

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

London City Council

Held 20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140 20**May 4, 2023 at 6:30pm****Minutes****Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order by President Comer at 6:35pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with a moment of Silent Reflection that followed.

Roll Call

Present - *Councilman Eades, Councilman Peters, President Comer, Councilman Hitt, Councilman Stahl*

Absent – *Councilman Robinson, Councilman Hays*

Guests – Mayor Pat Closser, Safety Service Director Rex Castle, Auditor Kenna Combs, Clerk Kris Miller

Minutes – Approval of April 20, 2023 minutes, approved by unanimous voice vote.

Public Hearing - none

Communications/Announcements - none

Audience Concerns

David Kell – Madison County Commissioners, 1 N. Main St.

I'm here to answer any questions or provide discussions regarding the County Land Bank and the City of London Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). I'm meeting with Mt. Sterling and Plain City next week to sign their MOU to partner with the County Land Bank. I'm working with West Jefferson Council to obtain their signatures on a MOU for their community. Our goal is for the city and county to work together. We are not here to disrupt the private market.

We will obtain property:

- Unsold property from the Sheriff's sale
- Some properties are sold to us
- We can receive house/property donated to the Land Bank
- Purchase a property from the Sheriff's auction

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The goals of the County Land Bank:

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- Demo needed properties and sale it to someone who'll build a home, commercial, or utilize the Side-lock program.
- Side-lock program is when there is a green field next to the demo property and the new owners want to turn the property into a green space.
- Rehab the property and sale it
- Return the property to a functional part of the community and to beautify our city

Land Bank laws in the State of Ohio can be found in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 1724.01

Councilman Eades – How is this funded? Is there going to be any cost to the city? Now or later? Will a demo be a cost to the city?

Mr. Kell – It should not be. We are not going to force the city to pay, but there maybe times the city may have to absorb costs. It's not our goal to have any costs to the city. The Madison County Commissioners will provide the initial funding for this program. We'll focus on going after state dollars. The Brownfield Fund has released their recent budget of \$5 million and prefer most of it to go to Land Banks.

Councilman Eades – Article 4, seems to state the city will provide some costs and all proceeds go to the county.

Mr. Kell – It's not our goal, but it could cost the city. We prefer to go after state dollars. Again, we are looking to do a partnership and not jeopardize that relationship.

Councilman Eades – What you state as your goals and what is written in the MOU could be different. The MOU is the guiding principle on how this will work. How is the board set up and how many?

Mr. Kell – 7 Board members by statute – Treasurer, 2 County Commissioners, Rex Castle – largest municipality, Ms. Tranner – Real-estate, Mr. Draker – Council President Mt Sterling, Mr. Stanford – Economic Development Plain City.

Councilman Eades – Licking County does a 3% delinquent tax fee that goes to the land bank. Are we interested in doing that here?

Mr. Kell – That's the D-Tax I was talking about earlier. Mrs. McKenzie stated that she has no desire to do that here and I respect that.

Councilman Eades – Residential and commercial? The city has first refusal on residential, but not on commercial?

Mr. Kell – Yes. The Land Bank will have a list of properties for sale on their website. The Lank Bank can also seek respectable people to invest into a property.

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Councilman Eades – The MOU states the city will 30 days to make a decision on a property and the Board has 10 days to determine if they will make a move on a property and notify the city. We could never have the time for 3 readings. This takes the decision out of our hands. The city must give an assessment of side walk & curbs within the first 10 days of the 30 days.

Mr. Kell – The cost savings from doing this yourselves and partnering with the County Land Bank can be significant.

Councilman Eades – There are some properties the city wants to keep and we'll keep that right?

Mr. Kell – Yes

Councilman Eades – Overall I'm favorable for this partnership

Mr. Kell – We want to provide all of the tools needed to help clean up the city. These discussions have been going on for many years.

Councilman Eades – We will expect an annual report of the Land Bank's activities.

