

CITY OF LIMA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 03, 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 Thompson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Others in attendance were: Dana Addis – Clerk, Sharetta Smith, JD, MBA – Mayor, Anthony Geiger – Law Dir., Eric Pheneger – Deputy Law Dir., Randy Bartels – Auditor, Shane Coleman – Chief of Staff, 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, Kirk Niemeyer – Dir. of Public Works, Ric Stolly – Deputy Public Works Dir. I, Warner Roach – Deputy Public Works Dir., Jessica Begonia – Public Information Officer, Andy Heffner – Fire Chief, Ron Holman – Police Major

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARING:

President Dixon called to order the Public Hearing for the re-zoning of various parcels fronting on W. North St., Allentown Rd., Bellefontaine Ave., and N. Main St. to Class I Business – Petitioned for by the City of Lima. There being no one wishing to speak to the re-zoning, President Dixon closed the Public Hearing.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Jason Cunningham was not present to speak.

Daniel Guida, 1535 W. Wayne Street, expressed his concerns with the lack of space for street parking along Wayne Street. He advised he received a warning to comply for parking on the grass. He further explained W. Wayne Street is only 24' wide and runs the risk of his car being hit by traffic if he parks on the paved street. He asked for the City to consider widening the road and re-paving it. He expressed his concern with the vehicles that are waiting in line at Lee's Chicken. He advised in the afternoon hours, the line parking goes all the way down Wayne Street resulting in the inability to see oncoming traffic on Woodlawn Avenue.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes from the previous meeting not read since all received a copy;
- b. Treasurer's Report for April 2024.

Wilkerson 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 the City of Lima 2025 Tax Budget.

Thompson moved, seconded by Glenn, that communication be received, filed; that the Law Dir. prepare the necessary legislation; that the Clerk cause publication of the legal ad notifying the public of a public hearing to be held on June 17th, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. Motion carried.

2. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2024 budget.
3. From the Fire Chief regarding a contract with Locality Media, Inc. dba First Due.
4. From the Fire Chief regarding legislation to enter into contract with Municipal Emergency Services, Inc.
5. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to amend ordinance 081-21.
6. From the Law Dir. regarding legislation to amend Lima City Code Sections 880.03m, 880.10, 880.25 and 880.062.
7. From the Auditor regarding the April 2024 finance reports.
8. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to upgrade the fire alarm at the Lima Municipal Court.

9. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with Helms & Sons Excavating, Inc.
10. From the Mayor regarding legislation to amend Ordinance the contract with Lima Community Improvement Corporation.
11. From the Mayor regarding a request for resolution to adopt the Allen County 911 Final Plan.

Thompson moved, seconded by Neeper, that communication to amend the title of Communication #8 on the Agenda to state Lima Municipal “Building” instead of Lima Municipal “Court”. Motion carried.

Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that communication numbers 2 through 8 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

1. Council of the Whole May 13, 2024 Meeting Report

President Dixon advised the Council of the Whole Committee met on May 13, 2024 and all members have received a copy of the Committee Report.

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

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

- 116-24 (SECOND READING) An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Helms & Sons Excavating, Inc. for the Downtown Streetscape Renovation Phase 2 Improvements, Central Ave.

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

- 120-24 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; Wilkerson, Ehora, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7–0 vote.

- 121-24 An Ordinance adopting the Tax Budget for the 2025 Fiscal Year for the City of Lima, Ohio

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

- 122-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Allen Water District and Rudolph Foods, as authorized under Ordinance 081-21

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

- 123-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Municipal Emergency Services, Inc., for the Fire Department

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

- 124-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Northwestern Ohio Security Systems, Inc., for the Public Works Department

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

- 125-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Lima Community Improvement Corporation, as authorized under Ordinance 073-22

Councilor Neeper requested an update of the CIC. Mayor Smith advised the Lima Community Improvement Corporation has hired an Executive Director, completed a strategic plan, is in the process of looking for properties to rehab and/or renovate. She is hoping to use some of the funding from the State of Ohio where they can use up to \$30,000 per unit. She explained the CIC has also identified priority areas where they will be concentrating their work following the recommendations that were in the Harsany Report. She advised there is a CIC

meeting tomorrow and every third Thursday of the month and invited Council members to attend.

Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 7; Wilkerson, 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 Thompson reminded everyone to enjoy the celebrations this month including the Lima Juneteenth. She announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will be hosting a dumpster for the Mayor's Cleanup on June 8th at 875 W. Market Street. She reminded everyone to take care of their animals and not abandon them. She encouraged pet owners to reach out for assistance if they are not able to take care of the animals they have.

