London City Council

20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140

February 20, 2025 at 6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Minutes – Approval of February 6, 2025 minutes, approved by unanimous vote

Public Hearing

Motion to exit regular meeting and enter into Public Hearing by Councilman Hays, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried by the following vote

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

ORDINANCE 207-24 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor, Andrew Hitt and Greg Eades
An ORDINANCE creating nineteen incentive districts and declaring improvements to certain real property within the incentive districts to be a public purpose, and exempt from Real Property taxation; Identifying certain public infrastructure improvements that, once made, will benefit or serve the parcels in the incentive districts, Requiring the owners of those parcels to make service payments in lieu of taxes; establishing an incentive district public improvement tax increment equivalent fund for the deposit of such service payments; Authorizing payments to the London City School District and Tolles Career and Technical Centers; and approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a tax increment financing agreement with Tom Cat, LLC.

Motion to exit Public Hearing and enter into regular meeting by Councilman Stahl, 2nd Councilman Eades. The motion carried by the following vote

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

Communications/Announcements

President Peters announced that the Ward 3 seat is currently vacant. The council is accepting letters of interest and resumes for the position until February 27th at 4:00 PM. Interviews will take place during the next council meeting, after which the council will proceed with the selection process.

Audience Concerns

Klarissa Ramey, 188 S. Walnut St., representing the London Strawberry Festival, presented a revised layout proposal in response to city concerns, emphasizing the need for improved safety and accessibility. She reiterated that last year's center-street vendor layout posed challenges for the elderly and parents with strollers due to cords and bulky boxes obstructing walkways. Additionally, law enforcement faced difficulties monitoring the grounds, and there were concerns about fire truck clearance. In the new proposal, vendors would be positioned along the curbs rather than in the middle of the street, ensuring a 36-foot-wide emergency lane and maintaining clear pathways for first responders. Ramey also addressed issues with how the city justified its preference for the center-street layout. Officials cited a public survey with 459 responses, yet the survey never specifically asked about layout preferences. Furthermore, statements from the fire and police chiefs were inaccurately summarized in official city documents. Both chiefs emphasized the need for adequate space rather than endorsing a specific vendor arrangement. The fire chief had previously pointed out that overhanging awnings from last year's layout reduced emergency clearance, yet the city still advocates for the same design. While some downtown businesses support the city's center-street plan, many prefer the curbside layout, believing it would create a more open, organized atmosphere and improve pedestrian traffic flow. Business owners expressed the need to balance their interests with the overall enjoyment of the festival attendees. Ramey highlighted that the London Strawberry Festival is a community-centered event offering free entertainment and fostering local traditions. However, she expressed concerns that the city's decision-making seems to prioritize business interests over the visitor experience. She urged officials to reconsider their stance and adopt the curbside vendor setup, which she believes would enhance safety, improve accessibility, and create a more enjoyable festival for the entire community. The festival board remains open to collaboration to ensure a balanced solution.

Councilman Hitt asked the Fire Chief whether he thought a uniform approach to event layouts was a good idea or not.

Klarissa Ramey - the Fire Chief did not provide a clear answer in his email. Instead, he simply stated that he did not support a uniform approach. When questioned in a safety meeting about where fire trucks would be parked in the event of an emergency, he responded that they would be positioned in the center of the road due to cars occupying the curb. When Ramey asked why the same approach couldn't be used during the London Strawberry Festival, he did not provide a direct answer. Ramey speculated that his opposition to a uniform approach might stem from the fact that different events vary in size, layout, and attendance, making it difficult to apply a one-size-fits-all policy.

Councilman Eades addressed concerns about a recent Facebook post that allegedly called on downtown businesses to oppose a particular layout decision. While he wasn't certain of its origin, he emphasized that such an approach, if it came from the city administration—would be inappropriate. He acknowledged that this issue has been ongoing since last year and that adjustments would inevitably be necessary regardless of the final decision. He also thanked those involved for continuing to engage in discussions to resolve the matter.

