

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

April 20, 2020

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; Susan Crotty; Dir. Of DCD; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Util.; Howard Elstro, Dir. of Public Works; Sharetta Smith, Chief of Staff, and Dana Addis, Clerk.

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

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

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Dixon, to amend the Agenda by adding Communication No. 10 and Ordinance 083-20. 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. Treasurer's Report for March 31, 2020.
- c. Public Works Department 2019 Annual Report.
- d. Human Resources 2019 Annual Report.

Gordon moved that item "a" of the consent calendar be received, filed, and approved and that items "b-d" be received and filed, seconded by Glenn, 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 Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

2. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to dispose of City equipment through GovDeals.com. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

April 20, 2020

3. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to apply for and, if awarded, accept an award from the Ohio Office of Attorney General for the Drug Use Prevention 2020-2021 Grant. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

4. From the Dir. of Human Resources regarding legislation to amend Ordinance 301-19. Moved by Wilkerson, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

5. From the Chief of Staff regarding an appointment to the Design Review Board. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Councilor Thompson explained there is a committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, discussing Board diversity and was wondering when the appointments were made and by whom. Mayor Berger explained these Board appointments are generally made by him and in some instances with concurrence by Council. He said there is generally appointment requirements that are stipulated in the Ordinances or governing documents for each individual Board. He explained Sharetta Smith is prepared to explain each Board's requirements and where there are vacancies during the Committee Meeting. He explained a number of the Boards are catching up on re-appointments. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0 and 1 abstention by Glenn.

6. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with S&ME, Inc. Moved by Gordon, seconded by Neeper, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

7. From the Deputy Dir. I of Public Works regarding legislation to authorize appointments to the Urban Forestry Council. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried with a vote of 7-0 and 1 abstention by Glenn.

8. From the Deputy Dir. I of Public Works regarding legislation to authorize an appointment to the Parks & Recreation Board. Moved by Ehora, seconded by Wilkerson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

9. From the Auditor regarding the March 2020 Financial Report. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Thompson, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

10. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2020 Official Budget. Moved by Neeper, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

072-20 (Second Reading) An Ordinance establishing the positions and classifications hereinafter set forth and fixing the salary and compensation of such positions and classifications. Gordon moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the second reading. Councilor Glenn said he is not in support of this Ordinance at this time. He explained he had a lot of folks talk to him about this and they do not understand why we are giving out raises when we are in the middle of a Pandemic and can potentially see cuts. He believes the Ordinance should go into a Committee. Councilor Ehora explained the importance of IT positions in any organization. She explained cyber security is one of the most important things companies should be doing especially during this pandemic. She agrees the CTO could find a job anywhere and he has probably walked into this position not being where it should be. She believes Council should support this position. Councilor Thompson understands Councilor Glenn's concern and said no one has contacted her with concerns. She believes this pandemic highlights the need for a strong IT Department and the City needs all of the technology components to function during this time. She believes we are looking at a matter of fairness, not just market value for the position itself. Councilor Dixon said he hears concerns why this is needed. He agrees we need a stronger technology department and with that does take a lot of work but we also need to remember during their first year on Council there was an annual report in the Lima News that spoke about salaries. In that report, there was a detective that made more than his boss and he was told it was due to overtime pay. He said they do understand some individuals will make more money than their leaders. He noticed overtime was a reason they were looking at this and it is only about \$1,000 more than he would receive. He does support this but not at this time because people are losing their jobs due to the pandemic. He sees both sides and asked that the Ordinance be placed on a third reading and referred to a Committee. Councilor Glenn re-iterated that he is not against this Ordinance, he is only against it at this time. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 5; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora and Nixon. Nay, 3; Dixon, Glenn and Neeper. The Chair declared the motion did not carry and the Ordinance will go to a third reading by a 5-3 vote.

075-20 An Ordinance levying special assessments for property maintenance code charges on premises in the City of Lima, Ohio. Thompson 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.

076-20 An Ordinance approving appointments to the Design Review Board for the City of Lima. Gordon moved, seconded by Neeper that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Dixon explained he cannot support the Ordinance until after the Committee meeting. Councilor Thompson, Ehora, Glenn and Wilkerson agreed the Ordinance should be placed on a second reading. Councilor Gordon withdrew his motion to pass the Ordinance on the first reading. Gordon moved, seconded by Neeper, that the Ordinance be placed on a second reading. Motion carried.

April 20, 2020

077-20 An Ordinance approving appointments to the Urban Forest Council for the City of Lima. Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the Ordinance be placed on a second reading. Motion carried.

