

MINUTES OF LIMA CITY COUNCIL
LIMA, OHIO

August 8, 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; Randy Bartels, Auditor; Steven Cleaves, Finance Director; Susan Crotty; Dir. Of Housing & Neighborhoods; Carmillia Zion, Deputy Dir. of Housing & Neighborhoods; Amber Martin, Workforce & Small Business Dev. Coordinator; Della Bradford, Dir. of Human Resources; Mike Caprella, Dir. of Utilities; Kirk Niemeyer, Dir. of Public Works; Police Chief Angel Cortes, Fire Chief Andy Heffner; 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, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Absent: Dixon and Neepner

PUBLIC HEARING:

President Nixon called to order the Public Hearing for the proposed amendment of Section 1256.01(a)(3), Uses requiring a special permit - Petitioned for by the City of Lima, Ohio. There being no one wishing to speak, President Nixon closed the Public Hearing.

President Nixon called to order the Public Hearing for the re-zoning of 1007 E. Eureka Street from Class I Residential to Class III Residential - Petitioned for by the City of Lima and Michael Blass, Creating Comfort Rentals. There being no one wishing to speak to the re-zoning, President Nixon closed the Public Hearing.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a. Minutes of the previous meeting not read since each received a copy;
- b. Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2022.

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 Auditor regarding the contract labor report for July, 2022.

August 8, 2022

2. From the Dir. of Public Works regarding legislation to advertise, bid, and award the Better Together Demolition of Dilapidated Properties Project to the lowest and most responsible bidder.
3. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to enter into an LPA agreement with ODOT for the State Route 81 project.
4. From the City Engineer regarding legislation to amend the contract with Choice One Engineering authorized in Ord. 013-22.
5. From the Dir. of Utilities regarding legislation to enter into an agreement with Calgon Carbon Corporation.
6. From the Fire Chief regarding legislation to enter into contract with Sutphen.
7. From the Police Chief regarding legislation to disburse funds from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to the West Central Ohio Crime Task Force.
8. From the Police Chief regarding legislation to apply for and, if awarded, accept an award from the State of Ohio's Drug Use Prevention 2022-2023 Program.

Councilor Wilkerson moved, seconded by Glenn, that Communications No. 1 through 8 be received, filed, approved and authorize the Law Dir. to prepare any necessary legislation. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICIALS:

Sgt. Curtis Hile provided Council with an update on the Star Spangled Spectacular event that was held July 4, 2022. He explained the event was modified and that they were able to adapt. He thanked State Highway Patrol for handling the traffic control for the event. He listed the various partners in the event. He explained the modified schedule was difficult to work through but overall it was an uneventful event for the Lima Police Department.

Police Chief Angel Cortes explained when he took the oath of office, he promised the citizens that they would continue with the community policing efforts one way or another. He expressed one of the challenges they are facing is lack of officers. He vowed to work diligently with the HR Director to get those who want to be a police officer signed up. He expressed the need to find good qualified candidates to go through the process which can take up to 8 months. He explained due to lack of manpower, an alternate policing method is necessary. He explained pin point policing requires more man power than what the City currently has so they will transition to a new model. He announced the new model will be a form of community policing as each officer will be assigned an area in hopes of becoming familiar with the residents and well known among

August 8, 2022

the residents. He advised of the positive outcomes that can come from the community policing. He informed Council that they will be working diligently to restore the S.W.A.T. Team to be on call 24/7. He further advised they will remain available to help with security requirements for high profile visitors and be ready for special operations. He concluded that they will strive to continue to be the best agency in the area.

Cody Doyle, Planner at Regional Planning Commission, provided Council with a presentation of the Vision 2040 Comprehensive Plan. He advised the first part of the plan was Public Participation which helped them create a vision. He gave examples of how the public was included. He advised the plan is currently open for public comment until August 26, 2022. He advised the one thing residents supported overall regarding infrastructure was a larger pedestrian network whether it be additional sidewalks and unwanted traffic signals which can possibly be an increased danger. He explained they took into consideration the goals of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He believes there are jobs in Lima but many people are traveling from outside of the City to work in those jobs. He discussed the obstacles surrounding downtown including excess surface parking and rumors of increased crime downtown. He explained there has been discussion around making it easier to upgrade buildings. Councilor Gordon asked the press to include in their reports that Downtown is a safe environment. Councilor Ehora reiterated the need announce publicly that Downtown Lima is safe. Councilor Wilkerson also expressed Downtown is a safe place. Councilor Thompson urged the community to recognize that having poverty is not the same thing as being unsafe. She is looking forward to investing the people so the incomes match the surrounding areas. Shane Coleman gave credit to the Mayor's staff for the help they have given them and to Cody Doyle for all of the work that he has put into the plan. He explained Regional Planning is a neutral entity in Allen County. He encouraged the public to look at the plan as the public participation is still open.

