RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of London City Council Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held April 4, 2024 20

London City Council

20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140

April 4, 2024 at 6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present - *Councilman Eades, Councilman McDaniels, President Peters, Councilwoman Treynor, Councilman Norman, Councilman Hitt, Councilman Stahl*

Absent - *Councilman Hays*

Minutes – Approval of March 21, 2024 minutes, approved by unanimous voice vote

Public Hearing – none

Communications/Announcements – none

Audience Concerns

Vincent Morse, 134 N. Main St., - Resolution 120-24 and Cowling Park. Asked if stadium seating and fencing was included in the quote? How many people are interested in pickleball. Did his own poll on the street, asking people as he walked. Not too many people in London who play pickleball. Size and scope of the pickleball legislation. Three courts are not enough. Cowling Park isn't big enough. I vote no for Cowling Park being the location. Questions about Hope Box location.

Director McKenzie – No seating is included in pricing. We can add later with fencing.

Eve Breedlove – The location of the Hope Box is due to security camera location.

Jennifer Adkins, 6525 Thomas Rd, - For pickleball coming to London. No violence. Laugh and great time. For Cowling Park location.

Councilman Hitt – Asked about other sites and her thoughts.

Ms. Adkins – Cowling Park is favorite location.

Sener Calis, 2563 W. Choctaw Dr., - 81 years old and have been playing pickleball for 8 years. In favor of location at Cowling Park. West Jeff and Plain City have pickleball courts. Thank you for considering pickleball and bringing it to London.

Councilman Norman – Do you think three courts will be enough?

Mr. Calis – Three is better than zero and it's a good start.

Councilman Hitt – Besides the hospital being close, will the bathroom and security be a plus for Cowling Park.

Councilman Eades – If bathrooms are put in at the other locations, would that make them a better location?

David Mars, 155 N. Oak St., - Discussed pickleball and how Merri-Mac Park would be a great location. There's more space and it's more equitable. Bathrooms can be added. Security cameras are already there at the playground. We are working on a plan for Merri-Mac Park to have a standard to make decisions. The area has negative reputation, we need to fix that and show more positive in that area. Would like to see increased of usage of the park. The marathon is coming up and we have people coming from all over the world.

Councilman Hitt – Does the marathon start and finish in Merri-Mac Park?

Mr. Mars – Yes. It draws 400-500 people. It's a Boston qualifying race.

Councilman Eades – Are you a member of the Merri-Mac miracle group? The minutes indicated that they would pay for some of the pickleball courts?

Mr. Mars – Yes. We haven't spoken about the pickleball courts. We are currently working on the dugouts and baseball fields. Baseball is our greatest draw to the park. I'd like to see more diverse sports to the park.

Jeff Tate, 1460 E. Choctaw Dr., - I do represent a contingent. We use a phone app to talk about pickleball with 43-45 subscribers. The lake has four courts and they are always full. This activity draws many people to the game. Build it and they will come. I don't have a favorite location, but the closer to the heart of the city and the bigger draw seen. Theres a big follow and you don't know about it because we have to go to other locations.

Councilwoman Treynor – Should we look at locations that have availability to expand the courts?

Mr. Tate – Yes. They fill up and the interest will increase when people know the courts are here.

President Peters – Out of the 45 subscribers are London residents.

Mr. Tate – Quit a few, most of them. Kids aren't aware of pickleball because there's no courts in London.

Councilman Norman – I did some research and visited a site that's the biggest. The cons were when you start this endeavor, they build too small and scheduling courts with waitlist.

Mr. Tate – Most people will play in multiple locations due to lack of availability. Columbus has an explosion and a new large place is being built.

Brenda Cameron, 2209 Cherokee Dr., - Pickleball is just fun. It goes from young to old. High school students play at the lake. It's a wonderful experience. Three courts are a good start. Everyone I've met during pickleball is friendly and share the courts. There's a group in London that wants to play. If you build the courts, you'll have them full.

Susan Wilson, 3110 St Rt 187, - Support for pickleball. I've observed West Jeff's pickleball courts convert to tennis courts and Plain City's courts convert to basketball courts. I've never observed any drinking. It's hot out and we drink water. Most of us are seniors.

Councilman Eades – How many courts are in West Jeff? How many in Plain City?

Ms. Wilson – West Jeff has two and Plain City has two. Mt. Sterling also has pickleball courts at their community center.

