

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

July 24, 2023

The Council of the City of Lima met in regular session at 7:00 p.m.

Attending were: Mayor Sharetta Smith; Tony Geiger, Law Director; Shane Coleman, Chief of Staff, Della Bradford, Dir. of Human Resources; Andria Perkins; Dir. Of Housing & Neighborhoods; Amber Martin, Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Util.; Kirk Niemeyer, Dir. of Public Works; Ric Stolly, Deputy Public Works Dir. I; Warner Roach, Deputy Public Works Dir.; Jessica Begonia, Public Information Officer; Police Chief Angel Cortes, Fire Chief Andy Heffner; and Dana Addis, Clerk.

The invocation was given by Councilor Dixon followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL showed the following members present: Gordon, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Absent: Wilkerson.

PUBLIC HEARING:

President Nixon called to order the Public Hearing for the re-zoning of 1608 W. Spring Street – Petitioned for by David Yermian. There being no one wishing to speak to the re-zoning, President Nixon closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Dixon, to amend the Agenda by adding Susan Kahler under Privilege of the Floor. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

John Rogers, 4062 Statesman Pkwy, expressed his appreciation to everyone who is a part of the City for making it a great place to live.

Brian Newland was not present to speak.

Len Meyer, 815 N. Main Street, explained he is concerned for his neighbor who is handicap and in a wheelchair who does not have easy access to the RTA bus when vehicles are parked along the street. He inquired about the City possibly putting a no parking sign or handicap sign to eliminate. President Nixon advised at the moment, Council cannot correct the issue and he advised Mr. Meyer to give Councilor Thompson a phone call to look into the situation.

July 24, 2023

Susan Kahler, 791 Mohawk Street, Columbus, Ohio, provided Council with clarification of the Convention of States initiative. She asked Council to support and pass a non-binding resolution and forward to the appropriate State representatives. She explained the Convention of States mission is to call for the first Convention of States to propose amendments limited to term limits for federal officials, fiscal restraints and restrict the size, scope and jurisdictions of agencies. (A complete copy of the presentation is on file in the Council office).

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy;
- b. Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2023.

Gordon moved that item "a" of the consent calendar be received, filed, and approved and that item "b" be received and filed, seconded by Neeper, motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Auditor regarding the June 2023 Financial Reports.
2. From the Auditor regarding the 2022 Popular Annual Financial Report.
3. From the Auditor regarding an agreement for Cyber Insurance.
4. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to advertise and accept sealed bids for the purchase of 5 patrol vehicles.
5. From the Chief of Police regarding a contract with BA Carts.
6. From the Housing & Neighborhoods Dir. regarding legislation to award contracts to T&L Contractors and CSL Contractors.
7. From the Acting Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2023 Budget.
8. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to amend Ord. 90-21.
9. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to allocate funds to Utility Metering Solutions.
10. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to allocate funds to Utility Metering Solutions.

July 24, 2023

11. From the Civil Service Board Secretary regarding the approval of the creation of the Classification of Utilities Administration Office Manager.

12. From the Civil Service Board Secretary regarding the approval of amending the pay range for the Housing Loan Originator.

Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Neeper, that Communications No. 1 through 12 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare any necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Mayor Sharetta Smith provided Council with a review of the accomplishments that the City of Lima has achieved in the first half of 2023. She highlighted the projects that are underway in the Communications Department. She pointed out the income tax revenue has increased by almost 10% and the expenditures are running right on track as of June 30, 2023. She advised the Fire Department responses are well over 2,000 for the year. She further advised that 266 students received fire and safety education and there were 1,244 participants in Safety City. She updated Council on the status of the First Home Lima Program and the Housing Repair Programs. She explained the City is accepting land bank applications twice per year and the City has approved 8 applications. Code Enforcement has issued a total of 3,784 code enforcement citations and the mowing is at 3,093 jobs. The planning commission has cleared 54 zoning clearances this year. Mayor Smith advised the City's turnover rate is 1.365% and has hired 20 new employees and promoted 10 employees. She further advised there were 3,694 participants in the Parks and Recreation programs and there are currently 66 active vouchers for pending cat sterilizations. She explained there was a 14% decrease in major Part 1 Crime in the City of Lima but has seen a 3% increase in Part 2 Crimes. She provided a breakdown of the permits submitted and issued in the Building Department and also the amount of the water produced and treated in the Utilities Department. She explained the Workforce and Small Business Development department has welcomed 27 new business to the City of Lima and completed 8 internships through the GenNext Internships and Workforce Development. She summarized the COVID funding status and the tax incentives that are spurring economic development. (A complete copy of the presentation is on file in the Council office).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Councilor Thompson advised the Community and Economic Development Committee met on June 12th, 2023 to hold the second public hearing for the HOME/CDBG Allocations. All members have received a copy of the report. Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, that the report be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

July 24, 2023

Councilor Thompson advised the Community and Economic Development Committee met on June 26, 2023 to hold the third public hearing for the HOME/CDBG Allocations. All members have received a copy of the report. Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, that the report be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PRESENTED:

