

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

JULY 10, 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; Randall Bartels, Auditor; Shane Coleman, Chief of Staff, Della Bradford, Dir. of Human Resources; 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.; Kirk Niemeyer, Dir. of Public Works; Ric Stolly, Deputy Public Works Dir. I; Police Major John Bishop, 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 and Glenn. Absent: Neeper and Nixon.

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Thompson, that the Agenda be amended by adding Communication Numbers 16 and 17 and by adding Ordinance 143-23 and Ordinance 144-23. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PRESENTED:

016-23 A Resolution honoring Don Jenkins Jewelers for 78 years of service to the Lima community. Ehora moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the Resolution be adopted on the first reading after having been read. The Clerk read the Resolution. Councilor Ehora referenced a ring from Don Jenkins Jewelers that she has worn every day. She explained Scott Koenig and Don Jenkins Jewelers has always stepped up when it was time to support Downtown Lima events. She thanked Scott Koenig for all of his years with Don Jenkins and expressed the joy she has had watching his family grow through the years. Councilor Wilkerson explained Scott Koenig and his staff always treated their customers with dignity and respect. He thanked Scott for being a friend and serving the Lima community. Councilor Glenn thanked Scott for his service to the Lima Community. Scott Koenig explained Lima has done a lot for his family and the things happening in Downtown Lima right now are very exciting. He thanked Council. The following vote was recorded on the motion: Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon, and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the resolution was adopted on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Chris Colvin, 1033 Justin Ridge Way, Waynesville, Ohio, explained he is a Local Legislative Liaison for Convention of States (COS). He advised that his goal is to expand support in every possible Council and Township petitioning each municipality to adopt a nonbinding resolution in support of an Ohio Convention of States Resolution and once passing the Resolution, send an official letter to our Ohio State Representatives. He provided Council with a sample Resolution and reviewed each section of the requested Resolution. (A complete copy of the presentation can be found in the Clerk of Council's Office).

Dave Smith, 515 W. Ashwood Ave., expressed his concern over the renovations of the Jefferson Manor Apartments and the increase in rent costs. He referenced the large trees that have been removed in front of the apartments. He further expressed his concern over the high rent costs and whether the previous tenants have been displaced. He explained there is a fine line between renovations and gentrification as renovations improve the community, but not at the expense of pushing people out of where they had lived. He referenced the new apartments on Spring Street with an asking price of \$1,500 per month. He inquired with MET housing to determine what they pay towards rent and was unable to receive an answer without making application for benefits. (A complete copy of the presentation can be found in the Clerk of Council's Office).

Tim Phalen, 1023 Faurot Ave., explained he was in active duty for 20 years and is a tax payer in Lima, Ohio. He referenced an incident that happened on July 4th after the fireworks involving his 16 year old grandson and the local police. He expressed his disappointment in the officer working the front desk when he requested to speak to the Chief of Police. He doesn't understand why it is acceptable for a seasoned police officer to verbally intimidate a 16 year old driver. He explained if the Police in Lima Ohio want a better relationship with the community, it starts with the officer. He advised he attempted to meet with the Mayor with no response.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy.

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

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE PRESENTED:

1. From the Acting Finance Dir. regarding a request for a public hearing to be set for the 2024 Tax Budget. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the Communication be received, filed and that a Public Hearing be set for July 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Motion carried.

July 10, 2023

2. From the Mayor regarding an appointment to the Traffic Commission.
3. From the Court Administrator regarding legislation approving payment for the annual SaaS Hosting Fee.
4. From the Acting Finance Dir. regarding legislation for Additional Appropriations to the 2023 Official Budget.
5. From the Acting Finance Dir. regarding legislation for 2023 budget cash transfers.
6. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to accept a parcel of land from the Allen County Board of Commissioners.
7. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with ASTERRA.
8. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding a purchase from Hydro Bioscience.
9. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to approve the 2024-2038 NCO Solid Waste District, Solid Waste Management Plan.
10. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding a renewal purchase of Technical Support Agreement with Kirby Risk for Rockwell Automation Support.
11. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to amend a contract with R.B. Jergens Contractors, Inc.
12. From the Dir. of Human Resources regarding legislation to receive and spend Anthem Wellness Incentive Funds for Wellness Rewards.
13. From the Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods regarding legislation to apply for and receive funds from the National Park Service for Underrepresented Communities.
14. From the Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods regarding legislation to create the Better Blocks for Business Program.
15. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding an Ordinance reinstating the position of Water Treatment Foreman.
16. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to enter into contract with OpenAire Sales, Inc.

17. From the Mayor regarding legislation to enter into an electric aggregation agreement.

Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Thompson, that Communications No. 2 through 17 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare any necessary legislation. Motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

131-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Openaire, Inc. Ehora moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

132-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with RB Jergens Contractors, Inc. authorized under Ordinance 195-22. Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

133-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the construction of miscellaneous improvements at the Water 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, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

134-23 An Ordinance amending Section 246.10 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Utilities Department 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, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

135-23 An Ordinance to approve the Solid Waste Management Plan for Allen-Champaign-Hardin-Madison-Shelby-Union Joint Solid Waste Management District. Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

July 10, 2023

136-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept title to certain real property located on South Main Street. Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

137-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with ASTERRA 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, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

138-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept a National Park Service for Underrepresented Communities Grant for the Department of Housing and Neighborhoods. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

139-23 An Ordinance authorizing the transfer of cash from the General Fund to the City Revolving Loans Fund. Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

140-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Auditor to pay Tyler Technologies for the Municipal Court System. Dixon moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

141-23 An Ordinance amending the 2023 Annual Budget. Thompson moved, seconded by Gordon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

142-23 An Ordinance adopting the Tax Budget for the 2024 Fiscal Year for the City of Lima, Ohio. Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the Ordinance be placed on a second reading. Councilor Thompson clarified the Ordinance is being placed on a second reading so the public hearing can be held on July 19, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. during a Special Council Meeting. Motion carried.