David Mars, 1560 State Route 665, President of the 1811 Downtown District and a member of the Historic Downtown Revitalization Committee, spoke regarding the proposed legislation on downtown festivals. He emphasized that 1811's goal is to promote downtown as an experience, attract visitors, and support local businesses.

Regarding the legislation, he reached out to business owners and found that the majority (eight out of ten) preferred vendor booths to be placed in the center of the street rather than backed up to the curb. He explained that the center placement creates two corridors for festival attendees, improving access to storefronts, whereas curbside booths limit access and lead to infrastructure cluttering sidewalks. He noted that this layout change primarily impacts the Strawberry Festival, which has traditionally followed the curbside setup but transitioned to the center-street layout in 2024, an improvement in his opinion. He commended the Strawberry Festival organizers for continuous enhancements over the years and expressed support for the event. Additionally, he addressed a recent social media post that did not align with the organization's values, stating that it was quickly removed and that further controversy was unnecessary.

Raymond Anthony, 521 Eaton St., – Attended his first Mid-Ohio Public Hearing meeting and found the process frustrating, as public concerns were limited to three minutes with no responses from the organization. He expressed appreciation for London City Council's approach, which allows residents to speak for five minutes and usually receive responses. He inquired about Resolution 102-25 regarding the StreetScan contract, specifically the allocated budget, project start date, and oversight responsibility.

Mr. Peters stated $50,000 was budgeted and acknowledged the questions and stated that answers would be provided

Committee Reports – *(Department reports are attached to committee meeting minutes.)*

Mr. Eades – Provided a financial update from the February 18 Finance Committee meeting. January revenue was $1,290,817, and expenses were $1,481,552, which was not concerning due to front-loaded expenses. Tax revenue saw a dip after a strong December. Upcoming council matters include resurfacing the basketball and skate park, fund transfers for the police project, an abatement adjustment for Stanley Electric, a sanitation truck purchase, and a contract with Madison County Sheriff's Office for dispatch services. Pickleball courts are planned for North Walnut. A grant of $5,025,000 is expected soon, with a $4,090,000 bond. The next meeting is March 11 at 6:30 PM.

Mr. McDaniels – Attended the February 11 Public Service and Safety meetings. The street department plowed, salted, assisted with trash collection, replaced traffic light bulbs, and met with developers. Parks and Rec reported winter basketball concluded on January 26, and spring volleyball registration is open. Upgrades to Kelly Park include new toilet paper dispensers, door replacements, and plans for two movie nights. Pool improvements include flooring repairs and new lounge chairs. Adult recreation programs include ballroom dancing and slow-pitch softball. The fire department conducted EMS and fire training, performed equipment maintenance, and hosted students for ride-alongs.

Mr. Hays – Attended the February 11 Safety Service meeting. The committee discussed issues hiring dispatchers and an increased Motorola bid for dispatch services. A vote approved legislation to transition dispatch to the county, with a target implementation date of July 1. The committee also approved legislation to sell or trade three used police cruisers. Ohio Edison is reviewing a possible lighting project for High Street. The Strawberry Festival setup was discussed. The next Safety Service meeting is March 11 at 6 PM.

Mr. Hitt – Attended the Public Service Committee meeting. Reported that the third ward project was ongoing, with 32 tickets issued for driving through construction areas. The mayor announced a dirt patcher delivery. Crosswalk installations are planned for completion this year. The sanitation department is short-staffed, affecting route completion. Discussions included acquiring a new sanitation truck and pickleball court placement. The next service committee meeting is March 11 at 5 PM. Also attended the Finance Committee meeting but had no additional updates.

Mr. Stahl – Attended the Safety Service meeting and provided a police division update. The department has one open officer position and is in the hiring process. A 2024 Tahoe was purchased and is awaiting delivery. The 2024 year-end summary was submitted, showing a workload similar to 2023. A GPS camera system was installed in the police chief's unmarked vehicle and a street department truck. Work continues on the police station design, with plans to present it to the public once finalized.

