

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

London City Council

Meeting

CASTO & HARRIS INC. S-301

Held June 4, 2026 20

London City Council
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140
June 4, 2026, at 6:30 pm
Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Councilman Hays at 6:45 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with a moment of Silent Reflection.

Motion to exit regular Council meeting and enter into Executive Session by Councilman Hays, 2nd Councilman Boyd. Approved by unanimous vote

Motion to exit Executive Session and enter into regular Council meeting by Councilman Hays, 2nd Councilman Stahl. Approved by unanimous vote

Roll Call

Present – Councilwoman Jackman, Councilman Stahl, Councilwoman Treynor, Councilman Hays, Councilman Boyd

Absent – President Peters, Councilman Eades, Councilman Hitt

Minutes – Approval of May 21, 2026, minutes, approved by unanimous vote

Public Hearing – none

Communications/Announcements – Savannah Andrews

Good evening, council. Savannah Andrews, 516 Parkway Drive, Marysville, Ohio. So, I am happy to be here. Thanks for letting me speak tonight. I've not yet met many of you. I've met a few of you. So, I started at the county in December for the Executive Director of Economic Development position. I took over for David Kell, who left earlier in 2025. So, I'm still getting up to speed. I'm excited to be in London in Madison County. So, a little bit of background on me. Before recently coming here, I worked in Marysville and Union County for their economic development team. So that's how I got to know Madison County and the Columbus region. And I knew my predecessor, David Kell, and I don't know who knew Sean Hughes before them, but I know Sean from my kind of time in the Columbus region. So, I wanted to offer, you know, I'm available if you want to kind of talk about economic development, either for the county or for the city. And it makes sense. I've had a lot of conversations with Mayor Klosser, who's on the CIC board and just been in a lot of them, and we're on the chamber board together. And then also Councilwoman Traynor, who's on the land bank. So, appreciate that. But anyway, so here tonight, I'm specifically going to talk about opportunity zones. But before I get started, any questions or anything? So, are y'all familiar with the opportunity zones that were approved back in 2017 as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act? So, this was basically, it's a federal designation for certain census tracts. And it basically allows investors to get a bigger bang for their buck in investment dollars through capital gains. So, it has to do with investing in properties for a long-term period. And those gains have basically a capital tax deferment. So, it's different than a lot of other economic development programs that you may

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be familiar with. It's not like TIFs or CRAs or anything like that. It's not because capital gains tax isn't a local tax. It's all kind of at the federal tax form, federal tax level. It's not something that has to go through a formal approval process through the local jurisdiction, which in this case would be London. But it is something that, because it is a federal designation, they still would like to see support from the local kind of community in this. So originally, there was the opportunity zone that was passed in 2017. It was a temporary measure. And in 2025, it was re-approved as part of the big beautiful bill to permanently instill that in the tax code. So, and then every 10 years, they'll, like with the census, they'll reevaluate the census tracts to make sure that the target of making the low-income census tracts is kind of targeted towards that investment. So, it'll keep that up every 10 years. Also, with a couple of changes as part of the kind of 2.0 designation is it enhanced rural communities' kind of benefit for investors benefiting or use the tax credit in a rural community. In London, the way that the federal government designates it, London counts as a rural tax area. So, if moving through the process, this census tract was designated as an eligible area, then it would draw investors who really want to invest in rural communities because it would be designated as such. And then also, there are fewer zones nationally. So, investors who are familiar with this tax credit and use it have seen benefits; you know, it'll really kind of focus in on the areas where it's approved. So, the presentation that you have is the next slide. So, in Madison County, there's only one census tract that's eligible for this opportunity zone. And it's the one mostly in the downtown area that you could see highlighted there. The federal they designate it through the percentage in poverty and then the area median income. So those are metrics that opportunity zones have to hit in order to be kind of designated as such. The next slide just talks about some of the benefits that communities have seen through the first kind of 1.0 designation, where there's been a hundred billion dollars of direct investment throughout the country in the opportunity zones. And then an increase in property tax values, job creation, that kind of stuff. So, where this is right now, not every eligible opportunity zone is going to be selected for this. Only, I believe, 25% of eligible opportunity zones are going to move to the kind of final area where it's actually designated as such. So, with the new 2.0 designation, it kind of goes from there. So, because it's a federal program, they look to the state, which looks to the locals. So really, it starts here in the local part of the community. So really, what that means for you is that part of showing that you're in support of kind of the investment in that area is just, you know, kind of saying that there's a letter of support that the council wants to write to say, hey, we would love to have our census tract designated as an opportunity zone. And then I can work with the mayor and others to pull together support that really just shows how the work that y'all are doing is already kind of putting together an argument for investment that's already being made. You know, there's been so much work done already in London. There's a CRA that has been done in the Westwood Collective. So, there's already some momentum, with kind of especially in that CRA area designated area or that CRA eligible area. And so, it would be pulling documents that you guys have already been creating. I know you're working on your comp plan. If you've made zoning changes recently that kind of speak to some of this, that would show supporting evidence that, hey, London is a great community to invest in, and you would get a lot more by investing your dollars here. So that's a lot. Any questions so far?

