

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

London City Council

Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held January 15, 2026 20

London City Council
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140
January 15, 2026, at 6:30 pm
Minutes

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present – Councilman Eades, Councilwoman Jackman, Councilman Hayes, President Peters, Councilman Hitt, Councilwoman Treynor, Councilman Boyd, Councilman Stahl
Absent – 0

Minutes – Approval of January 5, 2026, minutes.

President Peters - Kris sent those out this evening. If you could take a look at those and see if there are any corrections or concerns, and then we'll approve those at the next meeting.

Public Hearing – none

Communications/Announcements – City Administration appointments/reappointments

President Peters - Did everybody get a chance to look at those appointments? Any questions or concerns? Okay, all in favor of approving those appointments and reappointments? Unanimous approval.

Audience Concerns

Kevin Crosley, 1044 Portway. Concerns, sanitation. I know there are a lot of misconceptions people are posting. The fact that people want to say that we charge for a lid being open. That is not true. Originally, I heard that that was something that when the first went to this, BPU had stated that if the lids weren't shut, you would be charged. But I've been here two years. I have not seen anybody charged for a lid being open on their trash can. The only thing people get charged for is if it's sitting outside the trash can on the ground. And the misconception is that when it says bulk pickup, a lot of people assume they put furniture, couches, and chairs out. That's just how Mid-Ohio puts it on the bill as a bulk pickup. So, it could be one bag. It could be five bags with a minimum of one yard being charged. So that's where a lot of this misconception comes from. But absolutely not are we are not charging residents if their lid is open. What happens if the wind blows the lid open? Do we charge you for it? No. So that's all I wanted to state is that from us in the sanitation department, we do not charge for lids being open. That's all I have.

Committee Reports

Public Service Committee –

Councilman Hitt - And then I also attended the Public Service Committee meeting. And there will be legislation coming up at the next meeting regarding vacating an alley. We also talked about sidewalk ramps and possible grants to complete all those ramps throughout the city. We also talked about the storm sewer issues. And how repairs are done for

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that. That was about it. The next meeting is on February 10th at 5 o'clock in the meeting room next door for the service Committee.

Councilwoman Jackman - I attended the Public Service Committee meeting also on Tuesday, the 13th. And I have the street department report from that meeting. As usual, the street department was very busy doing lots of jobs all around town. A few notable things they did. They again had to work on a couple of the trash trucks. Trash departments met more than once with the boring companies. Replaced some street signs. Had to report some lights that were out to Ohio Edison. They did take down the Christmas lights. Changed the lights at the school since they were off for break. Patched some potholes. Changed a couple of traffic lights. They did salt and plow and ordered more salt with all the snow that we've had. Hauled some scrap. Fixed some potholes. And, let me see, cleaned a ditch. Cut ornamental grass at Triangle Park. Put some blocks around the Hope Box at Meri-Mac Park. And, let me see, they did remove a beaver dam at the bridge at the old landfill. Picked up some yard waste. And they were very busy.

Councilman Boyd - All right. Got to attend the Parks and Recreation Committee, Board of Zoning Appeals, Public Service Committee, Public Safety Committee, and Finance Committee. So, it's been a busy last week and a half. Parks and Recreation is what I'm going to be going over. And so, at this committee, we discuss that recreational basketball has about two more weekends left in its regular season. Tournament games are starting Monday, 1/19, and wrap-up championship games on Sunday, 1/25. Spring volleyball registration is live on Civic Plus Catalog. So, get an account set up there, and that way you can register all your kids' stuff right on through the online site. We also discuss the pool prices and possibly look into seeing if there are any changes we would like to make to help cover the last of the pool fees. In this case, last year, looking at it, we had about 7,000 people attending. And so, with being only about \$12,000 short on actually covering funds for that, an extra dollar to increase would actually do really well. We are looking into resident versus non-resident rates and seeing if maybe we can look into adding that down the road.

Public Safety Committee –

Councilman Hayes - I had a Public Safety meeting on January 13th. Called the meeting at 6 p.m. All my committee members were present. We approved the minutes of the December 9th, 2025, meeting 3-0. Chief Eades gave his report, Fire EMS. Mr. Hitt will give that report momentarily. Chief Nicol was there. Gave his police report. Mr. Stahl will give that to the Council here momentarily. The Safety Service Director had no new business for us. We had no new business. We had no old business. And there was no public comment. We adjourned at 6.15. The next Public Safety meeting will be on February 10th, 6 p.m.