City Official Reports

Mayor Closser stated that he had only two announcements to make, as the meeting was already running late. He reported that the London Middle School PTO was becoming more active and would be hosting a progressive Euchre tournament on Saturday at 6 PM at Fair Play. He explained that participants would not need a partner, as they would rotate and play with different people. The event was intended as a community gathering and a fundraiser for the London Middle School PTO. Additionally, Mayor Closser shared that the Rotary Club of London had given out its first annual Steve Saltzman Service Above Self First Responder Award. The award was presented to London Police Officers for their heroic actions in saving a young child who had fallen into a creek the previous year. He expressed gratitude to the officers for their dedication to the community and thanked all safety service personnel for their efforts in keeping the city safe. He also thanked the Rotary Club for recognizing the officers' bravery.

Mr. Castle began his report by personally thanking the street department for assisting the sanitation department, which had been severely impacted by staffing shortages due to illness. He noted that both departments had been short-staffed because of the flu, and the street department's assistance, under Bill's leadership, had been greatly appreciated. He further reported that one of the sanitation department's one-man trucks was out of order and might need to be sent to Kentucky for repairs if it could not be fixed locally. As a result, the department had to use a two-man truck, which required additional help from the street department to complete waste collection. Despite these challenges, Mr. Castle shared that he had received a text around 4:55 PM informing him that all trash collections from Tuesday through Thursday had been completed. He praised the team's efforts, noting that catching up with trash collection despite the holiday, flu outbreak, and truck issues was a remarkable achievement.

Old Business

6th Reading

ORDINANCE 207-24 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor, Andrew Hitt and Greg Eadess
An ORDINANCE creating nineteen incentive districts and declaring improvements to certain real property within the incentive districts to be a public purpose, and exempt from Real Property taxation; Identifying certain public infrastructure improvements that, once made, will benefit or serve the parcels in the incentive districts; Requiring the owners of those parcels to make service payments in lieu of taxes; establishing an incentive district public improvement tax increment equivalent fund for the deposit of such service payments; Authorizing payments to the London City School District and Tolles Career and Technical Centers; and approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a tax increment financing agreement with Tom Cat, LLC.

Leave for a 7th Reading

ORDINANCE 208-24 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor, Andrew Hitt and Greg Eades
An ORDINANCE authorizing the City of London, Ohio to accept title to certain real property located within the city and immediately transfer title back to the current owner for the purpose of implementing tax increment financing pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.41; and Dispensing with the requirement that this resolution must be read on three different days pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 731.17(A)

Leave for a 7th Reading

ORDINANCE 209-24 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor, Andrew Hitt and Greg Eades
An ORDINANCE declaring the improvement of certain real property located in the City of London, Madison County, Ohio to be a public purpose pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5709.41; Declaring such property to be exempt Real Property taxation; Designating improvements that, once made, will directly benefit the parcels for which improvement is declared to be a public purpose; Requiring annual service payments in lieu of taxes; Establishing an urban redevelopment tax increment equivalent fund; authorizing the execution of a tax increment financing TIF agreement; and providing related authorizations pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.41, 5709.42, 5709.43, 5709.832 and 5709.85

Leave for a 7th Reading

RESOLUTION 210-24 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor, Andrew Hitt and Greg Eades
A RESOLUTION determining that a petition to establish The London Gateway New Community Authority is sufficient and complies with the requirements of Section 349.03 of the Ohio Revised Code in form and substance; setting the time and place for a hearing on the petition and authorizing the notice by publication of such hearing.

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

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

2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 111-25 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt
An ORDINANCE amending section 874 of the codified ordinances

Councilman Hitt stated that the ordinance in question was related to festival layouts.

Councilwoman Treynor directed a question to the administration, asking whether the administrative rules governing festival layouts had been circulated in the previous term. She inquired if the proposed ordinance was simply reiterating what was already established as an administrative rule.

Mayor Closser confirmed that the guidelines had been implemented the previous year and explained that the administration had the authority to approve events and determine their layout.

Councilwoman Treynor asked whether the mayor's authority already allowed for these decisions and questioned why the matter needed to be codified in an ordinance rather than handled administratively.

Mayor Closser responded that establishing an ordinance would create a formal guideline that would ensure consistency.