Councilwoman Treynor - Do you think a letter of support is the same as passing, maybe a resolution of some kind that would be a more formal act to show that kind of support?

Ms. Andrews - That would be great too.

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Councilwoman Treynor - Okay. We'll see if we can't come up with something that is nominal, but that you can point to.

Ms. Andrews - Okay. Yeah. And so as far as the process, and because it isn't, it's a federal designation, One Columbus and the region, they're putting together a consulting Team to really advocate for the communities that have eligible census tracts in the Columbus region. So, they'll help put together some of the stats on why the Columbus region is a great investment, and then we'll put together some of the information on why London specifically is a good place to have that designation. Part of it is because of the emphasis on rural, and because there's only one census tract eligible in Madison County, and because Columbus region really wants every county to have an eligible census tract, there's a high likelihood that the census tract will be selected, which is great, because again, really it's just a lightning rod for investment and investors that are familiar with using this type of credit. So, I guess a formal act would be a resolution or letter of support, just kind of getting a temperature check, and then if the council is okay with it, then I can work with the city and gather some of that information and really put a kind of a package together. It's almost like lobbying, just basically showing the state, while London is a good census tract for this type of credit, and then the state would then put that up to the federal, so then the federal would be the final selector of which census tracts are going to be considered for the designation.

Councilwoman Treynor – If one were to draft a proposed resolution, maybe making it kind of a resolution of a declaration of support or something like that, would one address it to the Ohio Department of Development, to the governor's office, or to the Census Bureau? Who would be the targeted eyeballs for this particular resolution if it were drafted?

Ms. Andrews - I will get the information back to you. I believe it would be the state, but let me double-check. Okay. And then my information is on the back of the presentation. And then part of the, there's a little bit of sense of urgency because there's a deadline for the federal, because the federal designation has to be in by September, and so there are some other dates kind of backed in from that. So, there's a 30-day turnaround from June 10th, which is when the state kind of opens up their portal, and so there will be just different questions. You know, some of it will be demographic. Some of it will be, you know, actually looking for dollars. You know, how much have you invested in that specific census tract? And what, you know, just really showing that there's already been momentum towards investment in that area. And then this would just kind of catapult that investment into a higher percentage of likelihood for investment in the future. Okay. Great. Well, if you have any questions, let me know, and then I'll let you know about who the official kind of letter should be to.

Councilman Hays - Thank you. Thank you, Savannah. Appreciate that.

Audience Concerns – none

Committee Reports

Public Service Committee –

Councilman Boyd – Nothing tonight

Councilwoman Jackman – The Public Service Committee is right before the public safety committee on Tuesday, so it will be at 5 o'clock.

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Public Safety Committee –

Councilman Hays – The Safety committee will be this coming Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the conference room.

Finance, Budget, and Personnel Committee –

Councilman Treyner - Finance committee meets on Monday, June 8th at 5 30 in the conference room.

City Official Reports

Mayor Closser – Good evening, and thanks to everyone for coming out. I would like to start off by welcoming Vivian Drake. Ms. Drake is our new intern for the summer through the MOPRC, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission summer intern program. She will attend THE Ohio State University in the fall and is from Mount Sterling. Ms. Drake is a policy major and will be helping the city in many aspects, like marketing, communications, events, and social media. We look forward to having her join the team this summer.

School is out, summer is beginning, and I would like to start off by thanking all of the school’s staff and administration for another great year. London City Schools will see some change for the 26-27 school year with the superintendent, assistant superintendent, and high school principal vacating their position. I want to thank those who are departing for their commitment to our community and kids. I look forward to continuing the strong partnership between the city and the school as their new leadership takes over the helm.

The new Police Department building is coming along. We continue to meet weekly and keep up on the progress daily. They are continuing the interior work we look to have it completed by the end of July.

