

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

May 9, 2022

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; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Steven Cleaves, Finance Director; Susan Crotty; Dir. Of DCD; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Util.; Kirk Niemeyer, Dir. of Public Works; Police Major Ron Holman; Fire Chief Andy Hefner; and Dana Addis, Clerk.

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

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Robert Devita, 519 Fairfield Drive, expressed his concern with the state of the City and its 21% poverty rate which he believes is related to the social mental health movement initiative by the City. He explained there is a concerted effort to bring the people into the City who are not productive members of the community because they can't be due to their issues. He's not against helping the specific individuals, but wonders if Council is concerned about the residents who already live in Lima.

Robert Williams was not present to speak.

Jeff McKenzie, 416 W. Vine Street, expressed his concern with the lack of accountability for the individuals who caused damage to his property. He raised the issue of the Mayor not following up with him or answering his phone calls regarding his concerns.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy;
- b. City of Lima Law Director 2021 Annual Report.

Gordon moved that item "a" of the consent calendar be received, filed, and approved, and item "b" be received and filed, seconded by Neeper. Motion carried.

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THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to purchase misc. vehicles for the Utilities Department.
2. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to purchase a commercial slope mower.
3. From the Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2022 Budget.

4. From the Deputy Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to purchase a truck from Brown Equipment Company.
5. From the Clerk of Courts regarding legislation to transfer cash for State vs. Barnett Restitution Payouts.
6. From the Law Dir. regarding legislation to enter into contract with Crime Victim Services, Inc.
7. From the Auditor regarding the contract labor report for March 2022.

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.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Pilate Bradley, President of the Civil Service Board, presented Council with the 2021 Civil Service Annual Report. He thanked the Board and the Secretary for the work that has been done over the last year. He expressed his appreciation to Council for their support. He reviewed the Examination statistics and pointed out that there have been attendance issues for such exams. He explained they do have candidates who are applying for the positions but they are not attending the testing sessions. He advised they have looked at putting in place an information session about the positions prior to the test, with the hopes of encouraging the applicant to attend. He expressed the Board's openness to any recommendations. Deb Vobbe advised the time frame between the applications being complete to taking the test is subject to the discretion of the department head but typically averages 4-5 weeks. Councilor Glenn recommended following up with the applicants prior to the test. President Nixon commented that from his experience in the private industry, the fact that 66% of the applicants are showing up is pretty amazing. He expressed his appreciation to the Board for the work that they do. Councilor Neepier applauded the Civil Service Board for getting things back in order and in the right direction.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Councilor Thompson advised the Economic & Community Development Committee met on April 20, 2022 to discuss the Property Maintenance code and specified parcels. All members have received a copy. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the Economic & Community Development Committee Report of April 20, 2022 be received, filed and approved. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

116-22 An Ordinance authorizing the transfer of cash from the general fund contingency account to the unclaimed funds fund. Neeper 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.

117-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Brown Equipment Company to purchase a 900 ECO Combination/Catch Basin Truck for the Public Works Department. Ehora 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.

118-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the purchase of vehicles for the Utilities Department. 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.

119-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Kut Kwick Corporation to purchase a commercial slope mower for the Utilities Department. 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.

120-22 An Ordinance establishing the salary for Workforce and Small Business Development Director. Wilkerson 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.

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121-22 An Ordinance amending the 2022 annual budget. Neeper 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.

122-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Crime Victim Services, Inc. Glenn move, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Thompson clarified that she will be abstaining due to being employed by Crime Victim Services. 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 one abstention.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Gordon thanked the Civil Service Board for doing an amazing job. He commented there are a lot of yards that are not mowed and it is time to start mowing them. He explained it's the time of the year when people are speeding and asked the Police Dept. to go hard on those speeding. He expressed his appreciation to Robert Devita for his comments. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson expressed his concern with this future site of the swimming pool and wants to make sure the City is doing what is best for the whole community. He is also concerned of what happens to the current site of where the pool is located.

