

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

LONDON CITY COUNCIL Meeting

Casto &amp; Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held

FEBRUARY 17 20 22

London City Council  
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140

February 17, 2022

## Minutes

Council President, Henry Comer, called the regular meeting of the London City Council to order at 6:30pm. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silent reflection.

**Council members present:** Henry Comer, Rich Hays, Andrew Hitt, Josh Peters, John Stahl, Bryan Robinson and Greg Eades

The minutes of the regular meeting on January 20, 2022 were approved as written.  
The minutes of the special meetings on January 26 and February 1, 2022 were approved as written.

**COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- President Comer asked for a voice vote to approve the 2022/2023 City Council rules and they were approved unanimously.
- President Comer asked for a voice vote to approve Mayor Closser's appointments to the following:
  - Justin Mason - Board of Zoning & Appeals - Term Expiring 12/31/23
  - Dave Mars - Historic District Review Board - Term Expiring 12/31/22
  - Tina Williams - Parks & Recreation Commission - Term Expiring 12/31/24
  - Denver Leistikow - London Metro Housing - Term Expiring 12/31/26
  - Marvin Homan - Income Tax Review Board - Term Expiring 12/31/26
 The appointments were approved unanimously.
- President Comer presented the Notice to Legislative Authority regarding a new Class D5L liquor license for Konnichiwa London LLC, DBA Konnichiwa Japanese Steak House & Sushi and asked for a voice vote for approval and it was approved unanimously.

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS**

Doug Pyles – 323 Bishop Drive, London, Ohio 43140

- Spoke about his concerns with the tax levy and stated his belief that the Ordinance regarding the levy does not explain how the tax revenues will be used
- Stated that he was upset about the retraction of the tax credit for residents who work outside of the city
- Stated that he is concerned about the amount of debt that the city has incurred
- He stated that he did not feel that was Council was being responsible and that the levy should be deferred until inflation rates decrease

Council Comer interjected stating that he believes that the levy Ordinance should be specific and explain how the tax revenues will be used. He also stated the Water Department, with regards to the new water plant, is atrocious and has not produced any water. He stated that elected officials should be fiscally responsible and have the confidence of the citizens.

Michael Norman – 188 S. Oak Street, London, Ohio 43140

- Requested that discussions regarding the city's infrastructure be added to all Council agendas so that it stays in the forefront of their efforts and so residents do not have to work to know what projects are taking place.

Anita Likens – 157 E. First Street, London, Ohio 43140

- Spoke of civility and read excerpts from the constitution

Phyllis Hicks – 400 Circle Drive, London, Ohio 43140

- Stated that she feels for the people in London who have water issues and other difficulties
- Stated that she feels that the economy is in a mess London residents have a modest income
- Requested that the levy be removed from the May 3, 2022 ballot until it can be discussed further
- Stated her belief that the recent, cloudy, city water may be unsafe and could cause future law suits and trouble with the EPA

Held \_\_\_\_\_

20 \_\_\_\_\_

Tommy Boyd – 48 N. Main Street, London, Ohio 43140

- Questioned Council's future plans to repair the city's storm sewers
  - Mayor Closser explained that the City is currently working with an engineer to repair the storm sewer that starts just after E. High Street and goes toward Center Street
  - Mayor Closser explained that when area creeks, especially near W. Lincoln Avenue, get full, city water has no place to drain and that the US Army Corps of Engineers control the creeks and rivers and the City has no jurisdiction to dig into or change these waterways within London

President Comer interjected and asked about the City's current, hard water issues. Mayor Closser explained that the water softener bearing that needs repaired is an older 37" bearing and the industry standards have changed to using 33" bearing and that it took some time and research to find the size needed. He explained that the discoloration in the water is from iron and water samples are routinely sent to the EPA to ensure that it is safe to drink.