Councilman Stahl - I attended the Service, Safety, and Finance Committees, and I have a report for the Public Safety Committee briefing on January 13th. Building construction is progressing with wallboard, installation panels, and detention. Siding roofing is in progress, with all roof trestles completed. Expected to be completed by the middle of June. LPD participated in the annual Operation Santa's Sleigh in Columbus at Nationwide Children's Hospital. We are in the process of selecting applicants for open police officer positions and continue to solicit lateral entry officers. Detective Greg Perkins will be retiring in February after 20 years with LPD and over 29 years in law enforcement. The funding for a completed cruiser package was used to buy a Ford PIU. However, we are waiting for an upfitting as the original completed cruiser was sold prior to funding being available. We had three officers on restricted duty due to various health conditions, so the hiring of a second administrative

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support position is being held for consideration later in the year. LPD conducted the annual Shop with the Cops, serving a total of 28 children. LPD handled 8,765 calls in service in 2025, a 22% increase over 2024. Officers filed 1,463 incident reports, a 6.7% increase. There were 234 criminal charges filed, and 896 traffic offenses. Division also handled 52 injury crashes and 182 property damage crashes. There were 73 OVI, and the officers completed 2,758 traffic stops, with 1,593 or 58% of those resulting in traffic warnings. That's all I have.

Councilman Hitt - I attended the Public Safety meeting. And I'll give the fire department's report. They had EMT refresher training. They had a new part-time orientation training. They had several students for the ride time from the Tolles Tech Center and the Grant EMS paramedic class. They completed a toy drive and festivities. And they assisted with the Women's Federation with furniture moving from the candy sale. And as of the end of the year 2024, there were 2,460 incidents. Which came out to an average of 6.7 incidents per day. And in 2025, they had 2,706 incidents. Which came out to an average of 7.2 runs per day. And so far to this point this year, they've had 102 incidents. Which is 7.8 runs per day.

Personnel, Budget, and Finance Committee –

Councilman Eades – Met on the 13th. A couple of things to run by everyone. We'll just use it for the year. The overall revenue for the year was \$23,821,696 and change. That includes \$4.2 million for the police building. The loan was put into the revenue. The expenses were \$21,455, \$277. Rounding that. And the tax department. For the year, on the general fund taxes, we were down 1.41% total for the year. And for the fire department, it was 0.13%. So pretty close to what it was, but down slightly for the year. We had a number of items that came up. Most of these, I think, all of these are going to go before the council tonight on new business. Including donations that were made for the police and fire. The cash flow transfers, which are pretty normal. Some training funds need to be reappropriated. And we might hear some more about the police building updates. That was brought up. I don't know if Mr. Saltsman will discuss that later. But I believe that's just about everything that came up in the new business.

Councilwoman Treynor - Just one question. Greg, I don't see those agenda items.

Councilman Eades - That's actually probably the next meeting, not tonight yet. They'll be on the next agenda, I'm sure. So, yeah. All old business for tonight. Also, I forgot to mention that we're meeting on the 10th at 6.30 p.m.

City Official Reports

Mayor Closser - Appreciate everyone coming out tonight. Just a reminder that I will be giving the State of the City address at the next City Council meeting on February 5th. I look forward to talking about all the great things that we've been able to accomplish and some of the plans that we have for 2026 and into the future. I spoke before about how Business View Magazine had published, or about the article, and they have published that article in London. The article is named Growing with Purpose, which talks about balancing growth, infrastructure, and keeping that small-town charm. I'm excited to highlight all the great things going on in London and the teamwork taking place to make it happen, so you can find that on businessviewmagazine.com. The construction of the new police department, as Councilman Stahl said, is moving along pretty well. The trusses have gone up, the exterior is being covered, and it's really starting to take shape. So, they will continue to

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work hard as they complete the exterior so they can move to the interior, and as he said, we are on schedule to complete the construction in June. I've been able to get out in the community a little bit for some outreach. One thing I was able to do recently is teach Junior Achievement to Ms. King's kindergarten class at London Elementary, and if anyone's ever taught Junior Achievement, teaching kindergarten is quite a good time. So, this was a wonderful class, though, with a lot of bright young minds, and as you know, I pride myself on being active in the community, because the responsibility of a mayor is the community outreach, and just showing up and staying engaged with all the residents of all ages. Since the last City Council meeting, there have been a few meetings take place. The Parks and Rec Commission met, and they are looking at the current price to enter the pool, possibly be an increase. The Board of Zoning Appeals met and heard one case for the Buckeye Community School. They had a prior application for a conditional use permit, filed 6/25/24 on behalf of Buckeye School. It was approved for the conditional use permit, and the whole building for educational purposes. On December 11, 2025, a modification of the plan for the building was filed. This details a list of uses that would otherwise be permitted in the district. However, since the entire building has a conditional use permit, it needed to be modified. So that case was heard and was passed. Their plans are to add, possibly, a doctor's office, a salon, and a greenhouse area. The Planning Commission meeting for this last week was canceled due to no cases on the agenda. We are continuing to get training on City Logic software for the sidewalk grading, and actually, our next training is tomorrow. So, once we finish all of our training, we'll be able to present the information on the sidewalks to everyone. I do look forward to furthering the conversations with the City Council on how we will move forward with the repairs after that is presented. Now on to the fun fact, which is the number 32. That is actually the number of weddings I performed in 2025. As mayor of the county seat, I have the ability to perform wedding ceremonies within the county. So that takes the total number of weddings I've performed as mayor since 2017 to 289. That's kind of a funny number, so I just thought that was kind of cool. I appreciate you guys, and thank you for your time.

