

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL  
LIMA, OHIO

June 12, 2023

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

Attending were: Tony Geiger, Law Director; Eric Pheneger, Deputy Law Director; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Shane Coleman, Chief of Staff, Della Bradford, Dir. of Human Resources; Carmillia Zion, Deputy Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods; Amber Martin, Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator; Kirk Niemeyer, Dir. of Public Works; Ric Stolly, Deputy Public Works Dir. I; Jessica Begonia, Public Information Officer; Deb Vobbe, Civil Service Secretary; Police Major John Bishop; and Fire Chief Andy Heffner.

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

President Nixon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to appoint Law Director Tony Geiger as acting Clerk. Motion carried.

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

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:

015-23 A Resolution memorializing the late Gene Amspaugh, outstanding citizen, and extending condolences to his family on behalf of Lima City Council. Gordon moved, seconded by Thompson that the Resolution be adopted on the first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the Resolution. Councilor Gordon referenced a time when he ran into Mr. Amspaugh while campaigning. He explained Mr. Amspaugh was a fantastic guy and he really enjoyed talking to him. He expressed his condolences to the family. Councilor Ehora explained Mr. Amspaugh has served the City in everything that he has done including working for the Fire Department and serving on City Council. She stated he was one of the nicest people you could meet. She expressed her condolences to the family. Councilor Wilkerson explained he never met Mr. Amspaugh but he appreciates that he had a desire to always serve others which speaks volume about who he is and what he is about. President Nixon recalled back to 1989 when he ran against Gene for the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward. He said any feelings of animosity had diminished over time and they were able to have conversation about different topics within the City. He said Gene Amspaugh always cared about the City of Lima and he absolutely was a good man and a gentleman. 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 resolution was adopted on the first reading by a 7-0 vote. Dan Endicott, on behalf of the family, thanked Council for acknowledging Gene who touched thousands of lives through many ways in the City of Lima. He referenced Gene's competitiveness. He explained Gene grew up right in Downtown Lima in the square.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Shaunna Basinger, Lima Allen County Regional Planning, provided an update of the Long-Range Transportation Plan Update which looks over the needs of the community over the next twenty years which includes roads, employment data, population data, planned use and zoning. She reviewed the population data for the County which determines funding for the County. She reviewed the list of projects that will be included in the Long Range Plan. She also reviewed the 2024-2027 TIP Project map. She advised the public comment period for the Long Range Plan is from July 10<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup> and can be found on their website and they will also be hosting open house events on July 18<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup>. (A complete copy of the project list and maps can be found in the Council Office).

Aaron Poling was not present to speak.

Mark Thomas, 929 E. High Street, expressed his concern about the racing going on behind the Lima Senior High School along High Street. He explained there is no stop sign from Tingle Ave. to N. Dewey Avenue. He referenced accidents that have happened in the past and his concern for the safety of students that are walking to and from school. He asked about the City taking a look at placing speed bumps on High Street between the school and the railroad tracks. Nixon advised during miscellaneous business, the issue will be referred to the Traffic Commission and Engineer's Office for review. Mr. Thomas explained he understands officers cannot be in place at all times. Councilor Ehora inquired about the time of day the racing is happening. Mr. Thomas advised it is day and night and is not just kids doing it but grown adults too.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy;
- b. Bd. of Health Minutes of April 14, 2023;
- c. Treasurer's Report of April, 2023;

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

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Mayor regarding an appointment to the City of Lima Planning Commission.
2. From the Mayor regarding an appointment to the Allen County Board of Public Health.
3. From the Mayor regarding the CDBG Citizen Advisory Board Roster.

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4. From the Auditor regarding the April 2023 financial reports.
5. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding payment for a Pentair Aurora Case Pump replacement at the wastewater treatment plant.
6. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to enter into contract with Woolace Electric Corporation.
7. From the Deputy Dir. of Parks & Recreation regarding legislation to apply for, accept and expend funds from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks Grant.
8. From the Civil Service Secretary regarding approval to reinstate a security officer in the Utilities Department.
9. From the Civil Service Secretary regarding approval of a hiring incentive for the Civil Engineer II position.
10. From the Acting Finance Dir. regarding legislation to amend the 2023 annual budget.
11. From the Workforce & Small Business Development, Coordinator regarding legislation to accept funds from the Lima City Schools.
12. From the Workforce & Small Business Development, Coordinator regarding legislation to accept funds from the Mental Health Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties.
13. From the Fire Chief regarding legislation for the sale of items through govdeals.com.
14. From the Police Chief regarding legislation to apply for, and if awarded, accept and administer an award from the Ohio Department of Public Safety.
15. From the Police Chief regarding legislation to accept an award from the State of Ohio's Recruitment 2024 Grant.
16. From the Acting Police Chief regarding legislation to accept the state contract quote and enter into contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc.
17. From the Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods regarding the intent to issue a Request for Information for neighborhood planning and community engagement.
18. From the Dir. of Housing and Neighborhoods regarding a request to extend the Accessory Dwelling Units moratorium.

