

CITY OF LIMA  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 27, 2025 @ 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 Wilkerson 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 Absent: Jeannine Jordan

Others in attendance were: Dana Addis – Clerk, Shane Coleman – Chief of Staff, Randy Bartels – Auditor, Eric Pheneger – Deputy Law Dir., Carmillia Zion – Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods, Amy Harpster – Public Works Dir., Warner Roach – Deputy Dir. of Public Works, Ric Stolly – Deputy Dir. of Parks and Rec., Mike Caprella – Dir. of Utilities, Amber Martin – Workforce & Small Business Dev. Dir., Jessica Begonia – Public Information Officer, Meri Foster – Finance Dir., James Baker – Police Chief, Jack McDermitt – Fire Chief

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

David Kiefer, 7714 Akron Road, Sterling, Ohio spoke regarding the high speed rail. He explained the current plan is to spend a lot of money on Amtrak which he believes will never become high speed. He referenced the funds that are left in the Jobs Creation Act of 2022 which he would like to get to Ohio for high speed rail.

Pastor Terri Wies-Haithcock, Faith Christian Church, introduced Armida Nicely. Ms. Nicely explained in Ohio there are one in five children who are uncertain where their next meal is going to come from. She also explained out of the top 50 poorest neighborhoods in Ohio, the Lima's Southside is 32. She introduced the Spread the Love Program which will prepare and deliver free after-school meals for kids in food-insecure areas of Lima, Ohio. She explained the meal will be in sack lunch form which will include a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, a drink, applesauce and a treat. They are hopeful that the program will feed 100 hungry

children per week. She encouraged the public help the initiative by volunteering to make sandwiches, volunteering to help with delivery or by simply donating.

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a. Minutes from the previous meeting not read since all received a copy;
- b. Minutes from the Special Council meeting of January 21, 2025 not read since all received a copy;
- c. Minutes from the Special Council meeting of January 22, 2025 not read since all received a copy;
- d. Bd. of Health Minutes of December 13, 2024.

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Glenn, that items “a, b & c” be received, filed and approved, and item “d” be received and filed. Motion carried.

**THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:**

1. From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a liquor permit transfer to Rana 484 LLC, dba Slims Pizza located at 1290 W. Robb Avenue.

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that communication number 1 be received, filed, and authorize the Clerk to notify the Ohio Division of Liquor Control of no objections. Motion carried.

2. From the Public Information Officer regarding legislation to apply for, accept and administer a grant from the Ohio Commission from the Ohio Commission for the America 250-Ohio.
3. From the Public Information Officer regarding legislation for 2025 parade funds.
4. From the Auditor regarding legislation to permit the City Auditor to transfer cash from general fund to debt service fund.
5. \*From the Dir. of Finance regarding legislation approving the 2025 Budget.
6. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to enter into an Easement Agreement with the State of Ohio.
7. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with Commerce Controls Inc.

8. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to advertise and award a contract for leaf bags.
9. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with All Terra, Inc.
10. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with CDM Smith.
11. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to apply for, accept and administer an award from the Energy Transfer First Responder Fund.
12. From the Fire Chief regarding an exemption request from Mercy Health Regional Transport, LLC.
13. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation for the ELA renewal with Azteca Systems, LLC.
14. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to approve spending with Verizon Wireless.
15. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with Golden Five, LLC.
16. From the Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods regarding legislation to enter into contract with Civic Uplift LLC.
17. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to allow the sale of alcohol at the amphitheater for 2025.
18. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the 2025 Sidewalk Project.
19. From the Public Works Dir. regarding a proposed Feasibility Study by LJB, Inc. to evaluate traffic calming along State Route 65.
20. From the Public Works Dir. regarding additional funding for the Professional Services Industries, Inc. contract.
21. From the Public Works Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with Allen Soil & Water Conservation District.
22. From the Human Resources Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with the Fraternal Order of Police, Unit A Sergeants and Lieutenants (FOP Gold).