Councilor Thompson addressed Mr. Devita and reminded him to keep in mind that Lima is a County seat and that often that means a majority of social services agencies are located in Lima. She assured Mr. Devita that everyone on Council does consider the people that live in the City. She announced on May 14th, the Central Lima Neighborhood Association will be hosting a dumpster for the Mayor's Spring Cleanup which will be located at Lima Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. She also announced the St. Rose Festival will be on May 21st and May 22nd.

Councilor Ehora explained it rained a lot last week and then it got really warm so grass grew quickly so she is giving people the benefit of the doubt that they will mow. She acknowledged that she received anonymous letters regarding the upkeep of a property and the issue has been addressed with Susan Crotty. She explained there are a lot of things that happen in the City that Council has no control over at all but that doesn't mean they are not trying to find solutions that work for everyone. She expressed the importance of being a good neighbor and to be nice and kind.

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Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, to authorize the Law Director to prepare a Resolution memorializing the late Elder McGriff who passed away early morning. Motion carried. He announced May 12th, the Fifth Ward residents will be meeting at St. James Church at noon to walk the ward with the Mayor. He also announced the Peacemakers Neighborhood Association will be meeting on May 18th at 5:30 pm at St. James Church. He advised on Saturday, May 21st, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, the Peacemakers and Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association will be hosting a dumpster site located at the Mount Olive Church on the corner of St. Johns and Fourth Street. He invited all residents to take part in the Juneteenth celebration located in Downtown Lima on June 18th from noon to 6:00 p.m. He asked everyone to be good to each other.

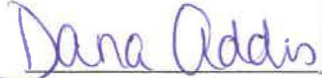
Councilor Glenn recognized Mrs. Townsend who turned 91. He thanked the Civil Service Board for their work. He commended Mayor Smith for her speech she delivered during the Rhodes State Graduation ceremony over the weekend. He congratulated the recipient of the Michelle Obama award. He explained they will be cleaning up Eureka Street alley during the cleanup.

Councilor Neeper announced the Boulevard Neighborhood Association will be participating in the Mayor's Spring Cleanup on Saturday May 14th from 9-12 and the dumpster will be located at Superior Federal Credit Union, 1571 Allentown Road. He attended the Chamber Awards Gala and expressed the City is fortunate to have great small businesses and sent kudos out to all those who were recognized. He referenced a newspaper article advising that a building in Downtown Lima has been purchased by a former Ohio State player, Antonia Smith, who will be working with the Worth Center to create a rehab facility.

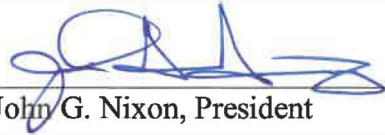
President Nixon referenced Communication No. 5 and the transfer of unclaimed funds. President Nixon moved to authorize a Resolution of Appreciation to Jim Link, Lima Municipal Court Clerk, for his work on the Sue Barnett case. He provided a summary of the Sue Barnett case and explained the current standing of restitution payments. Seconded by Dixon. Motion carried. Nixon referenced the Law Department Annual Report which he believes puts into perspective what the department does and that every single department in the City is handled by the Law Department. He thanked Tony Geiger and his staff. Nixon clarified the Council Rules which dictates public speaking during a Council meeting. He advised anyone who has questions about Council procedures, may call the Council Clerk. He clarified the rules regarding Council engaging speakers during Privilege of the Floor. Mayor Smith advised Jeff McKenzie's issue was followed up on by the Police Department and he was called back the next day. She further advised she called him this morning and he hung up on her. President Nixon clarified he had no doubt she tried to communicate with Mr. McKenzie. He explained Council meetings are for the conduction of City business, not an open public forum.

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Gordon moved that Council adjourn until May 23, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Wilkerson. Motion carried.



Dana Addis, Clerk



John G. Nixon, President