

CITY OF LIMA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 17, 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 Ehora followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Others in attendance were: Dana Addis – Clerk, Sharetta Smith, JD, MBA – Mayor, Anthony Geiger – Law Dir., Mariah Cunningham – Assistant Law Dir., Randy Bartels – Auditor, Meri Foster – Finance Dir., Della Bradford – Human Resources Dir., Carmillia Zion – Acting Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods, Amber Martin – Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator, Mike Caprella – Dir. of Utilities, Jessica Begonia – Public Information Officer, John Bishop – Police Major, Jack McDermitt – Dep. Fire Chief

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING:

President Dixon called to order the Public Hearing for the 2025 Tax Budget for the City of Lima. There being no one wishing to speak to the Tax Budget, President Dixon closed the Public Hearing.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Angelia Handshoe, 1001 St. Johns Avenue, explained her resident, Yazels Shop, was struck by an uninsured motorist on June 1st which was the third incident in which they have had where their property or vehicle has been damaged by an uninsured motorist. She proceeded to describe the various accidents that have happened in that area on St. Johns. She expressed the concern that St. Johns becomes very narrow in that area and suggested adding a roundabout to the area to help drivers slow down and pay more attention.

Dixon moved, seconded by Gordon, to refer the corner of St. Johns and 2nd Street to the Traffic Commission for a traffic study. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes from the previous meeting not read since all received a copy;
- b. Law Department 2023 Annual Report.

Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, 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 Finance Dir. regarding legislation to apply for, accept, and expend funds from Cenovus.
2. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to accept a Wastewater Infrastructure Grant from the Ohio Department of Development.
3. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to bid and award a contract for the replacement of lead services lines within the City.
4. From the Police Chief regarding legislation to apply for and if awarded, accept and administer an award from the Cenovus Energy Social Investment Resilient Community Grant.
5. From the Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coord. regarding legislation to bid and award a contract for Phase One of the Citywide Wayfinding Program Fabrication and Installation project.
6. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2024 budget.
7. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to purchase workstations and laptops for various departments.
8. From the Civil Service Dir./Secretary regarding a recommendation to amend the Tax Supervisor title.
9. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to receive a restricted gift to construct the Lima Veteran Memorial.
10. From the Auditor regarding legislation to amend the agreement with Utility Metering Solutions.

11. From the Mayor regarding legislation to create the City of Lima Rapid Rental Repair Program.
12. From the Clerk of Court regarding disposal of various office furniture in the Clerk's Office.
13. From the Fire Chief regarding a Memorandum of Understanding with Lima Family YMCA - Facility Use

Ehora moved, seconded by Neeper, that communication numbers 1 through 13 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Officer Eric Miracle gave Council and update of the Safety City and D.A.R.E. Program. He advised radKIDS is a 13 week program which runs September through December and teaches how to identify bad people by their behavior and how to avoid being abducted. In 2023, 330 kids attended the radKIDS program. He advised in September 2023, they hosted their second Safety City Open House which was a success. He explained the Safety City Trick or Treat in 2023 was the largest since 2001 and approximately 4,500 people attended. In December, he attended the D.A.R.E. holiday skate party which had about 300 kids in attendance. He advised the "smoke house" was renamed the David L. Vastano Survive Alive House. He explained D.A.R.E. starts in January after Christmas break and is a 10 week program. This year, D.A.R.E. taught a total of 328 students. He advised of the various updates around Safety City including a new sign, and interior paint. In 2024, Safety City hosted 40 field trips with 1,217 students attending. During the summer, Safety City offers a Summer Academy which teaches various safety topics to children. Councilor Gordon expressed his appreciation for the things Officer Miracle is doing with Safety City.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:

005-24 A Resolution of the Lima City Council adopting the Allen County 911 Final Plan.

Jones moved, seconded by Glenn, that the resolution be adopted on its first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the resolution be adopted on its first reading by a 7-0 vote.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

- 121-24 (Second Reading) An Ordinance adopting the Tax Budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year for the City of Lima, Ohio.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be placed on a third reading. Motion carried.

- 126-24 An Ordinance amending the 2024 annual budget.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 127-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from Cenovus Energy for the Lima Community Aquatic Park.

Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 128-24 An Ordinance amending Section 880.03 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Municipal Income Tax (for taxable years beginning with 2016 and thereafter), definitions.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 129-24 An Ordinance amending Section 880.10 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Municipal Income Tax (for taxable years beginning with 2016 and thereafter,), penalty, interest, fees, and charges.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 130-24 An Ordinance amending Section 880.25 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Municipal Income Tax (for taxable years beginning with 2016 and thereafter), filing of annual return; remittance; disposition of funds.

Neeper moved, seconded by Jones, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 131-24 An Ordinance amending Section 880.062 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Municipal Income Tax (for taxable years beginning with 2016 and thereafter), net profit; income subject to net profit tax; alternative apportionment.

Neeper moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 132-24 An Ordinance amending Section 246.08 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Finance Department Authorized Employment Positions.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 133-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for Phase One of the Citywide Wayfinding sign Fabrication and Installation Project.

Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 134-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Cenovus Energy Social Investment Resilient Community Grant for the Lima Police Department.

Jones moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 135-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Utility Metering Solutions, authorized under Ordinance 135-22.

Gordon moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 136-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the Phase Two replacement of lead service lines for The Utilities Department.

Gordon moved, seconded by Jones, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 137-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract for the purchase of replacement workstations and laptops for various departments.