Director Saltsman - Yeah, really the only thing else I have to offer, you know, everybody else hit on the meetings and that, is I did attend a civil service meeting yesterday. They exhausted the current or the former civil service list for a police officer. They had offered conditional, offered employment to one officer. We anticipate him going to the training academy in March. As you heard about the shortages, we're still addressing the other. That list expired. They did certify a new list, and I know the police have been interviewing off that. So, we hope to make, hopefully, see a few additional officers potentially picked from that to bring our staff back up. That's it.

Auditor Combs - I have nothing.

Councilman Eades - Raquel, our law director. Good to see you here. Thanks for coming. I know you originally intended to come for a different reason, but one of the questions that I had asked you the other day was about solicitors' door-to-door, and I didn't know if you had a chance to look into that or give us any further information. I know a lot of people complain about as many people knocking on the doors right now, especially from the electric companies and the aggregators that are trying to get people to switch over. Can you give us any further information about that at this time?

Law Director Davis - Not at this time, no. I'll need a little bit more time to look into it. It's on my list, but I don't have an answer for that yet.

Councilman Eades - Mr. Mayor, I appreciate your comments tonight. You added a lot of

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new information, and I'm glad that we got to hear. So, I'd also like it with those reports from the other company or the other committees. It would be great if that were also emailed to us, because that was a lot of good information.

Old Business

RESOLUTION 190-25 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt and Lisa Jackman
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR SANITATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Councilman Hitt - So this would allow the Safety Service Director to put out bids for privatization of the sanitation services provided to the city.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION 190-25 by Councilwoman Jackman, 2nd Councilman Hitt.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent: 0-
Affirmative: 6- Eades, Jackman, Hays, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl
Against: 1- Boyd

Councilman Boyd - So this is for us to go with Rumpke and put out a bid for it. So, are we not going to read through the others at all first, or are we just going to go with this one? Because officially, if we were to pass this one, we're not even going to look into the rate increase, then?

Director Saltsman - Can I address something? So, there's been a lot of misinformation at that point, exactly, going with Rumpke. That is not what this is. And I think it needs to be clear. It sounds like what this one has had to verify would be to privatize, to advertise, to have a private company come in and take over our entire services. So, it's not Rumpke or any other person. Anybody qualified, when we write those specifications, they would come in, and they would take over all of our services. We would eliminate the current sanitation. The other one is that we maintain our services as they are with our city employees. And then the third part is to increase that rate. So, the current one, 190-25, would be to advertise for bids to bring in private companies to take over our entire sanitation, the trash collection, all that.

Councilman Boyd - And so I was kind of hoping that we might have some discussion on, yes, our sanitation and adjusting the rates before maybe coming back to these. But I guess I'm able to still discuss this now?

President Peters - Now, with these, this is put out for bids; we don't have to accept these bids.

Director Saltsman - Well, ethically, you have to put it out with the intent to accept it. And I will say, I've had this discussion, if I will not put a bid out, I will not put my name behind a bid that we don't intend to accept. If we haven't anticipated what it is and that bid would come in five times higher, we have the right to do it. And I would lean to my law director, but I think you have to have the intent to ethically put it out. It's just like the conversation we had about, hey, let's just ask them what it is. A company is not going to tell you what they're going to bid because this company knows, and they beat them. It's not competitive if they know what the other person's going to bid.

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Councilwoman Treynor - But it's a good-faith proposal, basically. Any, just like any other proposal, has to be proffered in good faith. You can't just put a fictitious bid out there or have something that has unreasonable expectations. It has to be based on real-time needs, real-time services to address those needs. With obviously the intent to satisfy the terms of the, you know, the offer when it, if it should be accepted on the other side.

Councilman Eades - If that were the case, then we've either done it wrong for a long time, or this needs to be changed because this only says to advertise for bids, not to accept. In the past, we've had to advertise and accept bids.

Director Saltsman - I don't understand why we would bid when we don't. Like this, this discussion has happened several times. I don't understand why we would put it to bid without the intent to do exactly what Councilperson Treynor said. Why would we put a bid out that we don't intend to accept? If I'm competing with your insurance company, would you go get somebody else, your competitor, your rates? That's ridiculous. Like we've had this discussion, like, so this is infuriating from the sense that we have several city employees here who are looking at their future. These questions should have come up at the meeting on Tuesday. It is unacceptable that we're having this kind of question, that we're still willing to put that out there, that we're fishing for amounts. Unacceptable.

