

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

October 22, 2018

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; Anthony DiPietro, Assistant Law Director; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Vince Ozier, 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.

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

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

McLean moved, seconded by Dixon, to amend the agenda by removing Mat Rumer from privilege of the floor at his request, adding Cleven Jones to privilege of the floor and adding Communication #7.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Cleven Jones, 1006 State Street, spoke on behalf of the Lima Area Black Ministerial Alliance in support of the proposed Information Technology Department. He believes it is imperative that we remain competitive with other cities and stay up to date with technology changes as they come. He said the Charter states that all departments are ran by someone appointed by the Mayor. He said not only does the Charter give the Mayor the authority, the citizens of the city also gave the Mayor that authority last November when he was re-elected. He said they are interested in hearing the discussion as to why that appointment should not be made by the Mayor.

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 Building Appeals Minutes of August 16, 2018.
- c. Board of Public Health Minutes of September 14, 2018.

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

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Division of Liquor Control regarding a transfer to St. Johns Petroleum, LLC dba Marathon Food Mart, 2720 St. Johns Road. Moved by Dixon, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received, filed and authorize the Clerk to file with no objections. Motion carried.
2. From the Auditor regarding Civil Service Board member term expiration. McLean moved, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.
3. From the Dir. of Comm. Dev. regarding legislation to provide tax abatement for Sulai Hospitality, Inc. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.
4. From the Dir. of Comm. Dev. regarding legislation to place tax assessments. Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.
5. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2018 annual budget. McLean moved, seconded by Gordon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.
6. From the Chief of Police regarding legislation to enter into contract with Civica Creative Microsystems, Inc. Glenn moved, seconded by Dixon, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried.
7. From the Traffic Commission regarding removal of downtown parking enforcement on the weekends. Neeper moved, seconded by Glenn, that the communication be received and filed. Motion carried 7-0-1, with McLean abstaining.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Chief Martin advised their report is in response to President Nixon's request that information be provided to Council regarding short term drug investigations and long term drug investigations. He asked Sheriff Treglia to speak because of his unique perspective, not only because he oversees the task force grant that they operate under, but he has worked in the task force for 11 years with 6 of those years being as supervisor. President Nixon asked what some of the factors are that go into the investigations whether being short or long term. Sheriff Treglia said he thinks of a short term investigation being less than or a little more than 6 months and long term investigation being up into 3 years. He said long term investigations usually involve Title III wire taps and a federal agency that works with them. Short term investigations are something that can be handled with their officers, locally. He advised they must have probable cause for a search warrant, must abide by the Ohio Revised Code and do things to the standards of the West Central

October 22, 2018

Ohio Crime Task Force which takes time. He said when someone calls about cars in and out of a house; he will normally send uniformed officers over to find a reason to stop the cars when they leave to find out what they are doing. Councilor McLean said the public feels when they call it gets lost in a black hole so it's hard to explain the investigation process. Sheriff Treglia said it has to do with the evidence they can produce but to keep in mind, they are servicing two counties and although it sounds like they have a lot of officers, they really don't. Councilor Glenn said it takes just 6 months to cause a good person to move out of a neighborhood and that's why the calls come in so often. Councilor Thompson referred to a situation in her ward and asked for the proper steps Council and citizens should take. Chief Martin said to call both LPD and the task force and call often any time you have information. He shares the same frustration as Treglia that sometimes it gets to be very difficult and they must obtain evidence. Treglia said the drug unit will run license plates as they come in to find out if they are known drug dealers. He said it comes down to man power. President Nixon said he wanted people to know the level of proof that they must have.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Councilor Glenn reported that the Safety Services Committee met on October 11, 2018. He said the Traffic Commission approved to remove weekend parking enforcement and he is glad for that. He cancelled the Safety Services Committee meeting scheduled for October 30th. All Council members have received a copy. Glenn moved, seconded by McLean, that the report be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

Councilor Dixon reported that the Neighborhood Concerns Committee met on October 15, 2018. The Committee discussed Fair Housing, broadcasting of Council meetings and domiciling of animals where the dwelling is nonexistent or uninhabitable and the owners live at a different address. He said the Committee requested that WOCAP send their monthly report to the Council Clerk for distribution to Council members. The issue of broadcasting of Council meetings was referred back to Council with the recommendation to be referred to the Finance committee to discuss hiring a full or part time social media employee and the Chief of Staff to provide a copy of the contract with Modo Media to Council. He said the discussion of domiciling animals was tabled so they can meet with the Law Dept., LPD and possibly the Dog Warden with the request that the Law Dir. provide draft legislation for review by the Committee. All Council members have received a copy. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the report be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