On Thursday, May 21 st, we conducted the sanitation bid opening for service. At our pre-bid meeting, we had multiple bidders show up to get information, but only one submitted an actual bid. Rumpke was the lone bidder on May 21 st. After review of the bid by the law director and the administration, we have formally accepted the bid. We will now meet with Rumpke to coordinate a transition plan. The main question people have asked is what monthly charge did the bid include? Rumpke would pick up residential trash for \$20.75 with a three-year contract and possibly two more under the City's discretion. We have conducted our first Chief's exam for three candidates. The three candidates took the first portion of their test this past weekend for the London Police Chief's job. They all did a fantastic job, and we will now be meeting with Civil Service and begin the next portion of the testing process.

We are continuing to monitor and go through the governmental process for people not mowing their properties. We have had contractors mow properties on behalf of the City, with more coming. If anyone has a property they would like to report, a property please reach out to me or the administration office. But the easiest thing to do is MOW YOUR GRASS!

Three City Council members attended the training for CityLogix, who performed the sidewalk grading. I continue to look forward to furthering the conversations with the city council about how we will move forward with repairs.

Liam Gruz has resigned as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals as he has moved out of town. I would like to thank him for his service to the City of London and the expertise he brought to the board. I will now be looking for a new member for the Board of Zoning Appeals. If anyone is interested or if the City Council has a suggestion, please

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email me at pclosser@londonohio.gov.

I have come up with a list of some of the local events coming up this summer:

- The London Fireworks, to celebrate 250 years of independence, will be let off at London High School on July 3rd at dark, which is usually around 10:00 pm.
- The next day, on the 4th of July, we will host our Independence Day Parade, with it starting at 11:00 am. The parade route will be from Park Avenue, head south on Main Street to First Street. This is a huge parade and had over 65 entries last year. We look for this year to be even bigger and better. If you would like to participate in the parade, you can find the application on the City of London Facebook page, my Mayor Facebook page, and on londonohio.gov.
- The Lion's Club will be hosting their Kickin' off Summer Bash at Cowling Park this Saturday, June 6th, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- The London Strawberry Festival will be held in historic Downtown London from Thursday, June 25th, through Saturday, June 27th. They have many things going on, and you can find out all the details on their Facebook page or their website.
- The London Cobra show will be held at the courthouse on Saturday, June 27th. They will make their way into town via Route 40 to State Route 38 (Elm Street), turning onto Garfield Avenue and heading south on State Route 56 (Main Street). They should be making their way into town around 9:00 am, with their event ending at 3:00 pm.
- Summer Movie in the Parks Series for the City of London will begin on Friday, June 12th, starting at 6:00 pm with GOAT being shown at dusk. This is a community event with food trucks, multiple bounce houses, face painting, magic show, and more.
- The Madison County Fair will be held Saturday, July 11th, through Saturday, July 18th. The kids are putting a lot of work into their projects. They also have so many great events going on each night, capping the week off with the demolition derby that I will be participating in.
- July 17th, 18th, and 19th, the Madison County Arts Council will be presenting The Addams Family in the London High School auditorium.
- Our second movie in the Park will be Mario Galaxy on July 24th, with the movie starting at dusk at Cowling Park.
- July 25th, the London High School Football boosters will be having their Night at the Races fundraiser here at City Hall starting at 6:00 pm.
- And I know the Rhythm and Ribfest isn't for a couple of months, being held on Friday August 7th and Saturday the 8th, but it will be here before we know it.

I know I probably missed some things, so please check our community events calendar at londonohio.gov for events throughout the year. If you have an event, please make sure to reach out to the administration so we can get you added to the calendar.

Now on to the MOLO Fun Fact, which is the number 10. That is the number of innings London High School Baseball Team played last week to secure their 2nd District Championship with a 2-1 victory. I would like to congratulate these men for a huge win, going back-to-back, and give a special shout-out to Senior Devin Hammond. In the bottom of the 10th inning, after Hartley had been held to only 1 run on 2 hits over 9 and 2/3 innings. Devin entered the game with 2 outs and 2 runners on with a 2-1 lead to nail down the final out, securing the Red Raider's WIN. This was Devin's final game as a Red Raider, as he left this past Monday to begin serving our country in the United States Army.

After this game, they were not done and went on to play New Philadelphia in the regional semifinals on June 3rd. They played a great game and ended up with a 3-0 victory. They will now play in the Regional Finals on the 4th. I want to congratulate all the student athletes for their hard work and dedication to the team and community. This is the farthest from London Varsity Baseball has ever made it, and I wish them nothing but success.

