

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

February 25, 2019

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

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

President Nixon introduced Louisa White who is a Captain with the United States Army and a Commander at the U.S. Army Recruiting Center and also Staff Sgt. James Paya.

The invocation was given by Councilor Neeper followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Louisa White and James Paya.

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

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Kreher, that the Agenda be amended by adding Communication No. 9 and Ordinance 041-19 and removing Deb Vobbe from Reports of Officials. President Nixon pointed out that Deb Vobbe is being removed from Reports of Officials because she was inadvertently put on the Agenda and will give her report at a later date. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy.
- b. Board of Health Minutes of January 11, 2019.
- c. Treasurer's Report for December 2018.
- d. Traffic Commission Minutes of February 4, 2019.
- e. Board of Building Appeals Minutes of January 17, 2019.

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

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

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

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2. From the Dir. of Community Development regarding legislation to enter into contract with Northwest Property Maintenance, LLC and Benchmark Property Maintenance. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Dixon, that the communication be received and filed. Councilor Thompson thanked Susan Crotty and her department for putting in the extra effort to meet the requests that the Committee put before her and renegotiating the contracts. Motion carried.

3. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2019 budget. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Kreher, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

4. From the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a liquor permit transfer to JHS Stores, Inc. dba Grandview Drive Thru Too. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Thompson, that the communication be received, filed and the Clerk authorized to file with no objections. Motion carried.

5. From the Auditor regarding legislation to substitute the exhibit attached to Ordinance 22-19. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Thompson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

6. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to amend the LPA agreement with ODOT for the ALL-Lima-Wayne Street Project. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

7. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to modify the Strength Ordinance. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Dixon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

8. From the Law Dir. regarding legislation to recodify the Lima City Code Parts Four and Six. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

9. From the Law Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with the Allen County Commissioners. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Councilor Dixon thanked Howard Elstro and the Building Department for talking repetitively with the Allen County Commissioners. He also thanked all of the citizens that voiced their concerns on behalf of the Lima Building Department and keeping this money in our back yards, doing business together and moving this City forward. Councilor Glenn thanked Mr. Newland for hearing them out. He said he is glad the Commissioners took the time to look at it and see it is a win-win for all of us. He thanked Mr. Elstro and his staff for doing a good job. Motion carried.

PETITIONS:

1. Alley Vacation – unnamed east/west alley and S. Jackson Street right-of-way – Petitioned for by the City of Lima. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, 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 April 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

2. Alley Vacation – unnamed alley between S. Jackson St. and Pine St. – Petitioned for by the City of Lima. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, 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 April 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Christine Pleva, Executive Director of the CVB, presented the 2018 annual report. She said for forty years, the Convention and Visitors Bureau has been promoting Lima/Allen County to generate tourism for the whole purpose to have a positive impact on the economic development of the community. Their objective is to promote Lima/Allen County to potential leisure group events and business visitors. She explained the CVB continues to promote through expanded digital website and print advertising through the creation and ongoing use of promotional materials, professional organization networking and also by having a visible presence at trade shows. In 2018, the CVB recorded 1,348 groups holding events in our community with an estimated attendance of 689,247 people and generated an economic impact of nearly \$194 Million for Allen County. That is a 16.6% increase in the number of groups from 2017 and also a 4.9% increase in attendance. She said they continue to use social media and reviewed the social media statistics. The CVB attended 23 trade shows and conferences. The CVB's website had a new visitor rate of 89.5%. (A complete copy of the report is on file in the Council office.)

Randy Bartels, Auditor, presented that the City of Lima was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. He explained that the CAFR is well and above what is required by Ohio Law. It is a 300 page document that is put together by Sue Odenweller every year that includes a lot of detailed information on each individual fund. He encouraged Council to take a look at the CAFR which is on the City's website under the Auditor's section. Mr. Bartels thanked Sue Odenweller for all of her hard work. Mr. Bartels also thanked the Mayor, administration and staff. He also thanked Council for making the decision 6 years ago to enhance the staffing in the Auditor's Office.

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Sgt. Nick Hart gave an update on the SAAFE Program. He advised the program started in July of 2017 and the first participant was enrolled on the 31st. From July 2017 through July 2018, the City responded to a total of 94 known overdoses which is down from 144 the year prior. With the assistance of this program and several other agencies and opportunities for treatment they have in the community, they have been able to start chipping away at the problem. He said the SAAFE Program numbers fluctuate rapidly because during the course of treatment and rehabilitations it is not uncommon for someone to fall off or have a mistake. He said they are at 10% of non-recidivism where they can get someone in treatment, stay in the treatment, and not recommit a criminal offense that they are taken into custody for. Mayor Berger asked Sgt. Hart to describe what is done through the SAAFE Program. Sgt. Hart explained if they respond to an overdose, they offer the people who have overdosed, or the people they are with, the opportunity for treatment in lieu of any type of criminal charge. He said this gives people an opportunity for a second chance. He said through the course of their treatment, he monitors their successes or failures. Councilor Dixon asked if agencies make referrals to the SAAFE Program. Sgt. Hart explained they are more of a frontline that branches off of criminal issues and are the referring agency. He said they will receive calls asking for assistance getting someone into treatment and they will be the bridge to treatment. Sgt. Hart gave an example of a gentleman that has gone through the program. Councilor Kreher thanked Sgt. Hart for doing this within our community. She knows of two women at the W.O.R.T.H. center who have expressed they do not have a program available to them in their own community.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

033-19 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, 7; Gordon, Thompson, Kreher, 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.