Dan Ruland, 670 US Hwy 42 SE, - Organized the high school activity pickleball. Surprised there are no courts in London. We commuted to Delaware, Hilliard, and found the ones in West Jeff. App Team Reach – Pickleball group leader with 32 people immediately signed up. We bought all equipment and set up courts at the high school. As for the youth in Dublin, after dinner 7p-9p, they take over the parks/courts, just enjoying the sport. Explanation of the paddle system. Great sport, great activity.

Councilman Eades – Introduced Parks & Rec Director Landon McKenzie and where to go for commission and committees' meetings.

Mr. Tate – We would certainly be willing to assist Director McKenzie with rules.

Joseph Myers, 1705 Old Xenia Rd SW, - Discussed ADA law and handicap sign compliance and how they are not enforceable in London due to not listing a "fine" on the sign. Asked about the design of city handicap parking and signs. There's no handicap parking at our Post Office and were excite about getting ramps. The London Police have no citations for illegal handicap parking because the signs are illegal. We can't get anyone to fix these signs or to enforce it.

Councilman Hitt – Asked Law Director Jennifer Hitt if there is a handicap sign up and there is no fine, is it enforceable?

Law Director Hitt – Just briefly go over Mr. Myers concerns. The handicap parking at the courthouse, it's a county building and they would be the ones to contact about parking. The Post Office is a federal building and they determine parking. Corner of Center & Main is concerning, just recently this council past legislation to

have ODOT evaluate state roads and to reroute truck routes in the city of London. Semi's do hit that corner and the city is reaching out to resolve this issue. Handicap signs, I'd have to see what other ones you are speaking of. Give me a call or email me where the ones you are talking about and I can research those.

Mr. Myers – The building might be owned by the county, but the road is owned by the city.

Director Hitt – We hear your concerns and the Safety Service Director is aware too. This is something we need to take to the Public Safety Committee for more discussion.

Mr. Myers – London is dodging following ADA law. Something needs to be done about it. Walmart and McDonald's handicap signs have fines listed on their signs. I'm trying to be helpful.

Tommy Boyd, 48 N. Union St., - First, the holes filling in around the roads. Want to thank Bill for a job well done. Secondly, the four proposals for the land development. Refurbishing our infrastructure. Would like to make our own plans. There's a lot of land up for development, I hope we are looking into the ground items first and make sure we are going in correctly. Mid-Ohio percentage for billing?

President Peters – We are paying them to do our sanitation billing.

Councilman Eades – It might be a percentage, but it wasn't laid out. This was brought to the Public Service Committee. We're paying around $86,000 now and we will be saving money by going with Mid-Ohio who charges us $35,000.

Mr. Boyd – Are BPU employees on the Board of Mid-Ohio? Are they going to Mid-Ohio?

President Peters – Board members are not going to Mid-Ohio. There will not be a BPU Board by the end of year.

Mr. Boyd – Have they appointed anyone yet?

President Peters – Yes. The county appointed Steve. There are still three places for London to be on the Board.

Mr. Boyd – Are the current projects going to continue after the merge?

Councilman Norman – My understanding from reading the agreement. All projects before the merge will continue after the merge. We've already made those plans and obtained the loan. Mid-Ohio is taking on our debt, around $38million which includes the loans for the current projects. We have to play nice.

Mr. Boyd – The trunk line going to be tapped into by Plain City?

President Peters – No, it goes into are waste water. Plain City and Mid-Ohio have

their own plans, building a waste water plant north of I-70.

Councilman Norman – Since we are now merged, we all are paying for the $13mil for the trunk line.

President Peters – I don't think that is correct. Each city has their plans to pay for projects within the city.

Councilman Eades – You're confused with the legislation that is coming later that is changing fees to match the rest of the cities in the county.

Brenda Russell, 274 E. High St., - I'm here to let Council and those are present and online that phase I of the Merri-Mac project has completed. The last thing to go up are the new signs. Give an update on what we did.

- Resurfaced the basketball courts
- Replaced rim and nets
- Repainted the swings
- Shelter house has been painted
- Two playgrounds:
    - Age 7 years old and up, installed by volunteers and city workers
    - Age up to 5 years old, paid for through a grant

Thank the city of London, Council, Administration, Amy Rees, and the behind the scene workers. Bill and his workers.

