

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

February 8, 2021

The Council of the City of Lima met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. via audio/video communication.

Attending were: Mayor David Berger; Tony Geiger, Law Director; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Steven Cleaves, Finance Director; Kari Keener, Dir. of Human Resources; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Utilities; Susan Crotty; Dir. Of DCD; Howard Elstro, Dir. of Public Works; Sharetta Smith, Chief of Staff; Chief Martin; and Dana Addis, Clerk.

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

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

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 for December, 2020;
- c. Board of Health Minutes of December 11, 2020.

Gordon moved that items "a" of the consent calendar be received, filed, and approved and that items "b-c" be received and filed, seconded by Wilkerson, motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the African American Chamber of Commerce regarding the re-establishment of the Human Relations Commission. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Councilor Thompson advised that Council has received and read the communication and will be making appointments for the Human Relations Commission in the future. Motion carried.

2. From the Division of Liquor Control regarding a liquor license permit for Play with your Food LLC dba Ohio Theatre, 122 W. North St. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received, filed and authorize the Clerk to file with the Ohio Division of Liquor Control with no objections. Motion carried.

3. From the Chief of Staff regarding a "draft" Application for the Establishment of a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA). Moved by Thompson, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received, filed and referred to the Community and Economic Development Committee. Motion carried.

February 8, 2021

4. From the Dir. Of Human Resources regarding legislation to apply for, accept and administer an award from the State of Ohio for Workforce Training. Moved by Wilkerson, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

5. From the Dir. of Community Development regarding legislation to place tax assessments. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

6. From the City Auditor regarding legislation to enter into contract with Perry proTEC. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

7. From the Finance Director regarding the 2021 City of Lima Budget. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Thompson, that the communication be received and filed. Councilor Glenn expressed his appreciation for Finance Committee Chair Neeper, Steve Cleaves and the Auditor for their hard work. Councilor Dixon also expressed his appreciation for the Committee and Administration making the budget hearings a seamless process. Councilor Ehora expressed her appreciation for the work of the Committee, Steve Cleaves and the Auditor. President Nixon agreed the budget hearings can be a challenge and the Committee did a good job this year. Motion carried.

8. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Allen County Sheriff's Office. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

9. From the Dir. Of Utilities regarding legislation to enter into a professional services contract with Advanced Utility Systems. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

10. From the Dir. Of Utilities regarding legislation to grant a perpetual easement and right-of-way for the public County Rd purposes. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

11. From the Dir. Of Utilities regarding legislation to enter into a fishing renewal agreement with Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

12. From the Dir. Of Utilities requesting legislation to purchase repair parts from Westech Engineering, Inc. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Thompson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

13. From the Dir. Of Public Works regarding legislation to enter into a lease with CDC Real Estate Holding, LLC. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

February 8, 2021

14. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to amend Ordinance 262-20, a contract with D& M Fencing. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

15. From the Deputy Dir. Of Public Works regarding legislation to enter into contract with Marimor Industries, Inc. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

16. From the Law Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contracts for specialized legal services. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

17. From the Law Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with Crime Victim Services. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

PETITIONS:

Petition for vacation of an alley off North Street – Petitioned for by John Heaphy. Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the petition be received and filed; that the Law Director prepare the necessary legislation; that the Clerk cause publication of the legal ad and notify abutting property owners of the Public Hearing to be held on March 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Susan Crotty, Dir. of Community Development, provided Council with an overview of the 2020 Property Maintenance Program. She noted Code Inspectors performed over 11,210 inspections during 2020 and provided a breakdown of the type of inspections. She compared the 2020 numbers to previous years which has increased slightly. Crotty provided an update on the Specified Parcel Maintenance Program, the expenditures and invoices for 2020. She provided a flow chart showing how complaints are handled depending on the violation. Crotty explained there is a 2% fee collected with the payment of the assessments but the City receives the entire assessment. Councilor Dixon inquired if there is a plan to reduce the amount of specified parcels the City is maintaining. Crotty explained the different situations for properties being under the specified parcel list. She advised there is the possibility of foreclosure, but the City still needs to maintain the property and pay the taxes. Dixon gave examples of properties where owners are deceased and are on the list. Councilor Thompson pointed out the issue of specified parcels could be addressed by the Housing Task Force. Sharetta Smith compared the cost for the City to maintain the properties compared to the City carrying the properties. She confirmed the issue is being looked at by the Housing Task Force's Design and Infrastructure Committee. (A complete copy of the presentation is on file in the Council office)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Councilor Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the Finance Committee Meeting Report of January 19, 20 & 21, 2021 be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

019-21 An Ordinance levying special assessments for property maintenance code charges on premises in the City of Lima, Ohio. Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

020-21 An Ordinance Establishing the Budget for the City of Lima, Ohio for the fiscal year end December 31, 2021. Neeper moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

021-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept and administer funds from the State of Ohio Techcred Program. Gordon moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

022-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Crime Victim Services, Inc. Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Thompson clarified that she will be abstaining due to Crime Victim Services being her place of employment. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. Abstain, 1; Thompson. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote with 1 abstention.

