

CITY OF LIMA  
COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE COMMITTEE  
MEETING REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024  
Council Chambers

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Dixon called the Council of the Whole Committee meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Others in attendance were: Dana Addis - Clerk, Sharetta Smith - Mayor, Anthony Geiger - Law Dir., Eric Pheneger - Deputy Law Dir., Edward Moore – Public Works Dept., Ian Kohli – City Engineer, Shane Coleman – Chief of Staff

**ITEM OF DISCUSSION**

1. Traffic Calming

Ian Kohli, City Engineer, provided the committee with a presentation on Traffic Calming. He advised the purpose of the presentation is to provide members with information of what the current state of practice is for traffic calming and also give members an overview of what other communities are implementing. He advised at the national level, there has been a lot of refocus on what safety means and how to approach safety in the transportation realm. He reviewed the safe system approach and advised he will be focusing on the category “safe speeds”. He provided a summary the various speeds and the risk of fatalities at those speeds. He reviewed the strategies to reducing speed which include the Four “Es”: Engineering, Education, Enforcement and Encouragement. He provided the committee with examples of various Ohio communities and how they are addressing the Four “Es”.

Councilor Wilkerson explained the loud sound of a vehicle can create a false perception of their speed rather than what is reality. Councilor Glenn referenced the loud pipes on the vehicles which causes people to think they are speeding. Councilor Gordon explained there are things he has seen in other cities that he believes can reduce speed including an placing an officer in a neighborhood, speed bumps, and placing an old police vehicle in a median. Councilor Thompson clarified traffic calming is not just related to speed alone. Councilor Glenn

referred to speed bumps which he believes is a great idea. Councilor Neeper expressed speeding is a problem all over the City. He referenced his attendance at a Traffic Commission meeting where a specific intersection was discussed and no recommendation was made. He referenced a gentleman in the audience who was injured in an accident in that exact intersection. He explained the people in his ward believe they are being ignored because there is a book the Commission refers to that says what they can and can't do. He advised showing the committee statistics from other communities is not helping the situation as they need to know what they are going to do in this community.

Mayor Smith advised the purpose of this meeting was not to arrive to a solution but to allow Mr. Kohli to educate everyone about what are some factors that engineers have to look at when determining what measures they are going to use for traffic calming. She explained the cities were used as examples to give Council and others an opportunity to go back and see the things that are being done. She clarified they are not there to say the City is not going to do anything, they are here to say there are options and they would like Council to look at those options as well while the City is creating their own traffic calming plan. She advised the book Councilor Neeper was referring to is a book that Engineers must follow and if they divert their recommendations from the book and there is an accident, the City can be held liable. Dixon inquired about putting a time limit on arriving at a solution. He referenced the lack of police power to enforce speeding so Council approved the purchase of the speed trailers which are typically seen rotating within the same spots. He expressed the need to collectively have the conversations so they can arrive at a solution that everyone can be okay with. Councilor Thompson expressed that she does not like making uninformed decisions and approving things she knows nothing about so they need to really understand the traffic calming solutions so when the department comes to Council with a solution, they have an idea whether it makes sense for the community.

President Dixon asked the members to review the links provided by Kohli and the Committee will meet again on October 7, 2024 immediately following the next Council meeting to further discuss. Mayor Smith clarified the things administration has been doing in the last 6 years she has been doing including: a. designing roads and public spaces to accommodate people and public safety, b. when an issue is referred to the Traffic Commission, the City Engineers perform various studies prior to meeting on the issue, c. placement of speed trailers, and d. looking at quality of life patrolling, which they have asked the PACE Unit to look at. She explained this is an issue that comes up every year, but it is not something that the administration is ignoring. She further explained it is going to take more than two weeks to come up with a plan. Dixon clarified the meeting in two weeks is to allow Council to review the links provided and to continue the conversation.

## 2. Residency requirements of elected officials

President Dixon recalled when the issue was originally referred to Committee and that it could be put on the ballot as a charter change but later it was made clear the changes can be made by ordinance. Tony Geiger provided a draft of Chapter 210 regarding elections that sets forth the requirements that can be utilized to determine residency. He explained the way the Courts look at the determination of residency is very subjective based upon the supposed intent of the elected official involved and not so much where they live. He explained the thought was to come up with some criteria that most people would have to indicate where they actually live. He referred to the debate that Council previously had surrounding how many items of the criteria must be met which he doesn't believe was ever resolved. Dixon clarified the criteria listed in Section 210.03 (B)(3) currently states that evidence of at least 5 out of the 11 factors listed could be considered to determine a person's residency and inquired if the members want to stick with the requirement of 5, go with a higher number or just determine which items they want to determine residency. Dixon referenced when his residency was questioned

The members reviewed and discussed the 11 listed criteria to determine which items would be required and which would not. The Committee recommended that proof of all three items (a), (b), and (c) be required; at least two items out of (d), (e), (i) and (j) be allowable supporting documentation; and eliminate items (f), (g), (h), and (k) from the list. See below:

- (a) **(REQUIRED)** The address used on the person's driver's license **or State I.D.**
- (b) **(REQUIRED)** The address used by the person for voter registration.
- (c) **(REQUIRED)** The address used by the person or federal, state, and Lima income tax filings.
- (d) **(SUPPORTING)** The address where the person owns or rents a place to live, as shown by deed, lease, insurance policy, or other substantive governmental or legal document.
- (e) **(SUPPORTING)** The address used by the person to receive mail.
- (f) **(ELIMINATE)** The address of the person's utilities accounts as the owner or tenant, whichever is applicable.
- (g) **(ELIMINATE)** The recitation of a living address in a current will, trust, or other estate planning document.
- (h) **(ELIMINATE)** The address where the person's spouse and/or children live.
- (i) **(SUPPORTING)** The location of real estate for which the individual claimed a property tax exemption or reduction allowed on the basis of the individual's residence or domicile.
- (j) **(SUPPORTING)** The address used on the person's driving record from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles showing an address within the boundaries of the City.
- (k) **(ELIMINATE)** Direct testimony or affidavit, under oath, by a person who is not related to the candidate, attesting to actual evidence of the place where the

candidate actually continuously lives or has lived during the applicable period of time, based upon personal knowledge of the same.

President Dixon noted that any change to the 6 month requirement stated in section 210.02 must be made through the charter.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Dixon, Council President  
JD/dma

# Council of the Whole

9/24/2024

Jamie Dixon

Todd Gordon

Tony Wilkerson

Carla Thompson

Thomas Jones

Derry Glenn

Jon Neeper

~~Ed Moene~~

Shane Coleman

Timothy J. Phalen

Jacob Espinosa

Bob Friedman

Janelda Cowan

Marsha Dixon

Jim Baker

Amanda Richard

Nathan Richard