

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

March 13, 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; Eric Pheneger, Deputy Law Director; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Shane Coleman, Chief of Staff, Andria Perkins; Dir. Of Housing & Neighborhoods; Carmillia Zion, Deputy Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods; Amber Martin, Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Util.; Sara Weekley, Deputy Dir. of Util.; Kirk Niemeyer, Dir. of Public Works; Ric Stolly, Deputy Public Works Dir. I; Cindy Amburgy, Finance Dept.; 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, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon.

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to amend the Agenda by adding Robert Bennet and Vickie Shurelds under Privilege of the Floor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING:

President Nixon called to order the Public Hearing for the re-zoning of 509 Columbia Drive, Petitioned for by SAR 512 Cable, LLC (GI Physicians). There being no one wishing to speak to the re-zoning, President Nixon closed the Public Hearing.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Shaunna Basinger, Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission, provided Council with an update on the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) which consists of a list of upcoming transportation projects that is completed every 4 years in cooperation with their member political subdivisions and ODOT. She advised the public comment period for the Plan started on March 9th and lasts until March 31st. She announced they are holding an Open House, Wednesday, March 15th from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the LACRPC office located at 130 W. North Street Lima, Ohio. She explained the TIP allocates \$25,000 yearly for a pavement index, MPO planning, the Central Avenue Project in 2024 and Cable Road in 2026. She advised future projects can be submitted for the next TIP.

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Robert Bennet, 210 N. Union Street, spoke on behalf of the American Legion. He introduced Tom Martin with the Marine Core who presented Mayor Smith and all those involved in the Schoonover Rehabilitation Project with a dedication plaque. He explained January 5, 2007 he presented to council an idea to rehab the Schoonover Park Island. He explained there was a Naval Reserve Unit at Schoonover for about 10 years which is what gave him the idea of the dedication. He explained how the dedication design came about. He expressed his appreciation to all of the individuals involved in the project.

JJ Parkey, Dir. of Programming for Lovewell Institute for the Creative Arts, explained Lovewell Institute is working with Youth for Change for a one week program in which they will work with fourteen students with a goal of writing a musical in six days. He advised the mission of Lovewell Institute is to encourage young adults to find and cultivate their own creative authentic voice which is also what the Youth for Change program is all about. He provided examples of individuals whose lives have been changed through the program. He referenced famous Broadway composers that Lovewell has fostered over the years. He explained last year they were able to partner with Youth for Change and offer a 50% scholarship for every student that Dr. Shurelds brought in. He declared that funding for the arts should be increased and not decreased. Carlos Cardova, Music Director for Lovewell Institute, advised they are firm believers that empowerment through the arts can be life changing. He provided an example of an individual who was able to surpass the barriers of high functioning autism after being involved in their program. Mr. Parkey thanked Council for their time.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy;
- b. Lima Municipal Court 2022 Annual Report.

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

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with Fairbanks Scales.
2. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the purchase of a ¾ ton four wheel drive truck for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
3. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to dispose of equipment through govdeals.com.

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4. From the Chief Technology Officer regarding legislation to purchase replacement workstations and laptops for various departments.

5. From the Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods regarding legislation to apply for and receive funds from HUD for HOME-ARP.

6. From the Law Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with Crime Victim Services, Inc.

7. From the Mayor regarding the Public Information Officer Salary.

Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that Communications No. 1 through 7 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare any necessary legislation. Motion carried.

PETITIONS:

Petition for the vacation of an alley segment between Calumet Ave. and Grove Ave. – Petitioned for by The City of Lima. Thompson 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 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Patrick Mullen with Arctaris Impact Investors provided Council with an update on the Lima Opportunity Zone Impact Fund. He explained they had a series of meetings in the morning to help understand more about where they are in the process as well the various stakeholders coming together and giving input on the types of things they would like to invest in. He reminded Council that Arctaris Impact Investors is a nationwide impact investment fund whose philosophy stems from doing good while doing well. He explained they like to do well by investing in community development in underserved areas but also doing well for their investors and investing in projects that have good returns for everyone. He provided examples of some of the successful investment programs that they have partnered with in the past. He pointed out that Arctaris has programs all over the country including larger and smaller communities. He believes they are now in the final stage before becoming active in the community. Mayor Smith referenced the recent meetings talking with the local partners as well as various developers and business owners. She emphasized that Lima is blessed to be able to compete for a request for proposal among other cities across the nation for Arctaris to invest into the opportunity zones. She reminded Council that the opportunity zones consisted of census tracts 129, 141 and 126. She also reminded Council that with their approval, the City has invested \$5M in exchange for \$20M worth of investments in those areas. She thanked Council for their support as this will change the landscape of the core of Downtown.