- Street Superintendent, Bill Long, explained the city's water flow and stated that there will always be flooding no matter the state of the storm sewers. He also explained that some houses were built in flood plains or ditches and low areas and that these houses will always be prone to flooding issues
- Mayor Closser added that City has repaired storm sewers and will continue to focus on the issue in the future

Steven Miller – 225 Jenkinson Avenue, London, Ohio 43140

- Stated that he has noticed an improvement in the flooding around his house on Jenkinson Avenue
- Suggested a long-range plan be developed to address flooding issues
- Thanked Mr. Long for helping him get his vehicle out of the snow during the recent storm

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Eades – Finance Committee

- Stated that several individuals on different committees are requesting a long-range plan for the city's storm sewer repairs
- Stated that several pieces of upcoming legislation were discussed at the recent Finance Committee meeting and that not all were declared an emergency

Councilman Peters – Finance Committee Chair

- Announced that the next Finance Committee meeting will take place on March 7, 2022 at 4:30pm at City Hall

Councilman Robinson – Public Service Committee Chair

- Announced that the next Public Service Committee meeting will take place on March 2, 2022 at 4:30pm at City Hall

Councilman Hays - Public Safety Committee Chair

- Discussed the agenda items of the recent Public Service Committee meeting
  - The regulation of farmland within the City
  - The Fire Department is applying for several grants
  - Mr. Castle is working on demolition and brown field grants to help cover the costs of removing the deteriorating old school facility at 60 S. Walnut Street

Councilman Hitt – Public Safety Committee

- Read the London Fire/EMS Department Report
  - Departmental EMS Training-Acute Stroke update with Madison Health
  - Departmental Fire Training- Scenario training.
  - New Hire orientation continued.
  - Developed and implemented new part-time orientation manual.
  - Began updating departmental policies and procedures manual.
  - Began updating Standard Operating guidelines manual.

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**Councilman Stahl – Public safety Committee**

- Read the London Police Division Report
  - We currently have one open position for an officer and are currently accepting applications for a police officer through lateral transfers, and accepting regular applications through February 25th.
  - Our newest cruiser has been upfitted and put in service. A cruiser damaged last year was repaired and is back in service. We have one cruiser out of service due to a cracked windshield from ice damage during the recent storm. It will be repaired this week.
  - We are working on presentations for town hall meetings explaining the facility needs assessment.
  - Ohio is requiring 24 hours of CPT training in various topics for each officer to maintain certification. We will be purchasing additional tables for the city hall training room to host a training for countywide agencies.
  - The annual report for 2021 was completed.
  - A grant for additional body cameras is to be awarded to our agency in the upcoming weeks. This includes approximately \$13,600 reimbursement of an \$18,100 purchase to be completed in 2022.
  - The generator purchased last year was installed and is operational.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS**

Mayor Closser presented the 2021 State of the City Report (report attached)

**OLD BUSINESS**

Resolution 102-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – A resolution authorizing the Auditor to transfer funds during 2022

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Robinson

Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Stahl

Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

Motion by Stahl to adopt, seconded by Smith

Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

PASSED

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 112-22 – Sponsored by Greg Eades - A participatory Resolution between the City of London and the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding the resurfacing project of Main Street (S.R. 38) between Center Street and High Street (U.S. 42) and Main Street (S.R. 56) between the western London corporation limit and High Street (U.S. 42), including pavement repair, guardrail upgrades, culvert and storm sewer replacement, and pavement markings, lying within the City of London

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Robinson

Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Stahl

Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

Motion by Stahl to adopt, seconded by Robinson

Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

PASSED

Ordinance 113-22 – Sponsored by Bryan Robinson – An Ordinance amending 1064 of the Codified Ordinances

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Robinson

Motion by Robinson to suspend, seconded by Hays

Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, no; Robinson, yes

LEFT ON

Ordinance 114-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – An Ordinance amending section 880.15 of the Codified Ordinances

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Robinson

LEFT ON

Held

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Resolution 115-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – A Resolution increasing appropriations  
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl  
LEFT ON

Resolution 116-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – A Resolution increasing appropriations  
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl  
LEFT ON