Councilwoman Treynor pointed out that administrative authority already provided such a guideline.

Mayor Closser acknowledged that there had been some pushback and stated that he found himself in a difficult position, given his past involvement in the Rib Fest. He explained that some people perceived his decisions as biased due to that history. He believed that a uniform set of rules would eliminate any perception of favoritism.

Councilwoman Treynor questioned whether a standardized festival layout would result in excessive rigidity.

Mayor Closser argued that consistency ensured fairness and prevented any group from receiving special treatment. He also emphasized that downtown businesses should benefit from events held in the area.

Councilwoman Treynor asked if there was an issue with setting codified standards instead of rigid regulations for parking and tent locations. She noted that she had been unable to find another municipal code that explicitly outlined festival layouts, as most cities addressed such matters through the permitting process.

Mayor Closser confirmed that the city had followed a similar process the previous year.

Councilwoman Treynor asked if all festivals had a general outline.

Mayor Closser affirmed that they did but reiterated that the city was still working through the issue. He welcomed feedback and requested guidance on whether festival regulations should be handled through an ordinance, administrative regulations, or a more flexible permitting process.

Councilwoman Treynor expressed her belief that codifying festival layouts in an ordinance was overreach. She suggested that the permitting process would be a better approach, as it would allow for flexibility while ensuring safety and proper review.

Mayor Closser acknowledged her concerns but maintained that uniformity could help prevent disputes.

Councilwoman Treynor questioned how the city would accommodate future festivals if a rigid layout was already established.

Mayor Closser noted that the proposed legislation limited the number of festivals to three per year and stated that one of the goals was to prevent excessive road closures on State Route 56.

Councilwoman Treynor agreed that guidelines were necessary but argued that they should be applied fairly and without any perceived conflicts of interest. She suggested that if concerns existed regarding bias, then the mayor should recuse himself from the approval process.

Mayor Closser stated that he was open to city council members taking the lead in developing new guidelines. He encouraged them to establish a framework that worked for all stakeholders.

Councilwoman Treynor expressed willingness to participate in developing such guidelines.

Mayor Closser suggested that city council could hold a work session to finalize the details.

Councilman Eades stated that he had also been unable to find any municipal codes outlining festival layouts in such detail. He suggested that if the main issue was a lack of clear and accessible guidelines, then the city should focus on improving their visibility.

Mayor Closser responded that the festival application process was already detailed and available online but expressed openness to making modifications if necessary.

Councilman Eades raised concerns about street closures, specifically whether festival committees were responsible for notifying ODOT to ensure proper signage and traffic routing. He suggested that this responsibility should be included in the application process.

Mayor Closser agreed that the issue warranted further discussion in a work session.

Councilman McDaniels asked whether an exemption could be made for the Strawberry Festival.

Mayor Closser acknowledged his prior involvement in festivals but argued that all events should be treated equally. He noted that even the Rib Fest had to adapt to the layout changes.

Councilman McDaniels expressed concern that a one-size-fits-all approach might not work for different festivals, as each had unique needs.

Mayor Closser reiterated that he was willing to step back and allow city council to take the lead in developing the guidelines. He encouraged council members to hold a work session and determine the best course of action.

Leave for a 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 112-25 Sponsored by: John Stahl
A RESOLUTION assessing the costs of the removal of high grass and weeds

Councilman Stahl addressed the issue of high grass, noting that many individuals had their grass cut without making payments.

Leave for a 3rd Reading

New Business

Councilman McDaniels referenced the council's rules regarding agenda postings, citing page 4d, which states that the council agenda and legislation must be made available for inspection by council members, the public, and the news media no later than 4:30 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding a regularly scheduled Thursday council meeting. He pointed out that any legislation not meeting this deadline should not be considered until the following meeting. Based on this rule, he argued that the new business being introduced should not be read at the current meeting. McDaniels further noted that, according to timestamps, the agenda was not posted until 8:36 a.m. on Wednesday, reinforcing his argument that the new business should not be debated.