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Councilor Thompson inquired about the next steps for Council to stay involved. Mr. Mullen advised they will form a local advisory council that will provide periodic updates to Council.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

***Councilor Neeper left the meeting at 7:29 p.m.**

049-23 An Ordinance amending the City Zoning Map from Class I Residential to office for 1 parcel located at 509 Columbia Drive in the City of Lima, as herein described. 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, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

050-23 An Ordinance establishing the salary for the Public Information Officer. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

051-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract for the purchase of replacement workstations and laptops for various Departments. Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote.

***Councilor Neeper returned to the meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

052-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with govdeals.com and to otherwise dispose of computers, printers, and miscellaneous electronic equipment for Data Systems Group. 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.

053-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Crime Victim Services, Inc. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Councilor Thompson advised she would be abstaining from the vote as she is employed by Crime Victim Services. Yea, 7; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, Glenn, Neeper and Nixon. Nay, none. Abstain, 1. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 7-0 vote with one abstention.

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054-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Fairbanks scales for truck scales and software at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. 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.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Dixon invited residents to attend the Peacemaker's Neighborhood Association meeting on Wednesday, March 15th at 5:30 pm located at 800 Franklin Street. He congratulated Chase Little-Battle who hosted a talent show at the Encore Theatre where there were approximately 17 individuals who performed for prizes. He thanked Chase for showing his heart for the world of the arts and for allowing individuals to showcase their talents. He wished Councilor Wilkerson a Happy Birthday.

Councilor Glenn expressed his excitement for Lima being the third ranking metropolitan area in the nation. He thanked everyone who is working hard to improve Lima. He announced Friends of Lima will be hosting a Memorial Day Parade on May 29th. He announced there will be an Easter egg hunt at Hoover Park on April 9th. He expressed the importance of teaching kids about banking.

Councilor Neeper left the meeting at 7:32 pm.

Councilor Glenn announced there will be a fundraiser for making Lima better at the Boiler Maker's Bar on May 25th. He expressed his excitement for the speakers from New York to be working with the kids and helping send them to Columbus and showcase the kids of Lima.

Councilor Gordon thanked Mr. Bennet and Mr. Martin for presenting and for their service. He thanked Mr. Mullins, Arctaris and Mayor Smith for holding the informational meeting as he learned this is another one of the amazing, positive things that is going on the City of Lima. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson thanked the Vietnam veterans for the memorial dedication as it speaks volume to the type of individuals they are. He reminded everyone to be smart and responsible while celebrating St. Patrick's Day. He reminded everyone to be good neighbors.

Councilor Neeper returned to the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

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Councilor Thompson announced the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will meet the 4th Wednesday of the month from 6-7:30 pm at the Mercy Health Hospice Building located at 300 W. Market Street. She announced there will be a Healthwise Bus Tour where they will be stopping in a different neighborhood every Monday from 4-6 p.m. to perform medical checks, screenings, and will be handing out food boxes for those in need. She thanked everyone who participated in the first Violence Prevention Coalition where they were able to look at what a safe Lima looks like to them and discuss what needs to be done to connect people to enhance those things to make sure the vision of a safe Lima comes to fruition. She announced the Violence Prevention Coalition will be holding a virtual meeting and encouraged the various residents of Lima to attend. She expressed her appreciation to the Lima Police Department and Lima Fire Department for being wonderful and attentive after she was in an accident over the weekend.

Councilor Ehora wished Councilor Wilkerson a Happy Birthday. She thanked the Veterans group for the dedication and having the wherewithal to stick with the project. She thought it was great to see the Irish Parade back as it is something the community loves and has great enthusiasm from the residents and participants. She congratulated the 26 students from Lima Senior High that qualified for Nationals at the DECA State Competition in Columbus, Ohio. She pointed out that DECA is a great organization to be a part of. She raised the issue of the degree of animal cruelty that is going on in the community which is off of the charts. She stressed the need to spay and neutering which is really important. She feels that Lima is lucky to have organizations to help, but it is a problem in our community. She referenced the tethering issues that were happened during the winter.

President Nixon wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. He wished Councilor Wilkerson a Happy Birthday.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until March 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Dixon, motion carried.



Dana Addis, Clerk



John G. Nixon, President