Councilman Boyd - And that's where I'd say that the amounts that are put out there with the comparison of Plain City with their \$21 for a 4,400 civilian city makes it tough to say that, hey, this is going to be any lower than what ours is currently or is going to be. The larger one that I've heard a good amount of feedback for is \$100 for three months with Rumpke. And so that puts you at a \$33 bill. That's \$4 higher still than what we're going to raise ours to. So, you know, there's lots of that. But I would say that, yes, it's usual for these businesses to give out these bids or quotes to kind of give that competition or say, hey, this is what your city or business is looking into. We provide that service for you. And that's why they would give a quote.

Director Saltsman - They're not giving a quote. So, I'm going to back up to my conversation at the meeting the other night. So, the last meeting was brought forward by Councilman Eades or Mr. Boyd wanting to do a study. I got a call, and this is why, and I said at the last two meetings, I will not do that. I'm not doing that study because Mr. Boyd contacted Rumpke, trying to get that information, implying he was an employee or an aide to the city council, which is false. That's not it. I wouldn't do it. Mr. Rupert from Rumpke called me and said we can't do that. We're not going to give that. It's not a common practice. They're not going to give an amount. They were glad to give other quotes, which the mayor got from Plain City of what their two vendors are. So, he'll be glad to provide what he's provided to other public entities because that's required by law. It's public information. So, you can make a comparison. We're not comparing ourselves to Plain City. We're comparing the services they offered, and that is a light comparison that we can look at and say, hey, this is what they charge them. It's a best guess. So, if we're looking at that price and they come in three times that amount, yes, I think then we have a right under good faith. It's not anywhere close to what we thought it was going to be. We can reject it. Or they couldn't meet our minimum standards. We can reject it. But they're not going to give us a price. I had a specific conversation with the representative from Rumpke. And Rumpke is because he's our rep on what we do currently at the transfer station. That's why I've talked to Rumpke. I don't think you'll find anybody that's going to tell you what they're going to bid because anybody else out there could bring that – beat that bid by a dollar and win it. That takes away the competition.

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Councilman Boyd - So, yeah, it just kind of sounds like 21 is kind of the price we're given, but there really is no guarantee, though, to what the price would be. That's the main part that I think we should be able to look into is that there is no guarantee.

Councilwoman Treynor – Life doesn't come with guarantees.

Councilman Boyd - But this number that we have to keep our employees to offer a Saturday drop-off for the citizens of this city, who have asked for that, that we do have the opportunity to offer. And we aren't even discussing it before passing this.

Mayor Closser - Councilmen, Mr. Peters sat quietly for about 30 seconds and said, is there any discussion? And no one said a word. And then he said – he gave it about 20 to 30 seconds – no one ever spoke. Then he said, what are the council's wishes? It was quiet for another 15 seconds, and nobody spoke. And then somebody said, I'll move to adopt. So, saying you didn't have an opportunity to speak about it, you had plenty of opportunity to speak about it, and you didn't say anything.

Councilman Boyd - Well, that would be me speaking about 192-25 instead of 190-25. So, I wasn't sure on that, unfortunately, if I was able to discuss 192-25 during 190's reading. So, my apologies for that confusion there. But that is where that came from. Yes, I was saving my comments for the reading of Ordinance 192-25.

RESOLUTION 191-25 Sponsored by: Andy Hitt and Lisa Jackman
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR
BIDS FOR TRASH HAULING SERVICES

Councilman Hitt - So, this is to put out bids for trash hauling? Is this something that we need to do in the meantime until bids go out, or does it still need to be put in place?

Director Saltsman - So, this one is to continue services as is. I would bid for the transfer station. And I've got an extension through, I believe, July. I can extend it further if we have to. So, I guess, if I may freely speak, it is with the passing of the last resolution that you just eliminated this. I can't do both. So, you just voted to privatize. I don't need an extension of this.

Councilman Hitt - So, since it's on the agenda, I guess we need to make a vote on it.

Director Saltsman – That's not correct.

Councilman Eades - I don't think we voted to privatize. I think we voted to advertise for bids. And you had said during your part of the conversation that if the bids came in three times higher, we could reject those. But if we're voting to privatize the way you just said, then it doesn't matter what the bids are. We're going to accept whatever you deem to be the best, even if it's three times higher?