Safety Service Director Saltsman – Not much to add. I will say I attended the Mid-Ohio Water and Sewer District meeting this past Tuesday here at City Hall. And two issues were addressed, so with the flooding last week, East High Street, we had some issues with an

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overflowing sanitary sewer, which was overflowing, leaving product going into our stormwater. That we were able to address with them. I think two concerns. One, it was happening. They're going to address that. The other is the product left behind. So, we were able to deal with that in a meeting on Tuesday, and by Wednesday, actually by Tuesday afternoon, I think it was cleaned up. There was another. So, going into Windsor, there was a patch that was made, I think, last Thursday, and by Friday, it had already started caving in. So, I started getting reports on Saturday. I had communicated with them. I was here for the test for civil service. So, I went out there and checked it. They were able to get somebody out there that day for a temporary repair. So at least it's been filled in. There are cones up, but there were safety concerns. They addressed them. I will say I appreciate that they addressed them quickly. The question is why that happened. So, they had patched it literally the day before something was going on. So, they're looking into that. I will say that Tom Taylor had addressed them in long detail with the I&I. So, you know, we're having water infiltrate the system and cause a lot of problems in many parts of the city. And he did discuss a plan moving forward. It's going to take time. It has, you know, it's been a problem over the years. It's going to take time to investigate, but they've already put out an RFP or an RFQ looking for a firm to do the study, figure out where it's going, and it'll be a multiple-step process, but they've started moving forward. And speaking of moving forward, they did announce that they made a counteroffer or an offer to an individual for the new executive director position, and they expect that to be coming in the next month. So, Tom Taylor had stepped down. They used him temporarily. He'll be replaced by a new director, hopefully within the next 30 days, I think so.

Auditor Combs – I have nothing.

Councilman Boyd - I was just going to say thank you very much for kind of giving us that update because that is good to hear that, yeah, they're putting the work into tracing where those issues are coming from. Thank you.

Old Business

2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 135-26 Sponsored by: Lisa Jackman

A Resolution authorizing the advertisement for bids for personal property no longer needed for city purposes.
The City owns the personal property, a 2008 Navistar Work Star 7400 Dump truck and a 2004 GMC C4500 Dump truck, and said personal property is no longer needed by the City for its purposes and wishes to dispose of the property in accordance with the law.

Councilwoman Jackman - Mr. Anthony is not here tonight, but at the last meeting, he had a question about the dump truck that didn't have high mileage but was being disposed of. Steve and I have both talked with Bill about that, and he said that there are quite a few other issues with that truck. The power steering has been replaced at least once, maybe twice, and it still doesn't steer quite right. There's a lot of rust on the floor, and it just had quite a few other issues. Even though it didn't drive a lot of miles, it has had a lot of use.

Councilman Boyd - Is there any way to get a mechanic, kind of just run down on the thing?

Director Saltsman - You're going to need to be more specific.
Councilman Boyd - Just to kind of give an overall kind of tune-up or kind of

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checkup, what kind of conditions it's actually in for us, because yeah, 35,000 that should be probably a 300,000-mile truck that we got out of that.

Director Saltsman - Well, keep in mind this truck isn't like that, so I realize people think they go that long, but this is a dump truck. It pushes a plow that's a lot different on the trucks themselves. I don't know what the hours are on it. You know if council wishes we have one of our mechanics take a look at it we can do it.

Councilman Boyd - That's all. Yeah, I was hoping we could kind of check out and have one of them do a little review for us.

Leave for 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 137-26 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt

A Resolution giving the Chief of Police the authority to sell a primary duty weapon upon retirement, disability, or death.

Councilman Hays - I think I can answer this for Andy. It's just basically what it says after an officer retires, he can purchase that weapon that he's carried if he wants to upon retirement or disability or if there would be a death if the family would want to purchase it they could.

Leave for 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 138-26 Sponsored by: John Stahl

A Resolution giving the Fire Chief the authority to gift a surplus helmet and badge upon retirement, disability, or death

Councilman Stahl - This is pretty much the same as 137. Leave it on. Okay, I know that most of that equipment after 10 years is pretty well done, so go ahead and leave that on also.

Leave for 3rd Reading

ORDINANCE 139-26 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor

An Ordinance amending section 3.01 (a)(4) of the City Policy and Procedure manual. The Policy and Procedure Manual must be updated to reflect revisions to the residency requirements section.