Phase II will begin, work on the existing baseball dugouts, fix fences, and back stop. Letters are going out.

Pickleball – make sure you plan to put them where they can expand. We can't build at Merri-Mac until we have a plan. An architect is needed to plan where we can build new project. Together we can do that.

Councilman Eades – I want to thank you for doing great work.

Councilman Norman – Will the comprehensive plans were are going to have done include Merri-Mac Park?

President Peters – It won't include a design.

Councilman Eades – The comprehensive plan will include items we would like to do. It's going to depend on the cost of the plan.

Ms. Russell – Talked from her seat and I wasn't able to hear what she said.

Committee Reports

Personnel & Finance Committee –

- *Councilman Eades* – Hasn't met because we moved our meeting from 4/8 to 4/18 at 5:30pm. We are going to be discussing how we plan to fund the Fire/EMS Department. I encourage all council members to attend. I'm hoping to have a comprehensive look at all expenses.
- *Councilman Hitt* –
- *Councilwoman Treynor* – Nothing to report

Public Service Committee –

- *Councilman Hitt* – Next meeting is Tuesday, 4/9 at 5:00pm. No new information
- *Councilman Norman* – Nothing to report
- *Councilman McDaniels* –

Public Safety Committee –

- *Councilman Hays* –
- *Councilman McDaniels* – No meeting since last month
- *Councilman Stahl* – Nothing to report

City Official Reports

Mayor – not in attendance

Safety Service Director Castle – not in attendance

Old Business

3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 113-24 - Sponsored by: Josh Peters - RESOLUTION authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2024

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

ORDINANCE 115-24 - Sponsored by: Rich Hays - An ORDINANCE amending section 1464 of the Codified Ordinances

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

ORDINANCE 116-24 - Sponsored by: Rich Hays - An ORDINANCE amending section 1244 of the Codified Ordinances

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

ORDINANCE 117-24 - Sponsored by: Rich Hayes - An ORDINANCE amending section 1242 of the Codified Ordinances

Motion to amend to section 1442.06 this will change to building and zoning by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Treynor. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 118-24 Sponsored by: Greg Eades A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. This money was appropriated in 2023 that was not spent and needs reappropriated

Leave for 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 120-24 Sponsored by: Michael Norman A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The City would like to build a pickleball court at Cowling Park.

Council members discussed costs at different parks, bring itemized costs to committee, deed restrictions and comprehensive plans.

Motion to amend location to "TBD" by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman Treynor. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

Leave for 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 121-24 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. To comply with our contract with Mid-Ohio.

Council members and Law Director discussed the process of completing this project.

Leave for 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 123-24 Sponsored by: Michael Norman A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. Projections indicate a shortfall in funding for the Fire/EMS Division of $600,000 for the budget year ending 2024.

Leave for 3rd Reading

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New Business - none

Round Table

Councilman Eades – It's amazing how many people get involved and the Messenger printing articles about these topics. I think we need to thank Ms. Breedlove for that. If you still need eclipse glasses, there are still some available. Last meeting I forgot to mention – tornado sirens, number of people stated they didn't hear the sirens during the last tornado warning. I suggest that we send city employees around town during the Wednesday siren test to see if there is an issue with the sirens. London has grown and expanded, and they may not hear the sirens because we haven't expanded our sirens.

Councilman McDaniels – Thank everybody for coming out.

Councilman Hays –

Councilman Hitt – I appreciate everyone coming out and giving different viewpoints. And everyone online listening in, appreciate your interest in what's going on in your city. Next Public Service meeting is 4/9 at 5:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

Councilwoman Treynor – I think we said enough about pickleball. I have nothing more to say.

Councilman Stahl – I learned a lot about pickleball. It sounds like we need to have this here. I'd like to thank everyone who came out and filling us in.

Councilman Norman – I appreciate everyone who came out to discuss pickleball. I agree with Mr. Myers about handicap parking. I'm glad he came and brought to us. We celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday and today they took him out today. But did they take him out? His legacy lives on. Ward 3 meeting coming up on 4/3 and the police department will be there to provide their services and what they provide.

President Peters – Thank everyone for coming out tonight.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:45pm

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

Kris Miller, Council Clerk

4/18/24
Date

Greg Eades, Council President Pro Tempore

4/18/24
Date