017-23 A Resolution expressing the opposition to Issue 1 and support for preserving Ohio's Constitution and Majority Rule. Dixon moved, seconded by Thompson, that the resolution be adopted on the first reading. President Nixon expressed that he is not in support of the resolution for various reasons. He explained Issue 1 gives opportunity for voters to be heard during the signature gathering process by all 88 counties. He believes raising the threshold for Constitutional Amendments should be approved and even Lima City Council requires 66% approval to pass legislation on the 1st and second reading. Further, he advised those wanting to amend the Ohio Constitution should know what they are doing and not need a threshold. He expressed the significance of the Constitution versus Statutory laws of the Ohio Revised Code. He encouraged Council members to defeat the Resolution. Councilor Thompson expressed her support of the resolution and explained that a majority vote of the people has been the method of constitutional changes for over a century and is the closest thing we have to democratic rule. She urged everyone to be cautious about thinking about party lines and actually looking at the wording in the legislation proposed. She explained when talking about a democracy, a simple majority should be what changes or supports things. She referenced Council legislation going to three readings and the third reading only requires a simple majority to pass. She explained most citizens do not have the ability to get 10% signatures from all 88 counties. She doesn't understand why citizen led initiatives should be made more difficult. Councilor Glenn explained he is not going to debate the issue but the issue isn't about abortion or gays and lesbians. He encouraged everyone to read the issue themselves and think of the future of our kids. He explained everyone has a right to their opinion but he is thinking of our kids. He said there are so many different things involved and advised everyone to pay attention. Councilor Neeper noted in order for Council to pass legislation on the third reading at a 5-2 vote, that is 62.5% of 8 members which is 2% more than what they are calling for passing constitution amendments. Councilor Ehora expressed her belief that the issue is a power grab and it has been this way for 100 years. She use the example of a football game and said if Ohio State scores 59 and Michigan 41, Michigan wins, which is how the issue change works. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 5; Gordon, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, 2; Neeper and Nixon. The Chair declared the motion does not carry by a 5-2 vote and the ordinance will go to a second reading.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

145-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the purchase of five (5) marked patrol vehicles for the Police Department. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

146-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Utility Metering Solutions. 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, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

147-23 An Ordinance authoring the Mayor to amend the contract with Utility Metering Solutions. 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, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

148-23 An Ordinance amending Section 246.10 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Utilities Department authorized employment positions. 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, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

149-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Moody's of Dayton, Inc. authorized under Ordinance 090-21. 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, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

150-23 An Ordinance amending the 2023 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, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

July 24, 2023

151-23 An Ordinance amending the City Zoning Map from Class I Residential to Class III Residential for 1 parcel located at 1608 West Spring Street in the City of Lima, as herein described. Ehora moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

152-23 An Ordinance amending Section 246.13 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Housing and Neighborhoods Department Authorized Employment Positions. 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, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

153-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with T & L Environmental Inspection Services, LLC. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

154-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with CSL Contracting, LLC. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Glenn explained the NAACP had their annual banquet over the weekend and they showcased students who received \$5,000 scholarships. He recited the names of the scholarship recipients. He explained the kids are so important and we need to continue to support them. He referenced a message that was given at the banquet by Dr. Bradley. He expressed his excitement to see how things are growing in the City of Lima. He announced the air conditioner program is over and he thanked everyone who gave donations. He announced on August 22, 2023 they will be giving away bicycles at Martin Luther King Park. He thanked McDonalds for giving out school supplies and encouraged the public to continue to do giveaways.

Councilor Neeper announced the Boulevard Neighborhood Association will be meeting at the LACNIP Building on Thursday, July 27, 2023. He announced the Amphitheatre ribbon cutting is on Monday, July 31st at 1:15 p.m. and encouraged the public to attend. He advised the Annual National Night Out has been moved to Faurot Park. He further announced the activities that will be going on surrounding the amphitheater opening over the next week. He encouraged the public to

July 24, 2023

attend the special events.

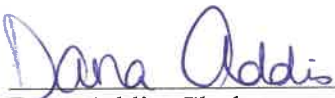
Councilor Gordon said God has his hand over the City and is moving in big ways. Gordon moved, seconded by Thompson, to approve the absence and salary of Councilor Wilkerson. Motion carried. He reminded people to be good to each other.

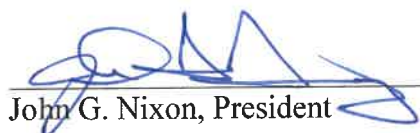
Councilor Thompson announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, July 27th at 200 North Metcalf Street. She further announced the South Jackson Street Garden will be having a block party on Saturday, July 29th. On August 8th from 4-6 p.m. is the MLK Park Lima City Schools' supply giveaway. She referenced thanked her fellow Councilors who participated in the discussion surrounding the Issue 1 Resolution.

Councilor Ehora advised Ordinance 151-23 that passed tonight, allows the re-zoning of the Roosevelt School which is a critical step in the process of renovating the building. She thanked Bob who has been the liaison between the owner of the building and the process which has been going on for over a year now. She expressed her excitement of the project. She announced Tuesday, July 25th at 5:00 p.m. they will be walking the ward in the 5th Ward with the Mayor and her group with a starting point located at "Light on the Corner". She explained the amphitheater is a big deal for the City of Lima and the City is doing good things.

Councilor Dixon wished the Clerk of Council a Happy Belated Birthday. He referenced the hot temperatures over the next few days and expressed the importance of drinking water and checking on elderly neighbors. He reminded everyone to bring dogs and cats in as there is a tethering law in place.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until August 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Dixon, motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President