23. From the Public Information Officer regarding legislation for funding the Lima Women Have Heart event.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that communication numbers 2 through 23 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:**

Ric Stolly, presented Council with the Urban Forest Council annual report. He explained the various benefits of the City's urban forest are to improve the quality of air in the community, enhancing the value of property, cooling down houses and streets, reduce cost of cooling homes as well as managing storm water. He referenced the various tree programs the City has. He explained the top goal of the Urban Forest Council is educating the public about the value of urban forest. He explained last year they worked with Heir Force Community Schools on Arbor Day where over 200 students were involved. He explained the Urban Forest Council is a great group of volunteers that simply want to make Lima a better place.

### **REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

1. Joint Neighborhood Concerns and Economic & Community Development Committee Report of November 25, 2024;

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

2. Economic & Community Development Committee Report of December 9, 2024;

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

3. Human Resources Committee Report of December 9, 2024.

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

### **THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:**

- 001-25      A Resolution expressing the appreciation of the Lima City Council to Michael Bouson and Joe Correll for their commitment to the Ohio Theatre and the Lima Community.

Councilor Glenn expressed his appreciation to Michael Bouson and Joe Correll for all of their hard work with the Ohio Theatre. He hates to see that they have to sell the building as it is a beautiful place. He thanked everyone who helped out with the Ohio Theatre.

Neeper moved, seconded by Thompson, that the resolution be adopted on its 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 resolution be adopted on its first reading by a 7-0 vote.

- 002-25      A Resolution of the Lima City Council supporting the Ohio Municipal League's Challenge of AT&T's Tariff Application at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the resolution be adopted on its 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 resolution be adopted on its first reading by a 7-0 vote.

**THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:**

- 016-25      An Ordinance establishing the budget for the City of Lima, Ohio, for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025.

Neeper 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, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

- 017-25      An Ordinance authorizing the transfer of cash from the General fund to the Debt Service fund.

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, 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.

- 018-25 An Ordinance amending Section 1806.14 of the Codified Ordinances of Lima, Ohio, parking of motor vehicles, commercial vehicles, recreational vehicles, and watercraft.

Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, 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.

Councilor Glenn thanked Administration and the Law Dept. for this legislation as it is very special to him and the residents in the south end of Lima. Councilor Jones thanked the Mayor, her Administration, the Law Dept., Dept. of Housing and Neighborhoods especially Ms. Zion, Mr. Pheneger, Mr. Geiger and Angie Rex as this specific issue has been 90% of his calls from residents. He is pleased to be able to take legislation to his constituents to show them the things they are doing for the community. Councilor Wilkerson explained the trailers are not just a south end problem, but are a City-wide problem and he appreciates Glenn for bringing the issue to the forefront. He expressed the importance that the citizens of Lima know that the City does care about the community and how it looks and are willing to do everything they can to keep it up and make it presentable to all. President Dixon thanked the various Departments for their hard work and joint efforts working with himself as well as other Council members to make the legislation happen.

- 019-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to expend funds for City participation in various community parades.

Neeper 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.

- 020-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America 250-OHIO).

Glenn 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, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

- 021-25 An Ordinance accepting a petition by Health Partners of Western Ohio for annexation of approximately 9.825 acres of land in American Township to the City of Lima, Ohio.

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, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

- 022-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Allen Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD).

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, 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.

- 023-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the construction of certain sidewalks for the 2025 combined sidewalk project.

Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, 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.

- 024-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center (VMCCC) to sell alcohol beverages in the Greater Lima Region Park and Amphitheater.

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, 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.

- 025-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a collective bargaining agreement with the F.O.P. Ohio Labor Council, Inc. (Unit A).

Wilkerson 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, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

- 026-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Energy Transfer First Responder Fund Grant for the Police Department.

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, 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.

- 027-25 An Ordinance enacting Chapter 209 of the Codified Ordinances of Lima regarding elections.

Glenn 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, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

- 028-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Commerce Controls, Inc. for the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants.

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, 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.

- 029-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Easement Agreement with the State of Ohio for a sanitary sewer line along Reservoir Road for 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, 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.

- 030-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for leaf bags for the Customer Service Division of the Utilities Department.

Gordon 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, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.



- 031-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with All Terra, Inc., for the emergency repair of a 66” Sanitary Sewer.

