

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of

London City Council

Meeting

Casto &amp; Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

August 17, 2023

Held \_\_\_\_\_

20 \_\_\_\_\_

**London City Council****20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140****August 17, 2023 at 6:30pm****Minutes****Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order by President Comer at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with a moment of Silent Reflection that followed.

**Roll Call**

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

Absent -

**Minutes** – Approval of August 3, 2023 minutes, approved by unanimous voice vote

**Public Hearing** – none

**Communications/Announcements** - none

**Audience Concerns**

Tommy Boyd, 48 N. Union St, - My first one would be unfortunately a correction to last week. When we were going through the Board of Public Utilities notes, it was said that we had talked about appropriating money from the BPU back into the general fund. Suggested increasing rent paid to the general funds as a way to increase money coming from the BPU. Discussed the leaning poll coming into town and the steel brace at the top of it. Asked for a summary of what is being spent from the \$750,000 Community Development Block Grant Program for the Ward 3 project.

Rex Castle – There was a budget put together prior to the hearing. We have not deviated from those projects, but we had to start the storm sewer project right away. That project will be credited to the city's portion of the grant program. Noted that the playground equipment has been ordered and will be installed next year. Discussed the fluid nature of the grant and how money can be allocated to other items in the future.

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**Committee Reports****Personnel & Finance Committee –**

*Councilman Peters* - We just have one piece of legislation coming up tonight and we'll talk about it.

*Councilman Eades* - Reported that the audit went smoothly, with only one minor issue regarding the accounting of water meters.

**Public Service Committee – No report****Public Safety Committee –**

*Councilman Hays* –Noted a correction to the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting, which was called over at 5 p.m. rather than 6.30 p.m. Approved the July minutes. Next public safety committee meeting will be September 12, 2023 at 5 p.m.

*Councilman Hitt* – Gave the Fire Chief's report, which included details of training, statistics, and transports to various hospitals.

*Councilman Stahl* – Reported on the Police Division's hiring process, procurement of new crews, repairs of damaged crews, and compensation from insurance. Noted two notable incidents.

**City Official Reports****Mayor – Pat Closser**

Good evening and thanks to everyone for coming out. Since my last City Council update a lot has been going on. The fair has come and gone as well as the Rhythm and RibFest. Both were wonderful events for the community which many people were able to enjoy.

As Mayor, I make it a priority to get out in the community for different aspects of community outreach. In the past month I was able to participate in the Madison County Fair's Demolition Derby, perform in the Madison County Arts Council's presentation of the Sound of Music, attend the Members Show for the London Visual Arts Guild's in which Maddox and I put a piece in, play in the Madison County Historical Society's vintage baseball game against the Muffins and was in two dunk tanks at the RibFest and St. Patrick's Festival.

Besides participating in activities, I feel being present at events around the community is also important. I attended the Madison County Board of DD's Celebration of Life, the special interest auction at the fair, the ribbon cutting for Synergy Home Care, ribbon cutting for Sheetz, Nation Night Out hosted by the London Police Department at Merri Mac Park, the London City School's Teacher orientation City tour and helped put on the Rhythm and RibFest.

When I became Mayor, I didn't want to be a public servant who is never seen and is not part of the community. I made it a priority to be the most available public

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official I can be and make sure I am available. I apologize for missing a couple meetings but as you can tell I have been very busy.

The planning commission met and heard two cases. One was for lot lines on three properties in the London Landing project which was approved and the other was for a general retail store. The retail store was approved for the corner of Cherry Street and High Street. We believe they will be disclosing the name of the almost 11,000 square foot retail store soon.

I attended the Ohio State Public Leadership Academy as a panelist. I appreciate them having me back to be a part of their panel. Being a part and graduate of the Ohio State Public Leadership Academy is an honor.

We have continued to meet with the County and representatives from the Mid-Ohio Water and Sewer District. We are continuing to look at taking sewer from the district. Currently we are waiting on the EPA study on discharge from our sewer plant. This will let us know how much we will be able to process and discharge. Once we have that information more intense discussions will take place.

MORPC, the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission, came out to London for a luncheon. We were able to discuss all the aspect of London and they were able to provide a lot of information. Some of the discussions focused on growth, transportation for large businesses and policy updates. MORPC is a great tool for the City and I appreciate their partnership.

The MOLO fun fact is the number 2024. I would like to wish all the Class of 2024 High School Seniors in our community good luck on their final year. I would also like to wish all the students, staff, teachers and parents' good luck on this school year. I am proud to have such great schools in our community like London City Schools, St. Patrick's, Tolles and Fairhaven. We are lucky to have such a strong educational system here in our backyard.

Safety Service Director – Nothing to add

Auditor – Not in attendance

### Old Business

### New Business

**ORDINANCE 199-23 Sponsored by: Greg Eades**, an ORDINANCE authorizing advertisement for bids for the sale of real property owned by the City of London, Ohio pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 721.03. Parcel I.D. No. 31-02617.003

*Councilman Eades* - So this is land that the city's, um, since August of 2010, we are responsible for the mowing of that land. We've been doing that for 14 years now. This also contains a county maintained ditch, which we've been told that county will still be responsible for. We had some discussions about whether or not we should set a minimum bid and we discussed the importance on that.

The 2022 appraisal was \$2,720. So that piece was appraised at \$3,810 now, which is minimum bid to be \$3,000.

Leave for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

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**Round Table**

*Councilman Stahl* – Wish all the London teams a good season. If you haven't been downtown, check out all the changes that have been going on. It's fascinating. Hoping they'll start the hotel sometime.

*Councilman Hitt* – I have nothing

*Councilman Hays* – I want to thank all the city employees for their good work.

*Councilman Peters* – I have nothing

*Councilman Eades* – Mr. Andy Warnock, Main St Collective, he'll be here next Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am. I think they are going to provide their plans for the Main St properties and the hotel they just purchased. If anyone wants to go down, I plan to attend. Job openings – I know we have some job openings right now; I'd like the administration to run through those really quickly. Any updates on the water plant? Or any other updates for the citizens to know? Asking the Administration to provide this information.

Rex Castle – The water plant ran some water through it and sent some off for testing. Still waiting on the results. The Street Dept has a street worker and Deputy Superintendent that are open. Openings in the Water Dept., Police, and Fire.

Pat Closser – Those can be found at londonohio.gov under Job Opportunities

*Councilman Eades* – Are there any other projects that we haven't considered or brought lately?

Rex Castle – Third ward projects are led by Whittaker through CBDG. We've had our first meeting which was about the playground. Equipment has been ordered with delivery in December.

*Councilman Eades* – What about the sanitary sewer project?

Rex Castle – Through OPWC and waiting for bids.

*President Comer* – Again, I just want to thank everyone for coming out and watching live. Thanks to all of the city of London employees and all that they do. Special thanks to all the first responders, especially our police department. Four cruisers down and all the job openings.

*Councilman Eades* – One more thing, this came up in the Finance Committee. The federal grant, do we have any further updates? Have we received paperwork for the police department?

Pat Closser – We haven't received anything yet, but we'll update everyone at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Rex Castle – It's not considered a "grant", it's part of the infrastructure bill. It is

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free money.

*Councilman Eades* – But we don't know what the requirements are and what we have to do with that. We need to consider the rest of the money going forward.

*President Comer* – We need to take a look at what we do to make it happen.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 6:57pm

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Miller, Council Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Henry Comer, Council President

9/7/23  
Date

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Date

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