Mr. Kell – Yes, the city will receive annual reports.

President Comer – I brought this up 8 years ago and feel this is a very flexible tool for improving the community.

Mr. Kell – There is no rush on purchasing properties. There's a process here.

Tommy Boyd – 48 N. Main St

1. To Dave Kell about the Land Bank – If we have a property sold and there are tenants still living in it, will the Land Bank become landlords or evict them?
 - a. Mr. Kell – No, but I haven't dealt with that situation so far.
2. The curb at Elm & Lafayette. With the sewer being damaged, we will now repair that curb and sidewalk?
 - a. Mr. Castle – If we did fix all of it, we'd bill the property owner.
3. Some sewer grates have metal caps on them and some are without. The Elm & Lafayette curb and sidewalk damage, does not have a cap.
 - a. Mr. Castle - We'll check on that.
4. Dog park – Can a parking stop being added to the end of the parking spaces? People are running up on the grass and hitting the trees.

Committee Reports

Personnel & Finance Committee – *Councilman Peters*, nothing to report

Public Service Committee – *Councilman Eades*, meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum

Public Safety Committee – *Councilman Hitt*, noting to report

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Mayor Pat Closser

Good evening and thanks to everyone for coming out.

I would like to start off by thanking everyone for their support at this past Tuesday's election. I would also like to thank everyone who voted for the Fire Levy. Currently the levy is losing by six votes but there are still provisional ballots and possibly mail in ballots that could swing the vote. We should know more in the next couple business days. With that being said if the levy does end up on the wrong side of the vote, we will be prepared for Monday's finance committee meeting. We have been meeting a lot, especially the past couple days, finalizing a plan for the department. Mr. Castle will present one or two plans to the finance committee on Monday May 8th. At that point it will be up to City Council on how to proceed.

I have been meeting with developers about housing and it looks like we have a few new projects that may be on the horizon. The first being for houses, the second being for condos and finally a possible apartment complex. They have been given a lot of information including utility maps and we hope they will be getting us their plans soon to go through the process.

I was able to attend quite a few events since the last meeting:

-Madison County Women's Republican Central Committee held their annual scholarship dinner. Congratulations to the four individuals who were awarded college scholarships. These four young adults were very bright and read their essay to the attendees which were fantastic.

-The Special Olympics versus the London Safety Services volleyball game was held last Thursday. Once again, the LPD and LFD took a lot of losses but they were able to win 1 game which brings them to 2-24 lifetime against the Madison County Tigers. Thank you to those who set this game up and for letting me and Iceman be the referees.

-Along with my son Maddox we attended the Child Abuse Prevention Carnival. Thank you to all the providers, volunteers and groups that made that happen. It was a very busy event that everyone seemed to enjoy.

-That night also had a lot of fun at the GloZone Party hosted by the Teen Leaders of London (TLOL). I would like to thank them for having us out and for the awesome time.

-On Monday I had a wonderful time at the London Middle School Life Fair. They were very engaged and asked great questions. This is a wonderful event showing the youth possible career opportunities. I appreciate everyone who came out especially the London Police Department and the Division of Fire and EMS.

-That same day I had the honor of attending National Signing Day for the Seniors at London High School. I would like to wish everyone in the Class of 2023 the Best of Luck in their future endeavors. I know they will make us all proud.

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Now on to the MOLO fun fact which is the number 40. I attended the Lifecare Alliance / Meals on Wheels volunteer award luncheon on Tuesday. At the luncheon they recognized Leah Baird who is retiring from Meals on Wheels after 40 years. Leah is a local resident who began her career at Madison Health with Meals on Wheels and then transitioned over when Lifecare Alliance took over the local meals. She is a staple in our community and always willing to help out around town. I would like to thank her for her service to our community and wish her all the best in retirement.