President Peters responded by stating that the agenda had been received by council members on Tuesday before the 4:30 p.m. deadline. However, McDaniels countered that the rule explicitly required the agenda to be posted for public and media access by that time, which had not occurred.

Councilwoman Treynor asked if there were any objections to proceeding with the new business.

Councilman McDaniels formally objected, stating his understanding that council rules could not be broken.

Council Clerk then provided clarification, explaining that due to a recent administrative transition, he had not yet been granted access to post the agenda directly. He had sent the agenda to Eve at 4:27 p.m. on Tuesday, just before the deadline, but acknowledged that it was past regular administrative office hours. As a result, Eve was unable to post it until the following morning. He took responsibility for the delay, attributing it to the transition in website management.

Councilwoman Treynor concluded the discussion by noting that the council had established its own rules and, therefore, had the authority to amend or adjust them as necessary.

Roll call vote to continue with new business despite agenda not being posted within council rules. Vote passed

Absent:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**5-**	**Hitt, Hays, Eades, Stahl, Treynor**
Against:	**1-**	**McDaniels**

RESOLUTION 113-25 Sponsored by: Rich Hays
A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director to enter into contract. The City would like to contract with the county for dispatching services

Councilman Hays reiterated that the proposal to transition dispatching services to the county aimed to ensure full-time coverage. He noted that the city currently employed three dispatchers, and unexpected absences disrupted operations. He also highlighted the significant costs associated with updating dispatch equipment, estimating the additional expense at $62,786 beyond initial projections. Chief Nichols provided further clarification, explaining that discussions regarding this transition had been ongoing for several months. He emphasized that the change was primarily driven by financial considerations and would not impact departmental efficiency. Currently, the county's sheriff's office handles all 911 emergency calls, as well as business and routine calls for the sheriff's department and West Jefferson Police Department. He noted that West Jefferson transitioned to county dispatch in the previous year. The proposed transition would eliminate the need for the city to update its outdated dispatch equipment, which had been inoperable since 2019 and would cost approximately $400,000 to replace. Additionally, an estimated annual maintenance fee of $25,000 would further strain city resources. Chief Nichols explained that the sheriff initially proposed providing dispatching services at no additional cost. However, due to increased equipment costs, the county requested a nominal fee of approximately $130,000 annually until the next levy was enacted. This transition would eliminate two full-time dispatcher positions, saving approximately $200,000 per year. However, the department planned to retain or create two clerk positions to handle administrative duties, such as public records requests and walk-in services. Over five years, the estimated savings to the city would total approximately $1,373,624.

Mr. Castle sought clarification on the handling of 911 calls

Chief Nichols confirmed that the county already answered all 911 calls originating within the city. He explained that outdated city equipment previously used for handling these calls had been replaced, and the county's existing system was more efficient. Chief Nichols also provided details on call volume, reporting that business line usage averaged 36 calls per 24-hour period, not including 911 calls.

Councilman Eades expressed opposition to the proposal, citing concerns about job losses and the city's long-standing dispatching practices. He noted that staffing shortages had been a persistent challenge but argued that eliminating dispatch services was an excessive response. He also contended that the cost of upgrading dispatch equipment should have been accounted for in the budget for the city's new building. Additionally, he questioned whether 911 funding should have covered the cost of outdated equipment rather than placing the financial burden on the city.

Chief Nichols acknowledged the differing perspectives but maintained that the financial savings and operational efficiency justified the transition. He stated that it was his responsibility to present a fiscally responsible option to the council, as it would result in significant savings for taxpayers. He further explained that the county's management of 911 services had been structured in the same manner since its inception in 1979 and was unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

RESOLUTION 114-25 Sponsored by: Brent McDaniels
A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director to advertise for bids and enter into contract for asphalt for the skate park and basketball courts

Councilman McDaniels stated that, in light of breaking the rules, the sponsor of the measure could be changed.