Gordon 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, Glenn, Neeper. Nay, none. The Chair declared the ordinance passed on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

President Dixon inquired about a timeline for the work to be done. Michael Caprella, Utilities Dir., advised it is being worked on now and they are anticipating the project be complete within the next 2-3 weeks.

- 032-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with CDM Smith, Inc. for professional services for the Utilities Department.

Gordon 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.

- 033-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Golden Five, LLC, as authorized under Ordinance 192-24.

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, 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.

- 034-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Enterprise License Agreement renewal with Azteca Systems, LLC.

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, 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.

- 035-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Verizon Wireless for cellular service, equipment, and fees.

Gordon 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.

- 036-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Civic Uplift LLC for creation of the Five Year HUD Consolidation Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan.

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.

- 037-25 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to expend funds for City Participation in The Lima Women Have Heart Event.

Thompson moved, seconded by Glenn, 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.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

Councilor Wilkerson congratulated the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. He encouraged fans of youth sports to support the youth players and also support their coaches. He reminded everyone to be good neighbors.

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

Councilor Thompson referenced the Allen County CHIP meeting where the Health Dept. was discussing the rapid expansion of Influenza A and encouraged everyone to get their flu shot. She thanked the Dept. of Housing and Neighborhoods along with the other agencies that came out for the first Pop-Out party at the Library regarding housing. She explained there are many resources if you would like to be a homeowner in Lima and encouraged the public to reach out to her if they are interested in being a homeowner. She announced Walk with a Doc will be on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the YMCA. She further announced on February 8<sup>th</sup> from 7pm to 11 pm there will be Sweetheart Ball at the Bradfield Center. She explained as someone who belongs to many marginalized groups one of her proudest moments she has on Council is when they passed the revamped anti-discrimination legislation. She believes we are moving towards hate being acceptable again and cautioned everyone that when anyone's speech calls on you to think less of anyone else and to question their humanity, then you might want to question that speech and why they are not building others up.

Councilor Jones announced the Neighborhood Concerns Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> is canceled. He thanked the various individuals for their work on the legislation regarding trailers. He referenced youth sports league he coaches in and that he admires a lot of the varsity players are refereeing the games and he thanked them for that as the younger players look up

to them. He thanked the coaches, volunteers and family that supports the young players.

Councilor Glenn thanked Pastor Haithcock and Faith Christian Church for what they are doing. He encouraged the public to support the Faith Christian Church initiative as he pledged \$500.00 from him and his wife. He explained they had the second annual Town Hall meeting which had many more in attendance. He thanked Councilor Jones for his help with the Town Hall meeting. He expressed appreciation for the various Council members from Dayton and Springfield. He thanked Dr. Butler. He challenged everyone who cares about mental health to step up to the plate. He thanked everyone who came to the Martin Luther King Jr. program. He referenced Councilor Neeper and Councilor Thompson who received awards. He expressed how exciting it was to see families come out. He expressed his appreciation to various individuals for braving the cold and marching in the Martin Luther King Jr. march.

Councilor Neeper thanked Dr. Glenn for the Martin Luther King Jr. program which he wasn't able to attend due to a health issue. He referenced people saying there is nothing to do in Lima or things to do being too expensive. He announced on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. the Lima Symphony Orchestra is having a kids concert for \$10. He encouraged the public to support the local talent.

Councilor Gordon thanked Dr. Glenn for the award at the Martin Luther King Jr. banquet. He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Glenn for recognizing his wife who really deserved it. He thanked Mr. Kiefer for speaking to Council. He also thanked Pastor Haithcock and explained the things the Faith Christian Church is doing is amazing and the community is blessed to have them. He explained their calling in this world is to help people in need. He reminded people to be good to each other.

President Dixon thanked the Public Works and Streets Department for battling the frigid temperatures to ensure the roadways are safe and clear. He also thanked Safety Services for showing up every day even though it is cold. He also thanked the Utilities Dept. employees for their work in the community. He encouraged everyone to stay warm and safe.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to adjourn until February 10, 2025. Motion carried.

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Dana Addis, Council Clerk

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Jamie Dixon, Council President