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES WERE PRESENTED:

160-22 An Ordinance amending the City Zoning Map to Class III Residential for 1 Parcel located at 1007 East Eureka Street in the City of Lima, as herein described. Moved by Thompson, seconded by Ehora, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

161-22 An Ordinance amending Section 1256.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima, Ohio. Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

162-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Sutphen Corporation to purchase one (1) heavy duty custom pumper for the Fire Department. Glenn 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, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

163-22 An Ordinance establishing the salary for the Chief of Staff. Wilkerson 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, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

164-22 An Ordinance adopting an amended citizen participation plan. Thompson moved, seconded by Ehora, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Thompson expressed her appreciation to Administration for developing the legislation because this is a way for the public to participate directly in funds that directly affect them. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

165-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and enter into contract for the Better Together demolition of dilapidated properties project, Project No. 8-22 for the Public Works Department. Ehora moved, seconded by Thompson, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. Councilor Ehora expressed her appreciation that the City is moving forward with demolitions as it is one of the most important issues facing the community. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

166-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract with Calgon Carbon Corporation for the exchange of granular activated carbon 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, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

167-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to amend the contract with Choice One Engineering as authorized in Ordinance 249-20. 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, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

August 8, 2022

168-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an LPA Agreement with ODOT for the ALL-SR 81-14.47/17.01; PID 115562 Project. Ehora moved, seconded by Glenn, that the ordinance be passed on the first reading. President Nixon clarified the meaning of the numbers in the project number. The following vote was recorded on the motion. Yea, 6; Gordon, Wilkerson, Thompson, Ehora, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

169-22 An Ordinance authorizing a payment from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to the West Central Ohio Crime Task Force. 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, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

170-22 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept, and administer grant funds from the State of Ohio's Drug Use Prevention 2022-2023 Program. Glenn 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, Glenn, and Nixon. Nay, none. The Chair declared the motion carried and the ordinance passes on the first reading by a 6-0 vote.

171-22 An Ordinance authorizing ALL Actions necessary to effect a governmental electricity aggregation program with opt-out provisions pursuant to Section 4928.20 Ohio Revised Code and directing the Allen County Board of Elections to submit a ballot question to the electors. Gordon moved, seconded by Thompson, to place the Ordinance on a second reading. President Nixon clarified it was requested to be on the May, 2023 ballot and the Ordinance states November 2022. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilor Glenn thanked Londell Smith for having HBCU Day. He expressed how exciting it is to see young kids going to college. Glenn moved, seconded by Thompson, to refer the issue of the Hope & Nova Apartment Complex and Republic Garbage Company to the Neighborhood Concerns Committee. Motion carried.

Councilor Gordon believes the Community Policing plan that Chief Cortes presented is a great idea. Gordon moved, seconded by Glenn, to approve the absence and salary for Councilor Dixon and Councilor Neeper. Motion carried. He referenced former Councilor Ann Miles who is in the audience. He reminded people to be good to each other.

Councilor Wilkerson expressed his thanks to the Chief for his report and expressed his willingness to report the recruitment of local people to join forces with the Police and Fire Dept. He encouraged both the Police and Fire to continue to recruit local people.

August 8, 2022

Councilor Thompson expressed how nice it is to see former Councilor Miles in the audience. She announced August 9th is the back to school celebration for Lima City Schools at MLK Park from 4-6 pm. She announced August 14th is the Allen County Fair Parade. She also announced August 24th is the Central Lima Neighborhood Association meeting in the Council Conference Room. She thanked Officer Wilson who made her feel safe after a scary incident.

Councilor Ehora thanked Chief Cortes and expressed her support for the future neighborhood policing. She expressed the importance of neighbors being neighbors. She believes the new way of policing is a win-win for everyone. She said the event held downtown proves that downtown is safe and there are more things that will be happening downtown.

President Nixon thanked Ann Miles for her attendance.

Gordon moved that Council adjourn until August 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Thompson, motion carried.


Dana Addis, Clerk


John G. Nixon, President