^{Held} Safety Service Director – Rex Castle, Public Safety Announcement-It's mowing season, make sure to mow your yards often. Last year an ordinance was past to begin charging fees if we need to mow anyone's yard. Also, keep grass clippings off of the sidewalks and street. This is a serious trip and slip hazard for walkers, biking, and deadly for motorcyclist

Auditor – Kenna Combs, nothing to report

Old Business

Tabled Items

ORDINANCE 151-22 Sponsored by Rich Hays- an ORDINANCE amending official zoning.

4th Reading

RESOLUTION 135-23 Sponsored by: Josh Peters. A Resolution increasing appropriations. The ball fields at Merri Mac Park and on Park Ave need improvements; and the available funds must be appropriated prior to expenditure

Landon McKenzie – We've started on one of the fields at Merri Mac park. There's been 4 trucks delivered of the field mix. First two went down, working on the 3rd truck. It costs \$102 a ton and 96 tons have been delivered. Plans going forward, keep working on the Merri Mac field 2 and then move to field 1. We need to order maybe two more truck loads to finish at Merri Mac. Once those two fields are done, we'll move over to Park Ave. That's when we may need more money to purchase more field mix. I'm requesting that we leave this on the agenda until we get to Park Ave.

3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 151-23 Sponsored by: John Stahl. A resolution to establish a trap-spay/neuter-return program.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Stahl, 2nd by Councilman Hitt. The motion carried with 4 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

RESOLUTION 152-23 Sponsored by: John Stahl. A resolution increasing appropriations. The city needs to purchase live animal traps for the use of City residents; and The City also needs to

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have funds available to reimburse residents up to (\$10.00) ten dollars per cat neutered and up to (\$8.00) eight dollars per flea treatment; and the available funds must be appropriated prior to expenditure. 20

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Stahl, 2nd by Councilman Hitt. The motion carried with 4 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

RESOLUTION 153-23 Sponsored by: Rich Hays. An ORDINANCE amending section 416 of the codified ordinances. The maximum allowable speed of any railroad locomotive or railroad car which passes through the corporate limits of the City shall be thirty miles per hour. The City may recover from any engineer, conductor or company violating this section, not less than five dollars (\$5.00) or more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Hitt, 2nd by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 4 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 155-23 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt. A RESOLUTION designating the Madison County land reutilization corporation to act on behalf of and in cooperation with the city pursuant to sections 5722.02 to 5722.15 of the Ohio revised code and authorizing the safety service director to enter into an agreement to facilitate the effective reutilization of nonproductive land situated within the corporation limits

Leave for 3rd Reading

ORDINANCE 156-23 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt. An ORDINANCE amending section 1479 of the codified ordinances. The City would like to amend the current ordinance; and this Council must act to approve the recommendations.

Leave for 3rd Reading

New Business

None

Round Table

Councilman Stahl – Thanks for everyone showing up and thanks for voting. Just hope our Fire Levy passes.

Councilman Hitt – Public Safety Committee's next meeting is 5/9 @ 5pm. Enjoy the nice weather this weekend.

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Councilman Peters – nothing to report

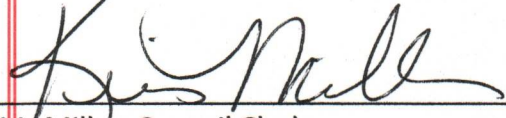
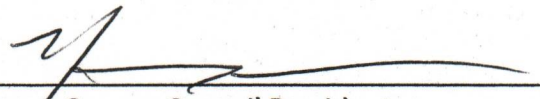
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Councilman Eades – Disappointing that the Fire Levy didn't pass. Even if it passes, we may have some gaps in funding the department. I invite every council member to the Finance Committee this coming Monday. Rex Castle will be presenting plans for the Fire Department and there are many questions for filling in the gaps.

President Comer – Thank you who went out and voted. Thanks to all who voted for me; however, the outcome wasn't what I wanted. Wish we had more people exercising their right to vote.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:08pm


Kris Miller, Council Clerk5/18/23
Date
Henry Comer, Council President5/18/23
Date