078-20 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with govdeals.com and to otherwise dispose of a Police Department Vehicle. Dixon 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.

079-20 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and administer the Drug Use Prevention 2020-2021 Grant from the Office of the Ohio Attorney General. Dixon 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.

080-20 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with S&ME, Inc. 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.

081-20 An Ordinance amending Ordinance 301-19 to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with Medical Mutual of Ohio for stop-loss coverage as part of the City's employee health care benefits plan. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Dixon thanked Kari Keener and asked her to explain why the Ordinance is being amended. Keener explained the contract is being amended to add in stop-gap coverage. She said there was an amendment in December but this contract was not included. Councilor Dixon said this is not something that we are taking away from employees, but is something to enhance their benefits. 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.

082-20 An Ordinance enacting Section 1404.06 of the Codified Ordinances of Lima, Ohio concerning prohibition against transfer of ownership. 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.

April 20, 2020

083-20 An Ordinance amending the 2020 annual budget. Neeper moved, seconded by Thompson, 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 Glenn thanked Lt. Leary for catching the guys for the murder at Paddy Macs. He said they are looking for tutors to help out with parents and their children's schoolwork. He said Math and reading are tough on the minority kids and they are going to help. He thanked the Nichols family for their donation. He said a lot of families are having problems at this time and some families are blessed to have checks coming in. He said Council would be packed talking about raises. He encouraged everyone to stick together.

Councilor Neeper thanked Lima Police Department and everyone involved with the Easter basket project. He said it was a phenomenal program and he was able to see the joy in the kids' faces through the windows. He reminded everyone to please listen to what is being told and don't go out unless you need to.

Councilor Gordon said the Lima Police Department Easter Basket project was an awesome event and he appreciates the officers. He wanted to ensure all Councilors receive an invite to the Committee meeting because it is very important everyone gets a say so, even if they are not on the Committee. He reminded everyone to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson explained Phase II of the Melrose Storm improvement project is starting. He said trees will be removed in the 800-900 block of West O'Connor along with the 800 block of Runyan Avenue. He has noticed a lot more foot traffic and he reminded everyone to respect their neighbors and leash their dogs. He asked everyone who can make masks, in memory of his friend, to donate masks to those in need.

Councilor Thompson said this past week was the first time she saw someone get rude at the grocery store and expressed this isn't the time for that. She explained that people do have rights and freedoms but their freedoms do not include the right to endanger the lives and safety of other people. She encouraged everyone to wear masks, practice social distancing and respect one another. She explained it is child abuse awareness month and sexual assault awareness and this week is also crime victim rights week. She explained there are less reporting of cases since we have been locked down, but it is not because they aren't happening. She asked everyone if they see or hear something, say something. She thanked Fresh-n-Faded who donated pizzas to both hospitals and she appreciates that. She thanked the teachers and school administration who are doing an amazing job and the churches that are doing alternative services so people can still worship. She expressed her love for everyone in the community who is doing what they can to

April 20, 2020

provide what we need right now. She announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will be meeting on Wednesday, April 22 via zoom and encouraged the public to visit the Facebook page for the invite.

Councilor Ehora said the kindness and generosity of the community is happening every day and she expressed her gratitude for the Police Dept. for making the kids Easter better than they anticipated. She said all of the signs in the community talking about heroes among us runs the whole gamut of not only our healthcare workers but also the grocery stores, fast food workers and all those that are still open. She asked everyone if they have a couple extra bucks, throw a tip to those who are working to show their appreciation. She said death has touched her this week in the loss of three folks who died far too young and have all done good things to make Lima a better place. She offered her condolences to the families.

Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, to refer Ordinance 72-20 to the Utilities Committee. Motion carried. Councilor Dixon explained he was not able to attend the Lima Police Dept. Easter celebration but the Dixon family donated the eggs from their annual Easter Egg Hunt. He thanked the Eric Family on Third Street who was able to serve 60-70 elderly individuals with a home cooked meal. He announced there will be a food giveaway on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. at Divine Hair Salon. He said the states will be opening soon but encouraged everyone to continue to take precautions. He announced he has joined the Mayor and the Stay Home Lima Initiative and encouraged everyone to stay home. He announced Bluffton University is offering free tutoring to students as well as parents in need. Information regarding tutoring can be found at <https://www.bluffton.edu/edu/studybuddies/index.aspx>. He said the Grade Separation project is coming to an end and he said it is a good sight to see and encouraged everyone to visit the area to see the changes that have taken place. He thanked Kari Keener and Howard Elstro for their Annual Reports.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until May 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Neeper, motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President