President Nixon reported that the Council of the Whole met on October 15, 2018 to continue the discussion of the need for an Information Technology Department and the position of Chief Technology Officer. All members of Council were present. All Council members have received a copy. Nixon moved, seconded by Dixon, that the report be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

240-18 (Second Reading) Enacting Chapter 343 of the Codified Ordinances establishing the Dept. of Technology and Innovation and to appoint a Chief Technology Officer. Kreher moved, seconded by McLean, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Neeper said he had the opportunity to speak with a lot of different departments in different cities concerning this issue. He presented a packet to council that highlighted things that concern him. (A copy of the informational packet is on file in the Council office). He said the last article in the packet talks about Columbus landing a \$40 million contract from the U.S. Dept. of Transportation along with another \$10 million from another entity in order to do the exact things that we are discussing with the Smart Cities Initiative. Their end goal is \$1 Billion by 2020. He said there is no way we can come up with those kinds of funds. He said he was cautioned that you get what you pay for get and we are way under budget for hiring a person who is not technology based. He said they are talking \$230,000-\$250,000 salaries for a certified technical officer. He is strenuously objecting to setting up this department until we see some hard facts of what we are looking at and where the numbers go. He said we just heard from the Chief of Police as well as the Sheriff, that staff is a major issue with their departments and doesn't see putting \$100,000 into a new department to staff one individual. He said we aren't behind on technology as we just did the initiative for the water meters. Councilor Dixon referred to the articles provided by Neeper. He said a majority of the articles refer to the Smart Cities Initiative being where a bulk of the money is spent. He said we aren't talking about Smart Cities Initiative right now. He reminded Council that they met earlier in the year and were briefed on the Smart Cities Initiative and has a specialist speak about how the City gets to the different levels of the Smart Cities Initiative. He said in that meeting, they were told that this was a costly process. He feels the information provided by Neeper doesn't speak directly to whether the position should be a Mayoral Appointee or a Civil Service Position. He pointed out that one of the articles references the person being appointed by the Mayor. Councilor Neeper said the people referenced in the articles were brought in to lead the Smart Cities Initiative. He said we don't know where this department is going and that's why he is objecting to it. He said he brought forth the articles so Council understands how expensive Smart Cities Initiative is. He doesn't believe we can fund a project like this, so why would we create a department to work towards that. Councilor Thompson said she is softly supporting this because she wants to make sure we are doing it because it's what is best for the city. She keeps hearing that we don't have enough people or the City is declining and her concern with that is if we don't start doing things differently how are we going to expect different results. She said we need to do something differently to move us into the future. She needs a better picture of the vision for the department and position and also wants to know if it is legitimate that we can or cannot afford this position and if we can, how. She does believe it is a necessity and will support it. Councilor McLean said during the committee meeting, they asked for further information and have not received one thing. He said he left messages with the Chief of Staff and has not received a return call. He would like to see a five year plan and thinks they should sit down and look at where they are going and how they are going to get there. He said we can spend money on the Smart City Initiative but if it's not done right, it's a waste of dollars. He cannot support this until we have a

October 22, 2018

road map and know what kind of person we need. Mayor Berger stated Ms. Smith is traveling so if messages have been left, she is unavailable. He said a lot of information has been provided and reiterated that the Smart City Initiative is under way. He explained the initiative was based upon an assessment that was done with all of the city's systems which determine that we have 55 separate systems that do not talk to each other. He said we have one system that is a platform for all departments which is our financial system and is run out of the Auditor's office. He advised that we have no common database for citizens and no common billing systems which create enormous inefficiencies. He said this is about continuing to gain momentum on a redesign of how we are spending dollars for technology which will be cross departmental throughout the enterprise. He said the Utilities Department recently finished the installation of the billing and collection software and for the first time they have been able to marry that system to the phone system which gives them the ability to call customers before they turn their water off. As a result, over the last ten months, the turnoff rate was cut by 50%. Customers are not being charged fees associated to being turned off, they don't have the labor associated with sending out teams to turn them off and to turn them back on. He said this is not about creating a 33 mile transportation corridor, which is the billion dollar number that Mr. Neeper referred to. This is about solving practical issues that departments have that affect citizens every day and about putting a person in place that will draw our existing technical people together and make a plan for the day to day changes that are necessary in our systems and then carrying them out. He said it is a reasonable request and important to be done now and he is asking for support. Councilor Glenn said we have a golden opportunity take this through Civil Service and give our kids the opportunity to come home and take a test for this job. He is happy to hear about it cutting down the turnoff rate but he believes this job should be in Civil Service. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 4; Gordon, Thompson, Dixon and Nixon. Nay, 4; McLean, Kreher, Glenn and Neeper. The Chair declared the motion did not carry with a 4-4 vote and will go to a third reading.