Councilwoman Treynor - So the current policy and procedure manual identifies certain positions as having a residency requirement, but nowhere in that manual does it say what those certain positions are. So, this resolution would identify those positions as police chief, police captain, police canine officer, detective, fire chief, parks and rec director, street superintendent, assistant street superintendent, street foreman, street maintenance worker 1 and 2, and sanitation superintendent. Job descriptions are forthcoming on some of those positions, and then obviously this amendment would be, or this resolution would be, later amended once some of those departments are no longer departments.

Leave for 3rd Reading

ORDINANCE 140-26 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor

An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to affect a governmental natural gas aggregation program with opt-out provisions pursuant to section 4929.26, Ohio Revised Code, directing the Madison County Board of Elections to submit a ballot question to the electors of the City of London, and declaring an emergency.

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Councilwoman Treynor - So this is the counterpart to the to the electricity aggregation that we modified the actually I think we ended up keeping the supplier but our current contract was up earlier or I guess it was last fall is for some I'm assuming natural gas prices weren't an issue when the decision to go into an electric aggregation program was made well before my time but if anybody has noticed that utility prices were very volatile this past winter season and we are not presently on a gas aggregation program which means we are all subject to paying whatever the market rate is by allowing the city to aggregate allows a broker to sell the city services as a package deal for a brokered rate which is typically a much discounted rate so this is only the choice to become an aggregate program for natural gas aggregation not who the supplier would be not who what the rate would be or anything like that this is very kind of step one fundamentals it does need to pass council and then needs to go to board election where it would ultimately be submitted as a ballot issue.

Public Hearing is scheduled for July 2, 2026, during the normal Council meeting.

Leave for 3rd Reading

New Business

RESOLUTION 141-26 Sponsored by: Greg Eades

A resolution increasing appropriations. The City Council would like to upgrade the current sound system that is used for their meetings.

Councilwoman Treynor - Well, I was going to see if I know how much he was asking for, okay, 21,000 there it is uh yeah so I think there's the speakers that are usually here are no longer um and I think just to address issues of sound quality into the future the request for an appropriation increase in the amount of 21,000 for the purpose of improving the sound system.

Councilman Hays - That'll be coming up at finance Monday evening.

Leave for 2nd Reading

Round Table

Councilman Stahl – I, too, would like to thank all the regulative programs this spring; they've done a lot very well in all of them, and also, if anybody has time, they're tearing up the track and the field; it's kind of fascinating to see what it looks like from the beginning again, so that's all I have. Thank you

Councilman Boyd - Thank you to the administration and street department. Steve, getting through that rain, having roads blocked off, everything else that was coming through. Thank you also for checking in on the issues that were popping up. Unfortunately, so thank you to everybody for coming in and checking in.

Councilwoman Treynor – Thank you, Savannah, for cluing us into London's forthcoming opportunity. That's really exciting news.

Councilman Hays – I want to thank all my council members tonight and thank you for bearing with me it's only the second time I've done this so it's a little nerve-wracking I'd like

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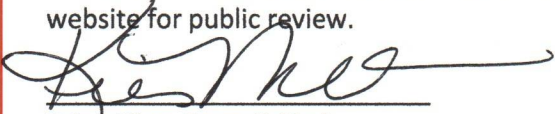
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to thank all of our city employees for well jobs well done uh I've heard different amounts of rain I've heard anywhere from uh six to eight inches of rain we had during the course of the last couple of weeks that's a lot of rain that's a lot to fall at one time uh things are going to happen but um sounds like city did a good job and we thank you very much I want to thank everybody for coming out tonight uh Savannah thank you for your input here today and it's good to talk with you this morning I appreciate you very much you doing a good job um I want to commend all the athletes at London High School you know our football team is 28 and 2 out of the last 30 games if my memory serves me correctly um baseball teams excelling track team we had a fairly good basketball team this year um so those kids need to be recognized and support our student athletes uh go big red um I have a niece that broke a state uh record in track she goes to Watkins Memorial uh I can't remember the time but she beat it by quite a bit and so she's in state record books and shout out to her

Councilwoman Jackman – Well I would just like to give a shout out to the student athletes at London High School who will be leaving tomorrow morning at eight o'clock to go compete in the state track meet um at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium and quite a few records are being broken and these kids have had a great season um and if you'd like to cheer them on as they leave tomorrow at the high school at 8 a.m.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm

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


Kris Miller, Council Clerk
6/18/26
Date


Richard Hays, Councilman
6/18/26
Date