Director Saltsman - I guess what I'm saying, ethically, I don't know if I'm using the right word. I can't put out a bid to do privatization and at the same time put out a bid to run the transfer station. If we privatize, that company's going to run it all. I don't need a transfer station. So, I'm doing both, and you're making it look like, well, we'll decide which one we're taking. So, I will put it, and we can ask for a legal opinion. But I don't think that's ethical, and I don't think that's the right way to do it. We can't, you're asking a company to say, here's what we're going to charge, and we'll decide. Now, again, if they're out of the

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realm, I think we have the right to refuse it. But as Shannon said, the legal part, you have to have the intent to make a legitimate offer to accept that. So, if they come back and it was \$80 a month, yeah, we probably have the right to refuse that.

Councilwoman Treynor - This is contract law 101. You put out an offer. If that offer is accepted, it meets the conditions of the offer and all of the standards and comes within the dollar amount of expectation, then you've got a contract.

Councilman Eades - Mr. President, when this was first presented, it was presented as if this was going to be either-or. I do believe. Either we would privatize, and that decision would be made after the bids, or we would raise our rates. And since we already took care of 190-25, that's how I believe that was presented to the council to begin with.

Director Saltsman - So, if we privatize, we set the rate based upon that. So, the second part of the either-or is if we're not going to privatize, then we have to continue operations. I have to have a contract to do the transfer stations we currently have. And then the third, 192, would be to raise the rates so that we can continue this operation. So, that would be an either-or. But you passed resolution 190-25, saying we're going to privatize. I don't know how we pass resolution 191 if we're going to privatize. I mean, you put them all up, so it's all there, and we're not starting over and doing another three months of, you know, if they decided not to privatize, now we've got to start over to raise the fees. My understanding is that's why we did that. So, if I'm wrong, please correct me.

President Peters - Yeah, so passing resolution 190-25. Yeah, 191 and 192.

Law Director Davis - Just to clarify, when these pieces of legislation came out of committee and came to the law director's office to draft the legislation itself, that it was relayed to my office, and that it was the intention to either pass 190 or pass 191 and 192 in conjunction. Pass 190, 191, and 192 in conjunction. That was my understanding as well, how it came to my office and the way that they were drafted.

Councilman Hitt - I think since they've been read multiple times, we still have to vote on those. Even though they don't really apply, we'd have to vote them down.

President Peters – Yes, we have to vote.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION 191-25 by Councilwoman Hitt, 2nd Councilwoman Treynor. The motion failed by the following vote:

Absent:	0-
Affirmative:	2- Boyd, Eades
Against:	5- Hitt, Treynor, Hays, Stahl, Jackman

ORDINANCE 192-25 Sponsored by: Andy Hitt and Lisa Jackman
AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING THE RATE OF SANITATION DEPARTMENT SERVICES

Councilman Hitt - So this is basically the same deal since we passed 190-25, but this has been on the agenda multiple times and has been read multiple times. We would still need to make a vote on this.

Councilman Boyd – Can I discuss?

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President Peters – Yeah, before you vote, yes.

Councilman Boyd – Thank you. So, yeah, it was nice. I at least got to reach out to our sanitation department some more with, yes, the last meeting being kind of my first time in here on that Monday. And one that came up with the return of the Saturday hours, you know, that was a big one that we would have been able to offer as a city that you're not going to get from these other companies. A big part of it was that it wasn't even something that was just for the citizens. That was a big day that our department used for the maintenance of our vehicles. And because of the fact that we haven't really been taking care of that and offering that, we were slightly diminishing our own departments by taking this way. And so, it was nice to hear that that could have actually been offered back to us with the proper number of people and employees within that department. The other questions were going to be whether the city was going to place the \$60,000 for the salaries back in the budget for 2026 that we had actually decreased this year. I guess that we don't have to worry about that. However, I do believe that it shows that, you know, hey, if we had a \$467,000 salary line and we only budgeted for \$407,000, clearly, we could have actually cut down some of these increases on these rates that we would have possibly had. But this is something that I would have thought somebody would have seen, maybe or kind of marked up before, but it was nice to kind of actually catch it here. At this point, there's no real point, but if anyone had any words on that down there.

Auditor Combs - When I budgeted for that expense line, I budgeted for how current staffing has been. You asked for figures to include everybody per the strength ordinance, and that's what I gave you. That's why the figures did not get budgeted for what I gave you.

Councilman Boyd - Oh, good. And that's where I was just going to ask to kind of, hey, help out with this also, see if we could have that just in case. That way, we were given a good push to actually fill our employees for our departments before going through with this removal of it, but thank you. Also, it seemed the citizens said they wished to actually have kept it rather than compared to getting rid of it, but on we go.