July 10, 2023

143-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to create the Better Blocks for Business Program (B3). Thompson moved, seconded by Dixon, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

144-23 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to take all actions necessary and to enter into all agreements as may be necessary for appropriate to establish and maintain a governmental electricity aggregation program with opt-out provisions pursuant to Section 4928.20 Ohio Revised Code. Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Dixon and Glenn. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Dixon wished Councilor Glenn a job well done. He advised Tim Phalen that he hears his complaint and as the Chair of the Safety Services Committee, he will be sure to look into the issue. He agrees building better relationships with the community starts with the front officers. He addressed Dave Smith and advised the voucher amounts for low to moderate income housing will be adjusted to ensure the rent amount is within the reasonable rate. He further advised the tree removal in front of the housing was needed because the roots were interfering with the sewer lines and drainage. He further advised the tree removal has provided more lighting for the residents in that area. He gave the men and women of the safety services department credit for their response to the 17 hour standoff that took place over the weekend. He advised he stood next to the officers during the standoff which was long, tedious and emotional, but the men and women of our safety services department led with integrity, respect, dignity and pride. He explained the officers did a great job using the resources that have been given to them by the Mayor and Council. He referenced all of the units that were a part of the event over the weekend and thanked them all for a job well done.

Councilor Gordon moved, seconded by Wilkerson, to approve the absence and salary of Councilor Neepier and President Nixon. Motion carried. He thanked the police department for doing a wonderful job. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson explained he was not in attendance at the 4th of July fireworks but explained an individual who travels to many cities to view fireworks stated the City of Lima has the best fireworks he's ever seen. He reminded neighbors to continue to look out for each other. Wilkerson moved, seconded by Dixon, to authorize the Clerk to prepare a Resolution in Opposition of State Issue 1. Motion carried.

July 10, 2023

Councilor Thompson announced Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., there will be a “Café Convo” held in the cafeteria of Mercy Health. She expressed there was an issue with the Police Department and praise of the Police Department during the meeting and she believes it should be acknowledged that no one is a saint and no one is evil and that everyone have inherent dignity and worth and accountability is needed. She explained you can have respect and love for safety services and citizens and still say they still need to do some work. She thanked all of the individuals who spoke during Privilege of the Floor. She advised Mr. Colvin that she needs additional time to review the information provided before authorizing a Resolution as requested.

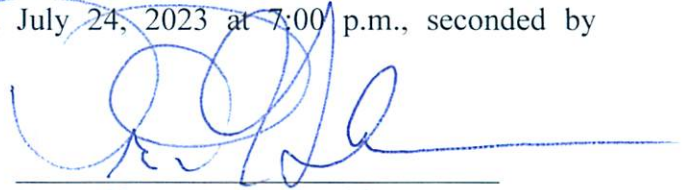
Councilor Ehora clarified the Resolution in Opposition to State Issue 1 would be presented on the July 24, 2023 Council meeting. She advised State Issue 1 would give 41% control of the state legislature and she doesn't like it. She referenced an article in the paper that advised the issue is about business, but it is not about business, it's about power. She would like to think Council is the simplest purist form of what government should be and she believes the state legislature should be serving every single resident in the State of Ohio. She announced during the July 24, 2023 Council Meeting, there will be a Public Hearing on the re-zoning of the Roosevelt School Building. She announced her ward will be hosting a Walk in the Ward event with the Mayor on July 25th at 5:00 p.m. starting at Dairy King on Elm Street. She referenced the 4th of July festivities and thanked everyone involved in the celebration. She referenced the speeding in the community and encouraged everyone to slow down. She explained dogs are a huge issue in the community and believes the rules of dogs, including tethering and breeding, needs to be discussed.

Councilor Glenn expressed his love for Lima's Fourth of July celebration which is one of the best in Ohio. He referenced the kids playing basketball in the streets and that he will review previous discussions about it and call a meeting because it isn't safe. He referenced Mr. Phalen and advised Councilor Dixon will work on the issue. He expressed his concern with trees on the 800 Block of South Union Street because people are hiding back in the trees on the vacant properties and using drugs. He advised Mr. Colvin he wants to look further into the Convention of States. He explained he is gathering people to go door to door to educate voters to vote no on Issue 1. He thanked everyone who donated air conditioners for his program. He advised there were 365 air conditioners donated which he appreciates so much.


Councilor Ehora explained she would like to see the City come up with a common sense approach to the basketball issue. She referenced the kids in her neighborhood that play basketball for hours who are outside playing. She doesn't know if it means adding basketball hoops on vacant lots, but she knows it needs to be a common sense approach because the kids are outside playing. She doesn't believe taking basketball hoops away from children is the right thing to do. Councilor Glenn expressed the concern of children getting hit by cars and arguing happening. Councilor Dixon moved, seconded by Thompson, to refer the issue of basketball hoops in the streets to the Neighborhood Concerns Committee for further discussion. Mayor Smith advised they are talking with partners and working through the RFP process for basketball courts. Motion carried.

July 10, 2023

Dixon moved that Council adjourn until July 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Thompson, motion carried.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derry Glenn', written over a horizontal line.

Derry Glenn, Acting President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dana Addis', written over a horizontal line.
Dana Addis, Clerk