Councilor Jones announced there will be a monthly Fifth Ward Community Forum on June 4th at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Councilor Glenn thanked Code Enforcement for doing a great job and encouraged them to keep up the good work. He explained Juneteenth is not new to him but it is a national holiday now. He is glad to see people are showing up and being educated on what Juneteenth is all about. He encouraged everyone to learn the history of Juneteenth. He thanked Neighbors Helping Neighbors for helping fix a porch on Elizabeth Street. He said Elizabeth Street is looking really good. He loves seeing the changes and encouraged people to keep their properties up.

Neeper moved, seconded by Jones, to refer the request for a 4-way stop sign at Wayne and Glenwood. Motion carried.

Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, to refer the request for a 4-way stop sign at Nixon and Oakland Parkway. Mayor Smith inquired if the request for a 4-way stop at Nixon and Oakland Parkway is due to an obstruction of view or a speeding issue. Councilor Neeper clarified it is due to speeding. Motion carried.

Councilor Neeper referred to Mr. Guida's complaint about Wayne Street and explained the problem is that no one that lives on that street wants a no parking sign on their side of the street. He agrees that section of Wayne Street is not wide enough but there is an Ordinance in place that says no parking on the tree lawn. He believes something needs to be done on that block. He referred to the issue about Lee's Chicken carry out line obstructing traffic views which is extremely dangerous situation if you are on the west or east side of Wayne Street. He announced the St. Gerard Festival is this weekend and expressed the importance of being careful in that area as there will be increased pedestrian traffic. He reminded everyone to be mindful while driving now that school is out and kids are outside playing.

Councilor Wilkerson reminded people to take time out and look at what they should be thankful for and appreciate the little things. He referenced to Juneteenth and his experience first learning about it. He encouraged everyone to teach their young about the significance of the Juneteenth holiday and what it stands for.

Councilor Thompson announced the Allen County Community Health Survey is available on many outlets. She explained it is important to take the survey as it helps determine where funds are allocated.

Councilor Ehora advised during the Pre-Council meeting, she tendered her resignation to Council effective July 1st. She referenced her history in the workforce in Lima and her initial intent on not staying in Lima. She advised she is retiring from the gas company at the end of this month. She explained Council has been one of the greatest pleasures of her life and Council has become part of her family. She encouraged those who live in her ward to throw their name in the hat to sit on a 3 1/2 year term.

Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, to receive and file her letter of resignation. Motion carried 6-1.

Councilor Wilkerson explained he has known Ehora for 35 years and nothing has made him more proud than being on the ballot the same time as her which speaks volume of their relationship, who she is and how much she loves the City of Lima. He explained the one thing that stands out is the passion that Peggy has for the City of Lima and how she shows it. He thanked her for being her and being one of the best friends in the world. Councilor Thompson encouraged Ehora to take care of her people and expressed how grateful she is for their friendship and hopes their friendship will continue. She encouraged Ehora to stay a mentor. Councilor Glenn explained Ehora was raised in the 6th Ward and expressed how much she will be missed on Council. He referred to Ehora's passion for Lima and encouraged her to continue with her passion. Councilor Neepor referenced his relationship with Ehora prior to Council. He referenced the last night phone calls which he is appreciative for. President Dixon referred to when he first met Ehora when he was a student and she was a school board member. He thanked Ehora for being a sound board for himself and everyone on Council and explained even though they have not seen eye to eye on every subject, they have enough respect for each other to know the next day they will work together for the better of the City. He thanked Ehora and explained he and his family will stand as interceders for her and her family during the next season. Councilor Jones explained although it has been a short time period that he has known Ehora, he is appreciative to know who she is and for the conversations that they have had.

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

President Dixon explained Juneteenth is the celebration of freedom for those individuals who were in Galveston Texas. He explained his family is not a part of that Juneteenth heritage as his family is from the Russell County area of Alabama where freedom came on May 28th of that same year. He further explained they celebrate the 28th day of May by the beating of the drums which he has encouraged the Juneteenth Board to incorporate in the Juneteenth celebration. He encouraged everyone to get to know their heritage and get to know when their ancestors became free. He invited the public to attend the Juneteenth Celebration on June 15th from 12-6 pm at the Amphitheater.

ADJOURNMENT:

Thompson moved, seconded by Jones, that Council adjourn until June 17, 2024. Motion carried.

Dana Addis, Council Clerk

Jamie Dixon, Council President