Motion to adopt ORDINANCE 192-25 by Councilwoman Hitt, 2nd Councilwoman Treynor. The motion failed by the following vote:

Absent:	0-
Affirmative:	2- Boyd, Eades
Against:	5- Hitt, Treynor, Hays, Stahl, Jackman

Motion to reconsider RESOLUTION 190-25 by Councilwoman Eades, 2nd Councilman Boyd. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent:	0-
Affirmative:	5- Boyd, Eades, Stahl, Jackman, Hays
Against:	2- Hitt, Treynor

Councilman Eades - Mr. President, the reason why I asked to reconsider this is that I don't think that I understood that this was not going to be an either-or, that this was a vote to switch without further information. The reason why I asked to reconsider is that I don't know that anybody else wants to do this, but I do intend to switch my vote at this time.

Councilman Hitt - Do we need to amend to accept the bid and accept? Is that required to have that in the language? It's a question of putting out a bid and then having to have

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legislation saying we would accept. Is that a requirement in the legislation that bid and accept, or if we amend it, we can amend it to say bid and accept?

Law Director Davis - The way that it's sufficient, it's the way that our other legislation for bids is written. A lot of the pieces of legislation are pulled from old templates of the same type of legislation. I believe the bid could be entered into as written, but I don't see an issue with amending it to say put to bid and accept.

Councilwoman Treynor - Ethically, I think bid, just like in anything else, you have to have an intention to accept, otherwise you don't place a bid. Maybe it wasn't explicitly stated, but the connotations of placing out a bid were obviously that you would have an intent to accept that same bid.

Law Director Davis - I want to be clear. I believe it's sufficient as written. I don't think there's any issue with the amendment to include language to allow it to be accepted.

Councilwoman Treynor - I'd like to state that I've listened to all of the evidence. I've listened to the pros and the cons. And regarding... You can accept. For me, personally, as much as I like our sanitation department, as soon as I learned that it was customary for the new company to extend employment to our current personnel, that was my primary concern was that we weren't going to leave everybody out in the cold and dry. If you want to make... If you want to comment on that, then...

Richard Wiggins, 175 Mound Street. As an employee, being brought into the new company would be great, but let's just say it's Rumpke. Now I've got to drive to Dayton, Circleville, Columbus, one of those places, for me to have a job. That's fine during the summer. But we've seen what this winter's been like. If it comes down to that in the wintertime, I'm stuck. I mean, I've got a truck, but that doesn't guarantee I'm going to be able to make it. I understand you're concerned about us, but I want you to know that when it was negative 20 degrees, wind chill factor, we were still out there picking up the trash. No one complained about it. That's all.

Councilman Boyd - I agree with him. After looking at the department itself and seeing that the main fix we're making is for a 10-foot by 1-foot-long gap that's in their main maintenance garage, there. You know, I was barely standing out there 10 minutes before. I said, let's step back inside, see in the breath. So, these guys do. They push through. They work hard. And I'll say from my point of view, it's kind of a, hey, without, unfortunately, a price. I understand the ethical and legal reasons that we wouldn't want to do this, but having the chance to once again offer, hey, the drop off on weekends for the citizens, being able to, hey, have that self-control of watching our price, the \$8 price jump isn't as large as what we might see. And I'm not in for that bet. And I hope we can look into that.

Councilwoman Treynor - I don't think there's any expectation that an \$8 price jump at this juncture is going to be the end of it. These are going to be regular, repeatable rate increases in order to address the massive, massive infrastructure improvements that need to happen. It's not only the entire electrical system. It's the entire, if I understand, it's the rotor grinding system at the transfer station. It's everything about the building that needs to be completely upgraded and brought up to whatever code. I'm not even sure. And the issue is with the trash trucks constantly failing. This is not; this initial \$8 increase is by no means the end of it. By no means. And this is not only, but it's the wear and tear on the employees, it's the wear and tear on the administrations, and the constant worry over maintaining these services that we have. There is absolutely no guarantee that that price

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

London City Council

Meeting

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isn't going to jump by an initial 35% to 40% and continue to go up from there, first of all. Secondly, if we can guarantee that our employees are at least extended the opportunity of employment, and I understand that very well may be local. That you'd obviously have to pass the strictures of the new employer. But we're in a situation where it's not just the wear and tear on the bodies, the buildings, the machinery, the mind. When we have companies that are perfectly capable and willing to come in and take care of this and maintain the fees at or below what we're paying right now, without the very significant increases. This is a no-brainer.

Councilman Boyd - I'd say it's a gamble to say at or below our prices now. That's my one main thing. However, we have been seeing this department ask for assistance and trucks since 2023. We took on this department when we gave away the sewer and water department. We haven't put the increases into it. We do have the 3% increase already factored into this for the yearly increases needed. And I believe in this sanitation department that actually said that they say that this is going to help continue and will cover the required prices for maintaining this department. Getting these two trucks at least, and the repairs.