Motion to amend sponsor of RESOLUTION 114-25 to from Brent McDaneils to Andy Hitt *by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried by the following vote:*

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

Councilman Hitt stated that the appropriation was related to the mill and fill project for the skateboard park and basketball courts at Cowling and Merrimac. The resolution would authorize the Safety Service Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract to complete the project. He emphasized the importance of a timely process to ensure the work gets done, with costs not to exceed $140,000.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent: **0-**

Affirmative: 5- Eades, Hays, Hitt, Stahl, McDaniels, Treynor
Against: 1- McDaniels

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

RESOLUTION 115-25 Sponsored by: Brent McDaniels
A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The city needs to replace the asphalt at the skate park and basketball courts.

Motion to amend sponsor of RESOLUTION 115-25 to from Brent McDaniels to Andy Hitt *by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Eades. The motion carried by the following vote:*

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

Councilman Hitt addressed the appropriation for funding asphalt for the skate park and basketball courts.

Councilman Eades provided clarification, noting that while the amount requested was higher than before, the proposal had been brought before the council last year. Instead of direct funding at that time, the council had agreed to allocate an additional $75,000 into the account, with the remainder coming from the designated fund. The plan remains unchanged but now requires a larger portion to be drawn from that fund.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent: 0-
Affirmative: 5- Eades, Hays, Hitt, Stahl, McDaniels, Treynor
Against: 1- McDaniels

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

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

RESOLUTION 116-25 Sponsored by: John Stahl
A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director to sell or trade property in property unneeded, obsolete or unfit for municipal purposes.

Chief Nichols: Right now, we don't have many vehicles available for transfer, but in the future, there will be a need to reassign some. Our goal is to acquire a more suitable surveillance vehicle since some of our current cars aren't ideal for that purpose. For example, the Dodge Charger we had previously given to the fire department was returned to us and has been out of service for some time. Additionally, one of our Police Interceptor

Utility vehicles—Ford Explorers—is set for replacement. We replaced the canine unit last year when the new vehicle finally arrived and was outfitted. The 2015 Ford Fusion also stands out because it looks too much like a government vehicle, and we prefer to keep an unmarked car for discretion. Ideally, we'd like to trade in some of our older cars to acquire a more suitable vehicle for our needs. Of the two Police Interceptor Utility vehicles currently in service, one will be replaced soon, but we haven't determined which one yet. Once our newly acquired vehicle is upfitted, we can retire one of them. However, upfitting takes several months, and given the necessary three readings for approval, it's best to plan ahead. If I wait too long to trade vehicles in, the cars I intend to acquire may no longer be available. So, I want to get ahead of it and ensure we have the ability to make these trades in a timely manner. If a trade-in isn't feasible, we'll list the vehicles on GOV Deals for sale, though some dealers may not be interested in older police cruisers.

Councilman Eades: And we already approved a vehicle purchase at the end of last year for this year, correct?

Chief Nichols: Yes, it was actually part of last year's budget. We secured the vehicle before the end of the year, and it's currently waiting to be upfitted. That process may not be completed until late spring. Once it's ready, I can take another vehicle out of service—one of the two Police Interceptor Utility vehicles currently under consideration. The vehicles ready for disposal now include the old Ford Fusion, the retired canine car, and the Dodge Charger that was returned by the fire department.

Councilman Eades: How many vehicles are currently in your fleet?

Chief Nichols: We have nine marked and three unmarked vehicles. Unlike private businesses or individuals who can simply purchase or trade vehicles at will, we require approval for every step of the process, which can slow things down.

Councilman Eades: Just think of all the money we'll save on insurance once we get rid of these vehicles.

Chief Nichols: The auditor would have the exact numbers, but I'm not sure how much of a difference it will make in insurance costs.

Motion to amend to add emergency clause by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilwoman Hays. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent:	**0**	
Affirmative:	**4-**	**Hays, Stahl, Treynor, Hitt**
Against:	**2-**	**McDaniels, Eades**

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion failed by the following vote:

Absent:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**4-**	**Hays, Hitt, Stahl, Treynor**
Against:	**2-**	**McDaniels, Eades**

Leave on for a 2^{nd} Reading

RESOLUTION 117-25 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt and Brent McDaniels
A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for a loan. The Sanitation

Department would like to purchase new front load residential trash truck.