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19. From the City Engineer regarding a professional engineering services contract for Geographic Information System services.

20. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding authorization for the Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center to sell alcohol beverages for calendar year 2023.

Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that Communications No. 1 through 20 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare any necessary legislation. Motion carried.

PETITIONS:

Petition for rezoning of 1608 W. Spring Street – Petitioned for by David Yermian. Ehora moved, seconded by Wilkerson, 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 July 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

105-23 An Ordinance amending the 2023 Annual Budget. Glenn moved, seconded by Thompson, 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.

106-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with govdeals.com or otherwise dispose of a vehicle and miscellaneous equipment/supplies for the Lima Fire Department. 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, 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.

107-23 An Ordinance amending Section 244.281 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Ohio, to provide a mileage allowance for certain additional positions. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Gordon, 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.

108-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept an Ohio Department of Natural Resources NatureWorks Grant 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, 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.

109-23 An Ordinance amending Section 246.09 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Public Works Department authorized employment positions. Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, 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.

110-23 An Ordinance amending Section 246.10 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Utilities Department authorized employment positions. 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.

111-23 An Ordinance extending the moratorium on the processing of the applications for City Services for certain structures used for residential dwelling. Thompson moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Dixon clarified the extension of the moratorium is to allow for additional time to review legislation for dwellings less than 1,000 square feet including tiny homes or sheds that have been turned into homes for families. President Nixon expressed his hope that the legislation is to prohibit the tiny homes. 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.

112-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the Lima Police Department. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Dixon explained this Ordinance is for the purchase of 60 body cameras and 30 cruiser mounted cameras that will be added to the software system in the Police Department. 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.

113-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept a grant from the 2024 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program for the Lima Police Department. Dixon moved, seconded by Ehora, 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.

114-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept a FFY 2024 Impaired Driving Enforcement (IDEP) Grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety for the Police Dept. 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, 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.

115-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from the State of Ohio's Recruitment 2024 Grant for the Police Department. Dixon moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Dixon clarified the grant will help the City of Lima recruit additional officers for the Police Department. He encouraged individuals who are interested to apply and take the Civil Service Test. 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.

116-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with the Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties to support the ECCO Program. Ehora 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.

117-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Lima City Schools to support the ECCO Program. Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, 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.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Thompson announced Café Convo will be happening Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Mercy Health Cafeteria conference room. She encouraged the public to enjoy the Juneteenth celebration downtown this weekend and to also enjoy the holiday in itself. She wished everyone a Happy Pride Month. President Nixon moved, seconded by Glenn, to refer the issue of traffic calming on East High Street from Lima Senior High School East to the City limits to the Traffic Commission and City Engineer's Office for review and recommendation. Councilor Thompson referenced a dinner she had with a local pastor who lives in her neighborhood and although their beliefs were different, they were still invited, and neighbors sitting down together is all she wants for the community. She encouraged everyone to get to know their neighbors.

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Councilor Ehora referenced the usual summer issues such as dogs, grass and speeding vehicles. She explained she would love to see people doing the right thing. She is thankful that the weather has been decent but tethering dogs is still an ongoing issue. She wished everyone a Happy Father's Day.

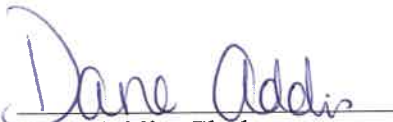
Councilor Dixon invited everyone to attend the Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the Downtown Square where there will be 45 vendors in attendance. He encouraged the public to educate themselves on the meaning of Juneteenth. He invited residents of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward to attend the Peacemakers' Neighborhood Association meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at St. James Church, 800 E. Franklin Street. He wished all of the fathers a Happy Fathers' Day. He advised every Thursday from June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on the Happy Days Patio located at 7 Town Square, they will be having a summer concert called "Curtain Call on Thursdays". He expressed his appreciation to LACNIP for hosting a gardening program.


Councilor Glenn recognized 12 students from Heir Force Academy and West Junior High with the Young Achiever Certificate. He thanked Dr. Higgins and the City Schools Superintendent for nominating the students. He thanked the parents for their support of their children which is important to build a great community. He announced WOCAP will be holding a tenant meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm where lawyers will be in attendance to answer tenant questions. He announced the exercise program at Lima Towers is going really well and will continue on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am. He announced they received a grant for nutrition services. He expressed his appreciation to the kids who attended the Council meeting this evening.

Councilor Gordon thanked Shauna Basinger for updating Council and expressed the importance of the Regional Planning Commission and the money they bring in to the City. Gordon moved, seconded by Glenn, to authorize the absence and salary for Councilor Neeper. Motion carried. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson wished everyone a Happy Father's Day. He shamed the fathers who choose not to be a father figure to their children.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until June 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by GLENN, motion carried.

  
Dana Addis, Clerk

  
John G. Nixon, President