Councilman Eades - So, a couple of things. I'd asked Mr. Saltsman the other night. I feel that generally the council wants to follow what the suggestions are, and I asked if he would be willing to make his suggestion on which way to go, and I don't know if he's willing to do that or not. However, I just want to be clear that if we're making the decision, if you walked in thinking you want to keep our sanitation department, then we have to fail the first one and pass the next two, if that was your thought. If your thought was that you want to privatize, then obviously, we keep this one on, and the other two have already failed. But that's the decision that I don't know that I understood I had to make tonight before I walked in, and I don't know if anybody else knew that either. And maybe everybody understood, and I just didn't. I don't know. But I just want to clarify that part.

Director Saltsman - So there's been a lot of discussion, right? We've had three hearings on this. This is the largest group we've had yet. I've got zero, zero questions from council, not one, other than your meeting with Mr. Boyd, nothing. So tonight, and if I appear upset, I am. I am ticked off. I'm ticked off because we're in that question of what it meant. At two weeks, I was asked by Mr. Eades whether or not what my opinion was. I don't have an opinion. I've been here two weeks. I was asked at two months. So now I'm asked again what my opinion is. First of all, that's your decision, not mine. I did what I said. I would present a proposal one way or the other. But I did determine that there's no way we can continue operations without asking for more money. No way. It's not feasible. It's not. And you're right, that price is going to continue to go up. We can't give them raises, deal with equipment raises, and the price increases without increasing the price. That's probably why we're in the situation we are now. Prices are going to increase, period. I don't care which way you look. I feel like you all are looking for a way to point it to somebody else; that's the problem. That's what I feel. So, you asked what my opinion is. I think all of our employees in the city are worth keeping. All right. Shannon, you brought up some very valid things. That's your decision you have to make. Is it worth the money we're asking to put in and the continued? Now, I can't tell you what it's going to continue to cost. I have no idea. Today we had another truck go down, and tomorrow I've got to sign a lease or a rental agreement to have another truck, or we're not picking up commercial dumpsters. Like, it's not going to change. Too many people want to look in the past and talk about all the other things. I'm sick and tired of getting beaten up on Facebook by anybody, and nobody is bothering to call. Do people want to talk about it? Come sit down at the meeting. Let's sit and have that discussion. But we come tonight, and nobody

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understands what we're voting for. That's terrible. Like, to me, that's where I say it's unacceptable. So, people ask me to do my job. I've got a lot to do. I've had a lot to learn, and I'm still learning. I spent yesterday, five hours, riding to get a better idea of what's there. First time I've had in the five months I've been here. So, I'm going to tell you what I said at the beginning. You decide to make. It's not mine. We have good people. I do believe that with that increased money, we can make it work, but absolutely, there's got to be an increase. So, I think the way the resolution reads has to be adjusted anyway because the price is on January 1st. We're talking about the add-on on that. And I can't promise you that no other issues are going to arise. Those building needs repair. The roof needs repair. We need to add things to the wall. If we keep it, we have to go to Ohio Edison and get a three-phase put in that we think is going to be about \$175,000. It could be more. Maybe not. We're going to fix that building one way or the other. Now, timing may be different, but it's still a piece of city assets we have to keep. All this is things we've discussed before. We have to get the trucks. You know, we need to get off a \$11,000 lease and purchase a truck to see what we can buy it for. That's going to take time. We're probably going to need a second one shortly thereafter. And then other things have to be done. But we keep pushing it, and we want to push it until May or other times. We can't make a decision. We can't move forward. I can't change how our closed shop or the open shop, the dumpsters, none of that could really happen until we know what we're doing. So, it makes no sense that we push this further down the road, put out a bid, and then decide if we're going to go to do it the other way, unless it's completely outrageous. And I agree. If we got something that was, you know, \$21 as plain cities, and they come back and said it's \$75 for London, yeah, I think in good faith we would be able to turn down that bid. But by keeping pushing this out, you're not helping the citizens of London. I think our employees, all of them, are worth it. I do believe that with that amount of money, we can move forward. Not everybody agrees with me. There's going to be an additional cost, and I can't say that three months from now. I'm not a genie. I can't tell you what's going to happen to those trucks. I don't know. And, you know, it is a decision that the voters have put you in to make that decision. Good, bad, or indifferent. Does anybody have any questions for me?

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION 190-25 by Councilwoman Treynor, 2nd Councilman Stahl.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent: 0-
Affirmative: 4- Stahl, Hays, Hitt, Treynor
Against: 3 - Boyd, Jackman, Eades

Round Table

Councilman Stahl - Thanks, everybody, for coming out. It's very interesting to get all the different opinions, and this is one of the most contentious things I've ever seen in all my years here, and I guess we just can't make up our minds. And I thank everybody for their opinions, and I hope we all do the right thing. Thank you.