Councilman Hitt: This pertains to the purchase of a sanitation truck, which would be a one-person-operated vehicle with a lift lever. The authorization would allow the Safety Service Director to apply for a loan not exceeding $400,000. This truck would be slightly smaller than the current fleet.

Councilwoman Treynor: Does the Safety Service Director know which lender he will approach for the loan application?

Mr. Castle: I would likely reach out to Michael Burns, as he assisted us with securing loans for the fire trucks. He also helped with financing for both the fire and police departments. However, I'm not certain if he can handle loans for sanitation trucks, so I will check multiple sources to secure the best rate. The last loan, according to Kenda, was through Merchants Bank, so I'll follow up with them as well.

Mayor Closser: In addition to those options, we will also explore local banks to see if we can secure a competitive rate.

Leave on for a 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 118-25 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt and Brent McDaniels
A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director to purchase a sanitation truck through the Joint purchasing program or advertising for bids and entering into a contract.

Councilman Hitt: This involves the sanitation truck—either advertising for bids or going through the joint purchasing program to enter into a contract for its purchase. Can you explain how the joint purchasing program works?

Mr. Castle: Several groups have formed a joint purchasing agreement, which operates through the State of Ohio. This allows us to purchase equipment without the need for a formal bidding process. If a truck vendor participates in the program, they offer these trucks at a typically competitive price, enabling us to buy directly through them. However, I haven't found a suitable option in the program yet. This is my first time navigating this process for vehicle purchases, so I may need assistance from Bill or Glen to properly explore and utilize the program.

Leave on for a 2nd Reading

Round Table

Councilman Stahl thanked everyone for attending, noting that it was an interesting night of conversation. He mentioned that one particular discussion was among the most complex he had encountered but appreciated the thorough explanations provided.

Councilman Hitt expressed his gratitude and provided details on upcoming meetings: the next Service Committee meeting will be on March 11 at 5 p.m. in the adjacent meeting room, followed by the Finance Committee meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m., possibly earlier.

Councilman Hays thanked everyone for attending, acknowledging the spirited debates. He specifically thanked Shannon for their contributions and addressed concerns about legality, emphasizing that council members operate transparently and lawfully. He also thanked Clarissa for speaking and commended her efforts. Addressing Mr. Anthony, one of his neighbors, he shared frustrations regarding Mid Ohio and their lack of response about fire hydrant issues, assuring that they would seek answers. He announced that the Safety Committee meeting will be on March 11 at 6 p.m. in the conference room. He extended appreciation to city employees, emergency responders, police officers, EMS, and firefighters for their dedication during recent rough weather, encouraging residents to express their gratitude to officers. He also thanked his fellow council members for a productive but lengthy session and asked for continued blessings over the city.

Councilman McDaniels thanked attendees and shared his efforts to push the half-income tax credit through the Finance Committee, though it lacked sufficient votes to move forward in council. He acknowledged the mayor and City Hall's strong opposition but expressed his determination to explore other options, thanking Greg for his support.

Councilman Eades also thanked Mr. Anthony for his consistent attendance and engagement. He acknowledged the discussions surrounding the Strawberry Festival and the importance of addressing concerns while ensuring council involvement remains appropriate. He brought up Mr. Anthony's previous concerns about audio quality during meetings, noting that he had spoken to the council president about possibly upgrading microphones or moving to a Zoom-based system for better accessibility. He also supported suggestion of reinstating a previous rule requiring legislation to be published by Friday at 4 p.m., allowing council members more time to review documents before meetings. Additionally, he echoed concerns about Mid Ohio's responsiveness and suggested inviting their representatives to provide council with updates, as it had been nearly a year since they took over operations.

President Peters thanked everyone for attending and acknowledged the past month's committee meetings. He admitted an oversight in scheduling Zoom recordings after Council Member Norman's resignation but assured that future meetings would be recorded as scheduled.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:43 pm

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

Matthew Edgington, Council Clerk	Joshua Peters, Council President
3/6/2025	3/6/2025
Date	Date

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held 20