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to receive and administer funds from Mental Health Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) for addiction treatment program (ATP) funds and administrative funds for the Lima Municipal Court.

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, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. Abstain, 1;

Glenn. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote with one abstention.

- 184-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to receive and administer funds from Mental Health Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) for specialty docket funds for the Lima Municipal Court.

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, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. Abstain, 1; Glenn. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote with one abstention.

- 185-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to receive and administer funds from Mental Health Recovery Services Board (MHRSB) for pretrial services for the Lima Municipal Court.

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, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. Abstain, 1; Glenn. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote with one abstention.

- 186-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to receive and administer funds from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services for the Lima Municipal Court.

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, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. Abstain, 1; Glenn. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote with one abstention.

- 187-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Health Partners of Western Ohio for payment of direct expenses relating to a proposed annexation.

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, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8–0 vote.

- 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 Wilkerson, that the ordinance be defeated on the first reading. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Gordon welcomed Councilor Jordan. He reminded everyone to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson welcomed Councilor Jordan. He referred to the school shooting in Georgia which touched his heart. He explained gun ownership is a big responsibility and parents should expect children to be no different than any other child out there. He expressed the importance of proper gun storage and safety. He reminded everyone to be good neighbors.

Councilor Thompson referenced Resolution 009-24 which was to express appreciation to all teachers in the City of Lima which has shown time and time again to be service leadership. She thanked Mayor for attending the Central Lima Neighborhood Association meeting last month. She referenced the benefits of being involved in a neighborhood association. She thanked Jessica Begonia for all of her assistance over the last month. She thanked all of the Mayor's staff for being supportive and responsive. She announced the next Central Lima Neighborhood Association meeting is September 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the Lima Public Library.

Councilor Jordan thanked everyone for making her feel welcome and expressed her appreciation for the support. She explained she was a teacher at Lima City Schools for 35 years and she doesn't believe most people have a sense of what it means to day after day be in the classroom and be supportive. She mentioned Lima City Schools is doing a real push to get kids to school and that attendance matters.

Councilor Jones welcomed Councilor Jordan. He thanked Mr. Caprella and the Utilities Department as they had a bunch of leaks by the streets over the past few weeks. He thanked Mr. Roach and the Streets Department for helping a resident with limbs that were left by the electric company. He referenced the Teacher Appreciation Banquet on August 31st which was very successful. He is praying for the health and safety for all of the children that are playing football this year and he encouraged everyone to be safe and not push their children too hard. He congratulated all of the schools and local football teams.

Councilor Glenn explained he abstained from the various ordinances because he works for mental health. He congratulated Councilor Jones for putting on a successful Teacher Appreciation Banquet. He thanked Mike Caprella for working fast. He thanked Shane Coleman for his help at a meeting. He announced the painting program is over and they were able to complete 15 houses. He referenced

the various neighborhood associations that are coming back including Kibby Corner ay Lima Towers. He expressed his appreciation to those who attended his wedding as it felt good to see the support from his fellow Council members and the City administration.

Councilor Neeper welcomed Councilor Jordan and expressed he looks forward to collaborating with her as they are neighbors. He reminded everyone to take extra time when driving as the speeding is getting rancid in the City. He acknowledged a Field Services Employee, Greg Hall, who helped a stranded driver by jumping his battery. He advised the stranded driver was the Mayor of Wapak who called Neeper and said Wapak needs employees like that. He explained Greg Hall is an example of the type of employees the City of Lima has and needs.

President Dixon expressed appreciation to Senator Matt Huffman on behalf of Councilor Jones, for providing certificates for the Teacher Appreciation Banquet. He congratulated Councilor Glenn on his recent marriage. He thanked Neven Stolly with the Lima Police Dept. who drove him and the Mayor on the golf cart during the parade. He extended an invitation to the public to attend the Lima Senior Girls' Soccer game on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Lima Senior School. He encouraged the public to support those who are playing in school sports.

Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, to refer City Code Section 1412 to the Public Works Committee. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Gordon moved, seconded by Jones, that Council adjourn into execution session to consider the acquisition of real estate. The following roll call vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Dixon, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Jordan. Nay, none. Motion carried by a 8–0 vote. Council adjourned into executive session.

Council reconvened into regular session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to adjourn until September 23, 2024. Motion carried.

Dana Addis, Council Clerk

Jamie Dixon, Council President