034-19 Authorizing the substitution of the Exhibit to Ordinance 022-19. Gordon 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, Kreher, 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.

035-19 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Northwest Property Maintenance, 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, Kreher, 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.

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036-19 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Benchmark Property Maintenance. 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, Kreher, 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.

037-19 Establishing the positions and classifications and fixing the salary and compensation of such positions and classifications. Kreher moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Thompson, Kreher, 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.

038-19 Authorizing a second amendment to Ordinance 211-18. 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, Kreher, 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.

039-19 Amending the 2019 Annual Budget. 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, Kreher, 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.

040-19 Recodify Parts Four and Six of the Codified Ordinances of Lima, Ohio. 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, Kreher, 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.

041-19 Authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Allen County Commissioners for enforcement of the State Building Code. Neeper moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. President Nixon congratulated Howard Elstro, Amy Harpster, the Administration and the also the County Commissioners for all taking a step back and a step forward and having discussions. He believes the discussions need to continue to happen. He challenged Administration to be better than what the contract says and have more than just annual meetings. He said this is our opportunity to have our service shine. He said this is the way it needs to happen and it needs to stay with the City of Lima. He acknowledged the Law Director who also had some hand in the guidance of bringing this contract to fruition. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Thompson, Kreher, 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.

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MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Neepor said he attended a wonderful production at the Civic Center over the weekend and thanked the Civic Center staff for putting together the programs in the Broadway series. He also attended Pancake with a Cop alongside many other Council Members. He was at a Westgate Neighborhood Association meeting and had the opportunity to speak with Bob Fricke about the Allen County Fair coming up this year. He said there are a lot of big things going on there. He congratulated the Building Department for getting the issue settled and sitting down and putting it together. He congratulated the Auditor's office for going above and beyond what is required. He had the opportunity to attend Lima's first ever Shark Tank. He received a wealth of knowledge from a gentleman who was on Shark Tank. He congratulated the three local winners: Just Peachy Jewelry, Lima's Total Revolution and the Autism Life Center. He said one of the things Mr. Tom Burden reiterated in his speech was "persistence through failure". He said this is a way to showcase talent in the Lima area and get money coming back into the area.

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Dixon, to refer Item #2 from the Traffic Commission Minutes of February 4, 2019 to the Public Works Committee. Motion carried. He reminded Councilors that this is the issue where he had a Petition that was brought to him from one of the residents with over 70 signatures. He said this is a quality of life issue for the residents that elected him which is why he has been so concerned about the issue. He encouraged Council Members to visit the intersection in question. He reminded everyone to be good to each other.

Councilor Thompson reminded everyone that the Central Lima Neighborhood Association meeting will be held on February 27th, 2019 at the Elks. She also reminded everyone the Neighborhood Leadership Series hosted by LACNIP starts on February 26, 2019. She thanked Councilor Kreher for giving her good pancakes at the COP event which was wonderful. She noted that she has found that there is a lot of things to do in Lima if you want to be involved. She said if you think something is missing, create it. Lima is an excellent town to get to know each other and do things.

Councilor Kreher said she did not make any pancakes but she did spend time with people at the COP pancake event and it was a great day. She thanked the Police Department for putting the event on. She announced the Faurot West Neighborhood Association meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at LACNIP Resource Center. She encouraged everyone to attend, even if they do not live in the neighborhood. She thanked the Streets Dept. for doing an excellent job handling the multiple trees that were down, putting correct signage out and being prompt.

Councilor Dixon thanked the two soldiers in the audience. He thanked them for their service and dedications so we all can continue to have the rights that we have here on the home front. He congratulated the Lima Senior High School boys' team for winning their second track championship. He gave a special thanks to the coaching staff and mostly our students for taking

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their education seriously. He told a story about meeting his grandmother and listening to her stories of some of the things that she endured in life. He believes some of the things that she went through in her times, are relevant to things we are going through in these times. He said there is a lot of hatred going on throughout the world. He asked everyone to starve hate and feed love because at the end of the day love wins.

Councilor Glenn set a Safety Services Committee meeting for March 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the Safety Services Capital Expenditure Fund. He said he appreciates neighbors helping out and assisting after the wind storm. He advised everyone to read their insurance policy and not to assume that everything is covered. He said the Hire a Kid Program will start training in April and they will need volunteers to help. He said the Heating and Air Conditioning program will be coming back. They are looking for a location to be donated. He thanked the Young City Council for the program they did for Black History Month. The Young City Council will be electing a new Mayor. He said he had the opportunity to visit Montgomery Ohio where he spoke with the Catholic Association to find money to help kids out. He thanked Mr. Davenport and his family. He announced April 27th they will be having a Heroin Walk and they are looking for volunteers. He said the proceeds will go towards placement for people. He said his mom is doing a lot better.

Councilor Nixon moved, seconded by Kreher, to approve the absence and salary for Councilor McLean. Motion carried.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until March 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Dixon, motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President