023-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contracts for specialized legal services during 2021 and 2022. 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, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

February 8, 2021

024-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Chief of Police to enter into a mutual aid agreement with the Allen County Sheriff's Office. Dixon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Glenn expressed his appreciation to Chief Martin for his willingness to explain how this will work. He believes this is a win-win. Councilor Thompson thanked Chief Martin and clarified that this initiative will save the City money and resources which is why it is important. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

025-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with D&M Fencing as authorized in Ordinance 262-20. Ehora moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

026-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Lease Agreement with CDC Real Estate Holding, LLC. Ehora moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Ehora declared her excitement that a group of people are interested in developing this property into a dog park downtown. President Nixon agreed with Councilor Ehora and advised a dog park is one of the most requested items for the City and he believes it is a good thing. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

027-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a fishing renewal agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for Bresler Reservoir. 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, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

028-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Advanced Utility Systems. Gordon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

029-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Marimor Industries, Inc. Ehora moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Ehora believes this is a wonderful partnership that she is proud of. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

February 8, 2021

030-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to grant a perpetual easement for public county road purposes to the Board of County Commissioners, Allen County, Ohio. Gordon moved, seconded by Neeper, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

031-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a work agreement with the Board of County Commissioners, Allen County. 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, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

032-21 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Perry proTEC. Neeper moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by an 8-0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Wilkerson thanked Mr. Roach and his staff for their diligence in keeping the City streets clear. He reminded residents to be mindful and do their part by parking on streets when scheduled. He encouraged everyone to continue to wear masks. He also encouraged everyone to sign up to get the vaccination. He announced there will be a civil service test for a Law Enforcement Officer and personally challenged residents to make a difference.

Councilor Thompson announced an Economic & Community Development Committee meeting will be held on February 15th 2021 at 6:00 pm to discuss the establishment of a DORA. She advised just because the COVID numbers are down, the challenge is to keep them down by wearing masks, washing hands and social distance. She thanked Councilor Dixon and Glenn for working with Crime Victim Services, Data to Equity and the Police Department to hold community listening circles where they will include residents in driving the crime rate down. She advised her Black Lives Matter banner was stolen from her porch. She explained why she believes the banner is important and why saying all lives matter and blue lives matter is both an insult and a co-opting of a vital movement. She provided many examples of how institutional and systemic racism still exists. She expressed that as many times as someone steals her flags, is how many times she will put one back up.

Councilor Ehora advised the weather is unseasonably cold and encouraged everyone to be careful with exposure and bring pets indoors. She asked residents to be mindful when parking places other than their own driveways. She wished the area girls and boys basketball teams as they go into tournaments. She extended her prayers and best wishes to Lima Seniors' Assistant Basketball coach who is having health issues. She wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

February 8, 2021


Councilor Dixon wished Councilor Glenn a happy belated birthday. He explained when plowing snow, the City focuses on main streets and then secondary streets. He asked everyone to be very patient. He has received complaints about snow plowing and asked residents to be mindful of the snow being compacted and the plows having to go at higher speeds. He asked the elderly to be mindful and bundle up when going outside. He asked everyone to remember to continue to spread and show love to one another. He wished Chief Martin a happy birthday and encouraged him to continue doing great work. He asked everyone to be kind, love one another and be safe.


Councilor Glenn wished Mr. Miles a happy birthday. He said the Fourth Street apartments are coming along nice and said he will be meeting with the new owners about the trash. He thanked the lady who takes the calls in the Street Dept. for her promptness. He thanked Councilor Dixon for holding the Committee meeting regarding curbs and parking. He announced he will be out recruiting minority police officers. He encouraged residents to put in their application.

Councilor Gordon reminded everyone of the Utilities Committee Meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 regarding refuse services in Lima. He reminded people to be good to each other.

President Nixon inquired about the WIFI for Council members' laptops. He opened the invite for Council members to bring their laptops downtown for the Council meetings but advised the building is NOT open to the public and meetings will still be conducted via GoToMeetings.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Wilkerson, motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President