Councilman Boyd - First off, thank you again to our sanitation employees, especially for, hey, going through everything. It's an unfortunate night, I'll say. We had a chance to actually save one of our departments after we've already gotten rid of two of them in the last two years. Here we are again, giving away another one. However, you know, that's kind of where we're at when things haven't been managed properly, it seems. And so, thank you to all the citizens online who, hey, might have chimed in when we did discuss this. I want to say it's sad to hear that, you know, does our voice really matter, does our opinion really

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matter, is what I hear, and I wish I could say it was more of a yes. You know, unfortunately, though, we don't hear that, and we go with something else that has now eliminated, once again, one more of our departments. That is all.

Councilwoman Treynor - And I know the dissenting voices out there on Facebook are the loudest. They are also routinely the most uninformed. You know, this is a hard decision to make from every aspect, and the wear and tear on the powers that be, it's not just the wear and tear on the vehicles and the wear and tear on the bodies of the people who are employed. As I said, my biggest concern was that once I was assured that there would be employment opportunities offered to the current department. But the wear and tear on the vehicles, I mean, we've had these trucks break down. It seems like every other week, these things are breaking down. You know, the problems with the infrastructure and the transportation and all this other stuff are just, you know, years and years and years of things that are now to a point of, you know, it's do or die or move on. And if everybody is going to complain about, well, we should be able to do this for the current prices, no. No, that is absolutely out of the question. The price increase right now, I think, was an initial proposal of around 30%. Yeah, and there's no, nobody's got a crystal ball. There are no guarantees in life, but nobody wants to pay more for services that are perfectly capable of being provided by a privatized organization. And it saves the wear and tear of this constant worry over what to do with the infrastructure, what to do about the trash trucks, what to do about the lease payment from everybody in the administration of the city. So, I apologize to the sanitation department, but this was a decision that is greater than, you know, the couple of individuals that work there.

Councilman Hitt - I want to thank the safety service director for all the research he did on this topic. I do feel bad for the employees of the sanitation department, but hopefully, that could be something that could be written into the contract with whoever might take the bid, and they could be employed in that service or be transferred to another position within the city if something were to come up. I'd agree with Shannon that, fiscally, it just seems like this is the best decision in order to have uninterrupted services or continued issues with truck breakdowns or building breakdowns or whatever might come up. So that was kind of the reasoning for my vote. And the service Committee meeting is on February 10th at 5 o'clock over in the meeting room here, and the safety Committee is at 6 o'clock in the meeting room next door on February 10th.

Councilman Hays - Thanks, everybody, for coming out tonight. This is a tough one. I want to thank all of our city employees for the jobs you do for the city. You do great. You're great employees. I don't know what we'd do without you. And I'm hoping that our sanitation employees can either be, we have a street department that needs people. Maybe we can just laterally transfer them to the street department if they would so wish to do that, or the new company will pick them up. But if they want to work for the city, let's give them a chance to work somewhere in the city. I want to speak to all the rumors and the trash that's out there, and that's what it is. It's trash. Right now, online, on phones, word of mouth, if you don't know something and you don't understand something, there's seven of us up here. We all got phone numbers on the city site. Call the damn number and get a hold of one of us, and we'll talk to you. We're not untouchable, but call, talk to us, ask us the questions. If we don't know, we'll find out for you. But at least all the stuff that's going on out here, ex-council members that have moved and putting stuff out, it's just ridiculous. It's like a Trump syndrome thing going on here, but it's the London syndrome, and it needs to stop. We need to work together. We need to come together. We need to take care of the city. That's what we were voted in for, and I'm going to do my best to do this, and I hope that everybody else will, and I'm sure they will. We got a good group of

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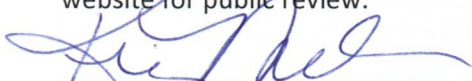
people up here right now, so we're going to be all right. We're growing, and when you have growth, you have problems, you have things that come up that you've not faced before. We got to get over it. We got to work together. Got to be a team effort, teamwork, and I just ask Lord God Almighty to watch over our city, watch over our employees, watch over our citizens, keep us all safe and well, and that's all I have.

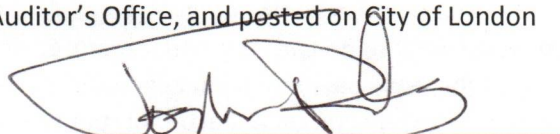
Councilwoman Jackman – I don't have anything.

Councilman Eades - Well, I want to thank everybody for allowing me to reconsider that vote because if nothing else, I needed to vote my conscience, and it wasn't my conscience to get rid of our sanitation department. It was my desire to keep them because I agree with Steve. I think we could save them. I think they do a good job, and if either came to me, it was going to keep them, so at least I got to vote on that, and I thank you for that. The Finance Committee meeting will be on February 10th, 630 in the room next door.

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 7:32 pm

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


Kris Miller, Council Clerk
2/5/26
Date


Joshua Peters, Council President
2-5-2026
Date