Gordon moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 138-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Ohio Department of Development Wastewater Infrastructure Grant.

Gordon moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 139-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept a restricted gift from an anonymous donor to construct the Lima Veterans Memorial by the Public Works Department.

Mayor Smith advised the gift is to construct a Veterans Memorial on public property in front of the Civic Center. She explained the project will include replacement of the beds that holds the trees and a rendering of the project can be made available. She further explained the memorial is to honor all of those who served in the armed services in Lima and Allen County and will hopefully be a location where ceremonies can be held in the future.

Thompson moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

140-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to establish the Rapid Rental Repair Program.

Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Ehora referenced a conversation she had regarding porch siting during retirement which she plans to do much of. She explained she feels like she will be a great retiree. She further explained she started working at the gas company in 1989 and only took very little time off between giving birth and breaking her ankle. She expressed her appreciation to council and thanked the people of the 4th Ward who elected her twice to represent them. She encouraged the people who live in her ward to apply for the position as it is a great opportunity to get involved. She advised residents there is a severe heat advisory and encouraged everyone to check on their neighbors. She referenced the sounds of a gun going off in her neighborhood which could have been mistaken for fireworks. She encouraged everyone to call the police when things are happening in your neighborhood.

Gordon moved, seconded by Thompson, to amend the Agenda by adding Resolution 006-24. Motion carried.

Gordon moved, seconded by Neeper, that Resolution 006-24 be adopted on the first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the resolution. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Gordon, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the resolution is adopted on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

Councilor Jones expressed the Resolution is well deserved as Peggy has done a lot. Councilor Gordon explained he is grateful for getting to know and work with Peggy as he has learned a lot from her. He thanked her for all of her hard work. Councilor Thompson explained Peggy has been described as a “Powerhouse” by those who know her. She explained Peggy came to Council with such honesty and compassion and integrity that it has been amazing to sit beside her and have that amazing boss lady energy next to her. She thanked Peggy for being a good friend. Councilor Glenn thanked Peggy for all that she has done as she has always loved Lima and Lima City Schools. He knows Peggy will walk the walk and talk the talk and she will always be around when she is needed. He explained Peggy is a pioneer in this community and he wished her the best in retirement. Councilor Neeper explained he has been

friends with Peggy for a long time and has always appreciated her candor. President Dixon told Peggy to take her place on her porch and become the crazy cat lady. He explained how he came to the realization that Peggy was officially retiring from Council. He said he will miss Peggy and expressed his hopes that she enjoys the next season of her life.

Councilor Jones expressed he is proud of all of the constituents for coming forth to have discussions on how to make our area better. He reminded everyone that there will be a Neighborhood Concerns Committee Meeting on Monday, July 1st at 6:00 p.m. to discuss nuisance dogs. He announced on June 22nd there will be another United in the Community Event at MLK Park. He thanked the NAACP for donating food for the Unity event along with the MLK JR. Neighborhood Association for their assistance in filling the pond so the children can fish that day. He encouraged those who would like to volunteer to contact him personally. He also thanked Dr. Glenn for his help with the event.

Councilor Glenn encouraged everyone to check on their neighbors as it is hot outside. He said they are still working on the air conditioning program. He acknowledged the problem they have been having with accidents involving dumpsters being placed on the streets which is not right. Glenn acknowledged that the dumpsters are only being placed in the South end of Lima. Glenn moved, seconded by Jones, to refer the issue of dumpsters in the streets to the Neighborhood Concerns Committee. Motion carried. President Dixon authorized the Law Director to prepare legislation prohibiting dumpsters in the streets.

Councilor Neepor referred to all of the things there is to do in Lima including the Amphitheater and Spring & Main. He explained if someone can't find things to do in the City of Lima, they aren't looking hard enough. He reminded everyone to be extra cautious now that the kids are out of school.

Councilor Gordon referred to a dumpster that was hit in his Ward on Grand. He thanked President Dixon for referring the dumpster issue to Committee. He asked people to be respectful of their neighbors with the fireworks. He reminded people to be good to each other.

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

Councilor Thompson recited a few of the the various things to do in the City of Lima. She thanked everyone who participated in the "Lets Buy a House" Party. She encouraged those who missed the party and would like more information on assistance to home ownership to call her. She announced Wednesday, June 19th, there will be Cafe Convo at St. Rita's from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. She announced this weekend the Central Lima Neighborhood Association is working adding flower beds and rain barrels to the reading park. She encouraged everyone who would like

to be involved to check out the Central Lima Neighborhood Association Facebook Page. She asked residents to stop burning their trash.

President Dixon explained there have been several events that has happened in the City of Lima over the past several weeks including the grand opening of Spring & Main and Juneteenth at the Amphitheater. He explained Juneteenth is observed on June 19th and the City Building will be closed for the holiday. He reminded everyone that summer officially starts on Thursday, June 20th. He announced Friday night there is a Reggae Festival taking place at the Amphitheater. He also announced Saturday, at MLK Park where there will be K-day and Unity and the Community taking place for free. He wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July and encouraged residents to stay safe and keep in mind while letting off fireworks, the veterans who have served this country but may suffer from PTSD. He encouraged everyone to acknowledge those they come into contact with which can make a difference in their day.

ADJOURNMENT:

Gordon moved, seconded by Jones, that Council adjourn until July 08, 2024. Motion carried.

Dana Addis, Council Clerk

Jamie Dixon, Council President