

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
London City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held November 6, 2025 20

London City Council
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140
November 6, 2025 at 6:30pm
Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Peters at 6:30p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with a moment of Silent Reflection.

Roll Call

Present – Councilman Eades, Councilman McDaniels, Councilman Stahl, Councilwoman Treynor, Councilman Hitt, Councilman Hays, Councilwoman Jackman and President Peters

Minutes – Approval of October 16, 2025, minutes, approved by unanimous vote

Public Hearing - none

Communications/Announcements - none

Audience Concerns

Raymond Anthony, 521 Eaton Street, addressed council stating he reviewed Ordinance 188-25, which was scheduled for discussion. After looking further into Section Two, which lists departments such as Police, Recreation, Mayor, Auditor, City Council, Treasurer, Law Director, and Safety-Service Director, each with line items for Total, Operations, and Personal Services, he asked for clarification on what “Personal Services” entails. After receiving confirmation that it refers to compensation and related personnel costs, he thanked the speaker.

Cooper Hudson Love, 381 Landis Lane, presented an idea inspired by the recent election. He suggested hosting an informal town-hall-style event allowing citizens to meet council members, the Mayor, the Auditor, and other officials, ask questions, and engage in open conversation. He stated that many residents do not realize they may attend council meetings and speak. He said the idea was well-received on Facebook and felt it could help increase engagement.

Councilman Eades responded that he thought the idea was good and suggested a setup where officials are stationed around a room so residents can speak informally with anyone they wish. He added that if issues arise requiring council action, they can be brought to a council meeting later.

Councilwoman Lisa Jackman agreed, noting it was a good idea and that someone online had suggested holding the event closer to an election. She said she appreciated that the idea was brought up early.

Cooper Hudson Love explained the idea came to him just within the last 48 hours. **Jackman** remarked that they were “starting early for the next election,” and agreed it was still a good idea.

Committee Reports

Councilman Eades reported that the Personnel, Budget, and Finance Committee met on October 20. Revenue for the year totaled \$19,834,948, of which \$4.2 million was bond money; removing that leaves \$15,635,463 in actual revenue. Expenses totaled \$14,777,579. He noted that revenue and expenses were about 5% over last year’s figures. The proposed budget shows a 6.9% overall increase, which he warned indicates the city may not be able to “tread water” financially next year at the current trajectory. He discussed preliminary conversations about elected officials’ pay, stating

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that any changes must be implemented before the next election cycle. He said the committee hopes to gather job descriptions and information from each elected official regarding their duties, responsibilities, and whether their compensation is appropriate. He also previewed items included in the budget, which would receive first reading later in the meeting. He noted the next committee meeting would be Monday, the 10th, at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room.

Councilman McDaniels stated that Public Service and Safety had moved their meetings to November 18, with Service at 5 p.m. and Safety at 6 p.m.

Councilman Hays confirmed Safety would meet November 18 at 6 p.m.

City Official Reports

Mayor Closser thanked everyone for attending and described October as a busy but enjoyable month. He thanked organizers of the many trunk-or-treats held around town and noted that the official trick-or-treat evening ended up being pleasant despite earlier rain. He praised Pumpkin Palooza and thanked Parks & Recreation and Executive Assistant Breedlove for their work in organizing it. He also reported that the downtown Booze and Brews event was a significant success, drawing crowds that benefitted local businesses by bringing many new visitors. He thanked the 1811 Downtown group for hosting the event and for their ongoing volunteer cleanup days, which have helped maintain a clean and attractive downtown area. The Mayor attended the Aldi grand opening, which he said attracted hundreds of people waiting in line. He encouraged residents to welcome Aldi to the community. He reported that sidewalk scanning has begun, with teams using scooters to map sidewalk conditions, and said the city looks forward to reviewing the data and discussing next steps with council. He informed council that the bid opening for the City Farm had been completed, with Murray Farms again securing the contract. He praised their stewardship of the land. Regarding the new police department building, the Mayor said progress remained on schedule, with brickwork nearly complete and exterior walls going up. The goal is to have it under roof by winter so interior work can begin. He also reported that the city is actively working with One Columbus to recruit a new occupant for the former Honeywell building, describing it as a priority due to its highly viable space. The Mayor recognized Veterans Day, honoring the dedication and courage of veterans and encouraging residents to attend local observances. His "fun fact" highlighted that the undefeated London Red Raider varsity football team has scored 409 points this regular season while allowing only 53, averaging 41–5, and will host their first playoff game the following evening against Cincinnati Archbishop.

