

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

CITY OF LIMA  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 06, 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, Peggy Ehora, Anthony Wilkerson, Carla Thompson, Thomas Jones, Derry Glenn, Jon Neeper, Jamie Dixon

Others in attendance were: Dana Addis – Clerk, Tony 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, Andy Heffner – Fire Chief, Ron Holman – Police Major

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Rev. Thomas Dhaiti referred to Mayor Smith's presentation at the previous Council meeting regarding the Haitian immigrant community and the difficulty of communication and offered his help to the City. He clarified the Haitian immigration parole program started due to the political upheaval after the assassination of their President which caused political upheaval. He explained they would like to find ways to work with the government here to put the Haitian community to work.

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

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

**THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:**

1. From the Utilities Dir. regarding legislation to apply for, accept and re-pay a WSRLA construction loan from the Ohio EPA.
2. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to apply for, accept, and expend funds from the Center for Community Progress Technical Assistance Scholarship.
3. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to enter into contract with Neth Properties, LLC.
4. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2024 annual budget.
5. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to dispose of equipment.
6. From the Fire Chief regarding legislation to apply for and accept reimbursement for expenses related to the eclipse.
7. From the Auditor regarding the March 2024 financial reports.
8. From the Mayor regarding legislation to amend ordinance 070-23.

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication numbers 1 through 8 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare the necessary legislation. Motion carried.

**REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:**

Della Bradford, Human Resources Director, provided a 2024 update for the Human Resources Department. She provided Council with an update of the IAFF contract and the LPD lateral hiring program which currently has 3 lateral applicants. She explained the Safety Incentive Program Raffle launched on April 15<sup>th</sup> and ended on April 29<sup>th</sup> which had 97 participants. She advised they are contracting with Clemans Nelson to create a policy manual and employee handbook. She explained the City of Lima will be partnering with Allen County

for the 2024 Wellness Expo on December 5<sup>th</sup>. She further advised in 2023 there were 60 new hires and in the first quarter of 2024, they have hired 16 new hires including 5 LPD hires.

Jackie Owens explained starting in September of 2023 they began discussions to begin the development of a personalized transitional work program which is a fully funded program tailored to the City of Lima's needs to transition injured workers timely and safely back to work. She explained the City's goal is to provide employees with tools needed to return to work sooner. She advised the program will be fully functional June 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. She provided an update on the TechCred/Ohio Means Job On the Job Training Programs which are two state and federal funded programs that help employers hire and train workers for full time and long term employment. She advised they have been taking advantage of this program for the last two years and last month alone they submitted 21 applications and were approved for funding in the amount of \$30,000. She congratulated her daughter for graduating nursing school at Rhodes State College.

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

1. Council of the Whole Committee April 15, 2024 Meeting Report

Dixon moved, seconded by Neeper, that the committee report to amend the report by adding Councilor Jones under Members Present. Motion carried.

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

#### **THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:**

- 103-24 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, 8; Gordon, Ehora, Wilkerson, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion passed on the first reading by a 8-0 vote.

- 104-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Neth Properties LLC to lease space at 675 W. Market Street for the temporary relocation of the City departments and personnel in the lobby and the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Lima Municipal Center

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

- 105-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with govdeals.com or otherwise dispose of electronic equipment for the Data Systems Group

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Ehora, Wilkerson, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion passed on the first reading by a 8–0 vote.

- 106-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept a WSRLA Construction Loan from the Ohio EPA for the Utilities Department to fund lead service line replacements

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Ehora, Wilkerson, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion passed on the first reading by a 8–0 vote.

- 107-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Center for Community Progress Technical Assistance Scholarship

Wilkerson moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Ehora, Wilkerson, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion passed on the first reading by a 8–0 vote.

- 108-24 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, receive, and administer funds from the Ohio EMA for expenses related to the eclipse

Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Ehora, Wilkerson, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion passed on the first reading by a 8–0 vote.

- 109-24 An Ordinance amending Ordinance 070-23 to authorize the Mayor to amend the Better Together Home Repair Program

Ehora moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 8; Gordon, Ehora, Wilkerson, Thompson, Jones, Glenn, Neeper, Dixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion passed on the first reading by a 8–0 vote.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

Councilor Gordon thanked Reverend Dhaiti for speaking to Council tonight and for trying to make better of a situation that is an issue in the community. He explained there has been a lot of things said about the immigration issue that is not true and he would like to see it get smoothed over as we are all God's people. He expressed the importance of the community welcoming all law abiding citizens. He reminded everyone to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson shared an experience he had at Meijer. He explained in his occupation he sees a lot of children who seem to lack the understanding of where they come from and who they should give respect to. He reminded people this is the start of construction season so to be cautious and patient while driving. He reminded everyone to be good neighbors.

Councilor Thompson advised there is a new arts group called Broke Ass Theatre which she loves because it is staged readings. She announced this Saturday at 7:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, there will be a play called The Christians. She explained they held their first Haitian Friends Lunch and Learn where they discussed rentals. She expressed her appreciation to Reverend Dhaiti and the other gentlemen for coming to Council and offering their assistance. She explained she doesn't see a problem with people coming here that appreciate Lima. She explained no human being is illegal and if you are here, you are home. She welcomed the new comers and explained she has learned the people of Lima are welcoming and good people.

Councilor Ehora also welcomed the Haitians to the community. She explained her family lineage and that people from everywhere come looking for jobs. She explained unless you are a Native American, we all came here from somewhere else. She thanked Reverend Dhaiti for coming to Council. She expressed the importance of finding solutions for what is happening in our community. She referenced Mother's Day and expressed the importance of cherishing your mother.

Councilor Jones referenced the Neighborhood Concerns Committee meeting on defining family which he thought went very well. He thanked all of the community members and Councilors who were a part of those conversations as he feels it is important to hear the different views and learning to relate to each other better.

Councilor Glenn thanked Reverend Dhaiti. He referenced the meeting he held regarding the Haitian community where many questions were asked. He advised per Job and Family Services there are currently 2400 jobs in the City of Lima and 40 Haitians were approved for food stamps. He explained Tony Geiger is the Law Director for the City of Lima and is not able to tell people not to come to Lima. He announced there will be another meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup>. He referenced a project he's been working on where someone will be able to get a free house which he is excited about. He thanked Councilor Thompson for an excellent job at the Youth Mental Health Day. He said they are no longer taking any more kids for the "Hire a Kid"

program. He announced they are working on a club for young boys 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He explained “Neighbors helping Neighbors” just completed their third project.

Councilor Neeper congratulated Dr. Glenn on being inducted into the LCC Hall of Fame over the weekend. He wished everyone a Happy Mother’s Day.

President Dixon thanked Reverend Dhaiti for coming to Council and being a voice for his community and welcomed his community to the City of Lima with open arms. He reiterated that Lima, Ohio is not a Sanctuary City but they do welcome all. He wished all of the Mother’s and Aunts Happy Mother’s Day.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that Council adjourn until May 20, 2024. Motion carried.

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Dana Addis, Council Clerk

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Jamie Dixon, Council President