

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

LONDON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held

JUNE 16

20 22

London City Council
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140
June 16, 2022 at 6:30pm

Minutes

Council President, Henry Comer, called the regular meeting of the London City Council to order at 6:30pm. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silent reflection.

Council members present: Henry Comer, Rich Hays, Andrew Hitt, John Stahl, Anthony Smith, Josh Peters, Bryan Robinson and Greg Eades

The minutes of the June 2, 2022 meeting were approved as written

COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A notice of legislative authority was received from the Ohio Department of Liquor Control for Jay Kalk MAA Foods LLC DBA London Shell. Council unanimously voted to not require a hearing on the advisability of issuing a permit.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS

Michael Norman – 188 S. Oak Street, London, Ohio 431401

- Expressed his opinion about Ordinances 146-22 and 147-22 that the reason for the rate increase is vague and that the future use of the additional revenue has not been fully explained
- Stated that since the recent levy failed, he believes that the citizens would also not be in favor of a rate increase

Anita Likens – 157 E. First Street. London, Ohio 43140

- Read excerpts from the Constitution

Elizabeth Branson – 500 Graceland Avenue, London, Ohio 43140

- Stated that she loves living in London and spoke of the need for City Council to pass Ordinance 148-22 that will help alleviate the flooding in the Graceland/Mariemont neighborhood

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Greg Eades – Finance Committee

- Discussed the Mariemont/Graceland project
- Announced that the concrete work at the pool is complete and the splashpad is operating
- A special Finance Committee meeting to discuss the a levy will take place on June 21, 2022 at 6:00pm
- Shannon Treyner addressed the committee about the Historic Downtown Revitalization Committee plans
- Board of Public Utilities member, Steve Lelonek discussed the proposed water and sewer utility rate increase
- Community member, Michael Norman, stated the need for pedestrian signage

Bryan Robinson - Public Service Committee Chair

- The next Public Service Committee meeting will take place July 6, 2022 at 6:00pm

Rich Hays – Public Safety Committee Chair

- Future legislation will be drafted to help deal with the overpopulation of feral cats in the city
- PulteGroup presented information about a proposed housing development and requested a zoning change for the area. The legislation is on Council's agenda

Andy Hitt – Public Safety Committee

- Read the London Division of Fire/EMS report

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John Stahl – Public Safety Committee

- Read the London Police Division report

Anthony Smith – Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Representative

- Has been sick and apologized for missing the recent Finance Committee meeting

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS – Mayor Closser’s report attached

Additional comments:

- Mayor Closser explained the process for addressing unmown lawns and high grass in the city

OLD BUSINESS – none presented**NEW BUSINESS**

Ordinance 146-22 – Sponsored by Anthony Smith – An Ordinance amending section 1048.05 of the Codified Ordinances

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

- Councilman Smith spoke about the need to plan for responsible city growth and stated the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) is researching our current capacity and planning for the future
- Mr. Lelonek addressed Council to explain the water and sewer rate increase:
 - Expand water capacity for growth
 - Prepare for emergencies
 - Potential solutions to make the east side water plant operable
 - Repair and upgrade current infrastructure
- Mr. Lelonek explained that legislation will be presented at the July 7, 2022 Council meeting that will detail the specific dollar amounts needed for all projects. He also urged Council to make this legislation a priority

Legislation was left on the agenda for a second reading

Ordinance 147-22 – Sponsored by Anthony Smith – An Ordinance amending section 1042 of the Codified Ordinances

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

Legislation was left on the agenda for a second reading

Resolution 148-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – A Resolution of necessity for a special assessment for improvements to the system of storm or sanitary sewerage for the Graceland Mariemont project

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

Legislation was left on the agenda for a second reading

A public hearing regarding this legislation was scheduled to take place during the July 21, 2022 City Council meeting

Resolution 149-22 – Sponsored by Anthony Smith – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for improvements to the storm water system

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

Legislation was left on the agenda for a second reading

Resolution 150-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – A Resolution increasing appropriations

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

Legislation was left on the agenda for a second reading

Ordinance 151-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays – An Ordinance amending official zoning map

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

- Representatives from PulteGroup presented plans for a housing development on approximately 73 acres between Lafayette Street and E. High Street. They are requesting zoning change from an R3 category to a PUD to allow for more variations in the design

Legislation was left on the agenda for a second reading

A public hearing regarding this legislation was scheduled to take place during the July 21, 2022 City Council meeting

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ROUND TABLECouncilman Smith

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Apologized again for missing the recent Finance Committee meeting due to an illness
- Spoke about the importance of offering and controlling the emergency medical services (EMS) within the city
 - Stated that the City has been operating emergency Medical Services (EMS) for three years and have always given great service to the citizens
 - Stated that the Chief and the Administration kept their word by cancelling the property tax and operating with no additional funds for three years
 - Stated that it is important to have fire and EMS on both sides of the railroad tracks
 - Expressed his belief that keeping EMS operations with the City is important

Councilman Stahl

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Stated that he was excited about the potential growth of the city and thanked the PulteGroup for their presentation
- Promoted the upcoming Strawberry Festival, taking place on June 23, 24 and 25 and the London Cobra Show that will take place on the morning of June 25

Councilman Hitt

- Thanked the presenters for their information and Councilman Eades for his questions and research
- Thanked everyone for their attendance

Councilman Hays

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Thanked City employees for their hard work
- Stated that he received a question regarding the City's EMS being given back to the county and believes that the public is misinformed about the potential levy information. He stated that Council members should be careful of their public statements
- Thanks PulteGroup representatives for their presentation to Council and stated that their development will be a great addition to the City
- Asked for God's blessing on the City of London

Councilman Robinson

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Stated that he is excited for the plans and the growth of the city
- Said that he agreed with Councilmen Smith and Hays regarding the City's EMS and that we should continue to do what is best for the City and not to give up on services

Councilman Eades

- Stated that he had difficulty keeping minutes for the Finance Committee and that there may be a need for an additional part-time Council Clerk or Amy should have a backup in place when she cannot attend meetings
- Asked if the Administration has contacted the railroad company to repair the holes near the tracks. Mayor Closser stated that they have been notified of the issues

Council President Comer

- Thanked everyone for their attendance
- Stated that the next levy to fund Fire/EMS may not pass and as City leaders, all avenues should be explored to solve the operation issues

Motion by Hays to adjourn at 8:50pm



 Amy Rees, Clerk



 Henry Comer, City Council President