243-18 (Second Reading) Amending Section 1402.02 of the Codified Ordinances concerning Application to Zoning Code. Gordon moved, seconded by Kreher, that the Ordinance be placed on a third reading. Motion carried.

249-18 Levying special assessments for property maintenance code charges on premises in the City of Lima. 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, McLean, Thompson, Kreher, 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.

250-18 Amending the 2018 annual budget. McLean moved, seconded by Gordon, that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, McLean, Thompson, Kreher, 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.

October 22, 2018

251-18 Enter into contract with Civica Creative Microsystems, Inc. Glenn moved, seconded by Thompson, that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, McLean, Thompson, Kreher, 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.

252-18 Enter into a CRA Tax Exemption Agreement with Sulai Hospitality, Inc. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the Ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Thompson asked Susan Crotty what happens if they do not meet their specified goals? Ms. Crotty said it is reviewed annually and they are required to file reports with the state. She said there is a Tax Incentive Review Council meeting where they go over all of the abatements annually and that is when they come back to Council to report on their performance. She said they can be terminated for nonperformance. Councilor Neeper asked if there are any street issues with the parcel? Crotty stated there is access to the parcel from Leonard Avenue but they have not submitted drawings yet. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, McLean, Thompson, Kreher, 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 said he is happy about the project that William White is working on in the Hope and Nova area. He announced a benefit that will be held for Kylie Richardson on November 10th from 12-8 at Fairgrounds Pizza on Harding Hwy. He announced Make-a-Difference day is this weekend and they have a lot of projects going on. He will be a part of the United Way dinner at the Knights of Columbus. He said they have some paint left over and will be doing some painting on Elizabeth Street which they still need volunteers for.

Councilor Neeper said he had the opportunity to attend Makerfest over the weekend. He was blown away and said it was a wonderful experience. He was impressed by the amount of people that were there seeing what the region has to offer. He spent some time at Safety City at their trick or treat event and said all that came filled their bags with candy. He attended the Westgate Neighborhood Association and received a wealth of information on Medicaid that he can pass on if anyone is interested. He announced the Boulevard Neighborhood Association will be meeting November 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm at LACNIP. He reminded everyone that Trick or Treat is Thursday and to be aware and to slow down and watch for children.

Councilor Gordon thanked Mr. Caprella, Aaron Wright and everyone who showed up to the Utilities Committee meeting to talk about trash. He said it was an open communication meeting and felt that they got something done, which he is excited about. He said they will keep an eye on the trash and hopefully they can continue to provide good service as he has already seen improvement. He reminded people to be good to each other.

October 22, 2018

Councilor McLean reminded everyone to turn your porch light on let the kids know you are home. If you're not going to be home, turn your lights off so the kids know whether or not to stop at your house. He's passed out candy for a couple of years now and loves to see the kids come by. He said to be careful because kids can dart out into the street.

Councilor Thompson said she worked on the committee for Dancing with Our Stars that happened this past weekend and it was amazing. She said they filled the Elks Lodge and LACNIP was able to raise money. She thanked Angie Rex and Brandon Weigt from Code Enforcement for attending the Central Lima Neighborhood Association meeting. They were open and honest about what they could and couldn't do and what their process looks like. She announced the next Central Lima Neighborhood Association meeting will be on November 21, 2018 at 6:30 pm at 875 West Market St. She encouraged everyone to pass out candy this Halloween. She reminded costumers of the trash department to do better about putting trash out. She said to make containers 3 feet apart from each other, make sure the wheels are facing the house and make sure the containers are 3 feet from your car.

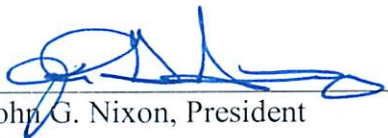
Councilor Kreher stated she attended Coffee with a Cop and suggested everyone attend next year. It was a great time and there was a great turnout.

Councilor Dixon said he danced in Dancing with Our Stars and said it was an experience that he won't forget. He recommended everyone attend next year. He said it was a packed house and was nice to see a mixture of our community come out and support LACNIP. He thanked everyone for coming out. He said to have a happy Halloween and be good to each other.

McLean moved, seconded by Kreher, that council adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the appointment of a public official. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 8; Gordon, McLean, Thompson, Kreher, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the Council adjourned to Executive Session.

Council reconvened from executive session. McLean moved, seconded by Gordon, that the meeting be adjourned until November 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President