Mr. Saltsman reported receiving an update from City Logics: 57 miles of sidewalk data have been collected, and deliverables—including a sidewalk condition index, mapping, and video documentation will arrive within 70 days. He stated that he and several others continue working on cybersecurity compliance related to House Bill 96, with legislative requirements expected near the start of the year. He also attended a meeting hosted by the county ministerial association regarding homelessness. Participants discussed both short-term needs, such as cold-weather shelter, and long-term housing solutions, referencing strategies used by other cities and counties. He said the group may request to present further information to council in the future.

Old Business

8th Reading

RESOLUTION 159-25 Sponsored by: Brent McDaniels A RESOLUTION to abolish the City of London recycling program

Motion to table RESOLUTION by Councilman McDaniels, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent:	0-	
Affirmative:	6-	Eades, Stahl, Hitt, Treynor, Jackman, McDaniels, Hays
Against:	0-	

Mr. Saltsman commented that he should have more information at upcoming service meeting.

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New Business

ORDINANCE 188-25 Sponsored by: Greg Eades AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF LONDON, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026

Councilman Eades reminded council that the legislation is not as detailed as the auditor’s full expense report, which he encouraged everyone to review carefully before moving forward. He suggested that council not advance the ordinance that evening to allow members adequate time to examine line items and prepare questions. He outlined major budget drivers, including a 4% negotiated salary increase, a 6% rise in health insurance premiums, new police department funding (\$259,000), and the courthouse Fourth Street project for which the city anticipates a \$93,000 contribution. He raised questions about increases in the Auditor’s professional services line, including \$51,000 for HR contracting, \$11,000 for ADP benefits, \$75,000 for payroll services, and \$9,000 for ADP recruiting functions. He also noted a new \$40,000 Events line, significant increases in sanitation transfer costs (approximately \$200,000), and the \$133,000 truck lease.

Auditor Combs provided clarification on the professional services expenses, explaining that HR-related costs, ADP payroll, benefits platform changes, and the proposed ADP recruiting tool were all included in her office’s line items. She noted that the ADP recruiting platform would centralize applicant tracking, background checks, and drug testing requirements.

Councilman Eades asked if council had further questions for the auditor.

Auditor Combs invited follow-up by email.

A discussion followed regarding committee meeting scheduling. The next Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee meeting had been set for November 10, but the auditor reported she had no new agenda items. Council considered whether to move the meeting to November 18 to coincide with Service and Safety meetings. Concerns were raised about meeting too close to Thanksgiving and ensuring documentation is available when needed. After discussion, the committee agreed to move its meeting from November 10 to November 18 at approximately 6:30 p.m., following the Safety meeting.

Round Table

Councilman Stahl wished the Red Raiders football team good luck in the upcoming playoff game and expressed hope that they would again meet Watterson, as they did last year.

Councilwoman Treynor announced auditions for the Madison County Arts Council’s annual *Sounds of the Season* concert. Auditions will take place the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving from 6–7 p.m. at the Brennan Loft above Wilson Printing. She noted the concert is scheduled for December 14. She also encouraged residents to attend the Old-Fashioned Christmas event on November 30 from 2–7 p.m., featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus, open shops, and a tree-lighting ceremony.

Councilman Hitt reminded the public that the Service Committee meets November 18 at 5 p.m. and thanked supporters from the recent election.

Councilman Hays confirmed the Safety Committee meets November 18 at 6 p.m. He thanked city employees, recognized Veterans Day, and recounted buying dinner for a veteran in Grove City, noting it moved him deeply. He encouraged residents to attend or tune in to London High School’s playoff game. He thanked voters and offered a prayerful message of safety and blessing for the city.

Councilman McDaniels thanked those who supported him in the election, acknowledging he came up short. He expressed support for term limits, joking that he had hoped to serve more than one term. He remarked that looking at London “the world would be a much better place with more unemployed politicians.” He thanked everyone for attending.