Resolution 117-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – A Resolution decreasing appropriations  
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Robinson  
Motion by Robinson to suspend, seconded by Hays  
Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, no; Robinson, yes  
LEFT ON

Resolution 118-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for and accept a grant from the Ohio Department of Commerce for MARCS Radio Systems  
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl  
Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Stahl  
Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
Motion by Hays to adopt, seconded by Stahl  
Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
PASSED

Resolution 119-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for and accept a grant from the Ohio State Fire Marshal  
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl  
Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Robinson  
Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
Motion by Hays to adopt, seconded by Stahl  
Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
PASSED

Resolution 120-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for and accept a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety  
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Robinson  
Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Stahl  
Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
Motion by Stahl to adopt, seconded by Robinson  
Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
PASSED

Resolution 121-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for and accept a grant from the Ohio State Fire Marshal  
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl  
Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Robinson  
Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
Motion by Hays to adopt, seconded by Stahl  
Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
PASSED

Resolution 122-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for and accept a grant from Walmart  
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl  
Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Stahl  
Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
Motion by Stahl to adopt, seconded by Hays  
Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes  
PASSED

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Resolution 123-22 – Sponsored by Andy Hitt – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for and accept a grant from the Ohio Department of Development

Motion by Stahl to place on first reading, seconded by Hays

Motion by Hitt to suspend, seconded by Stahl

Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

Motion by Stahl to adopt, seconded by Hitt

Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

PASSED

Resolution 124-22 – Sponsored by Andy Hitt – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for and accept a grant from the Ohio Department of Development

Motion by Stahl to place on first reading, seconded by Hays

Motion by Hitt to suspend, seconded by Stahl

Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

Motion by Stahl to adopt, seconded by Hitt

Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

PASSED

## ROUND TABLE

### Councilman Stahl

- Thanked those in the audience for their attendance
- Thanked Mayor Closser for his State of the City Address and stated his statements gave him a better understanding of City issues
- Wished Councilman Hays well on his upcoming medical procedure

### Councilman Hitt

- Thanked the Mayor for his State of the City Address and stated that it gave him a better prospective of city issues and projects
- Stated that the upcoming levy will give the citizens a chance to show their opinions by their vote
- The next Safety Committee meeting will take place on March 8, 2022 at 5:00pm

### Councilman Hays

- Thanked the Mayor of his State of the City Address
- Thanked all City employees for their hard work and especially the Street Department for clearing the roads after the recent snowfall
- Stated that the upcoming levy vote will give the citizens a chance to vote on the issue
- Congratulated the Cincinnati Bengals on their great season and is looking forward to next year
- Ask God's blessing on London, Ohio

### Councilman Robinson

- Thanked those in the audience for their attendance and for voicing their opinions
- The next Public Service Committee meeting will take place on March 2, 2022 at 1:00pm

### Councilman Peters

- Thanked those in the audience for their attendance and for voicing their concerns

### Councilman Eades

- Thanked those in the audience for their attendance
- Stated that creating a city newsletter is a good idea
- Asked if there was an ordinance to address houses that have burned down
  - Mayor Closser stated that the city does have an ordinance in place

### Council President Comer

- Thanked those in the audience for their attendance and stated that the job of city elected officials is to represent the citizens

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Held \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Closser requested a special meeting take place to discuss Resolution 117-22 as it needs to be passed as soon as possible to fund the Fire/EMS Department's salaries. Instead of scheduling a special meeting, Councilman Hays moved to reconsider Resolution 117-22. Councilman Hitt seconded the motion.

Roll call to reconsider Resolution 117-22: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Stahl

Roll call to suspend: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

Motion by Hays to adopt, seconded by Hitt

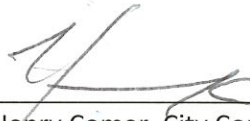
Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Robinson, yes

PASSED

Motion by Hays to adjourn at 8:34pm



Amy Rees, Clerk



Henry Comer, City Council President