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Councilman Eades raised several questions regarding the City’s trash and recycling services, noting that he had intended to ask them during the meeting before the discussion was tabled. He asked how the new trash truck is functioning and whether the City currently has the staffing needed to operate it consistently. He explained that he had made a public post defending the service, acknowledging that unexpected issues arise, but he has recently received multiple comments from residents asking why recycling has not been picked up as regularly. He noted that after the City acquired the new truck, recycling pickups initially appeared more consistent, but that trend seems to have slipped. He stated he looks forward to hearing more detailed answers at an upcoming meeting. Eades also commented on the Comprehensive Plan, expressing appreciation that it has moved forward to the community survey stage. However, he emphasized that the survey must be made more visible. While Facebook is a useful tool, it should not be the only method of communication. He suggested placing the survey prominently on the City’s website, ideally on the front page as a banner or similarly noticeable link, because residents should not have to search through submenu pages to find it. He shared that he plans to complete the survey himself later that evening. A resident had also asked him who is responsible for managing the survey data, particularly because the form reportedly requires a name and appears to run in an incognito-style platform. He requested clarification on whether the City, OHM, or another entity controls the data and asked the administration to respond. Eades further reported that the sidewalk assessment is nearing completion. He spoke with the contractor in his neighborhood earlier that morning and was told that the team expected to finish their final review of remaining areas that day. He expressed satisfaction that the City has only 57 miles of sidewalks to assess, noting that the City had budgeted for 150 miles based on an earlier estimate. He is hopeful that the project will therefore cost less than anticipated.

Mayor Closser responded that the community outreach component is the final step of the Comprehensive Plan process before the information is submitted to LHN.

Councilman Eades asked again about adding the survey prominently to the City’s homepage

Mayor Closser said he would review the website and determine whether the link is properly placed.

Mr. Saltsman provided updates regarding trash and recycling operations. He stated that the new truck is performing well, though there have been issues with other trucks being out of service, which has impacted regular pickup. He reported that the City has hired a new employee whose presence is already helping significantly, and that the individual should complete training within the week. Once training is complete, the department should be fully staffed without needing to pull workers from the Street Department. He confirmed that when the department is short-staffed or a truck is down, recycling may need to be collected with regular trash. To improve communication, he has recently instructed staff to notify him or the Mayor if such situations arise so that the City can promptly post updates on the website and social media explaining when and why recycling and trash are being collected together.

Councilman McDaniels offered comments regarding the recent election results, expressing disappointment but also appreciation for having the opportunity to work with Mr. Saltsman. He remarked lightheartedly that the next three meetings would be considered a success if he could avoid having images of himself edited with a Pinocchio face.

President Peters thanked everyone for attending and highlighted several recent accomplishments by local high school students. He recognized the girls golf team for earning the school’s first-ever league championship, the girls volleyball team for winning their district championship and placing as regional runner-up, and the football team for securing their fifth straight league championship and completing a third consecutive undefeated regular season, during which no conference opponent scored against them. He also acknowledged the London band for receiving a superior rating at their state contest and the London FFA for earning a three-star honor at the national convention.

Councilwoman Jackman added that the boys and girls cross country teams both advanced to the regional competition, with the girls team qualifying for the first time in over a decade. She noted that runner Cameron Karn advanced to the state meet and placed 68th.

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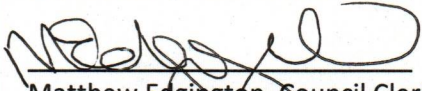
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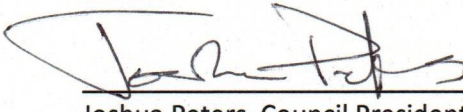
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Mr. Saltsman also announced that the Madison County Area Veterans Association will host a Veterans Day lunch on Tuesday, November 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at City Hall. The lunch, catered by M&M Diner, is free for veterans and their spouses.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 7:09 pm

Attestation: Minutes approved, filed in Auditor’s Office, and posted on City of London website for public review.


Matthew Edgington, Council Clerk
11/18/25
Date


Joshua Peters, Council President
11-18-2025
Date