

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
London City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

September 7, 2023

Held _____ 20_____

London City Council
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140
September 7, 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*

Absent - *Councilman Peters*

Minutes – Approval of August 17, 2023 minutes, approved with corrections by unanimous voice vote

Public Hearing – none

Communications/Announcements - none

Audience Concerns

Michael Norman, 188 S. Oak St., I only have a couple of items.

1. I've sent an email to everyone regarding my question and thank you to Mr. Castle for getting back to me. While out campaigning I've been asked, who do we contact for issues with city properties? The city property committee has only had two meetings in the last 14 months. They only hold meetings when there are issues to discuss. I'm asking if they can hold more regular meetings, so citizens can attend and ask questions. Also, the city website states there is a 24 hour notice when a meeting is cancelled. 10 out of the last 12 meetings were cancelled an hour before the meeting. Again, the website states 24 hours' notice.
2. During last night's Public Service meeting, Mr. Long stated there was going to a walk through for the 3rd Ward grant project. Since we don't have a 3rd Ward representative who on the Council is going to sit in for us? How is this going to happen and reported back to the Ward?

President Comer – An At-large member will cover the 3rd Ward.

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Mr. Bill Long – The walk through for the 3rd Ward project is for me. Going over the storm sewers and repairs.

President Comer – The 24 hour notice is for having a meeting, not for cancellations.

Mr. Norman – You might want to change the wording on the website because it states any “changes” to a meeting.

Mr. Castle – Read what the website states. The website statement is dealing with health issues. If we are meeting “face to face” ...etc. Mr. Comer is right; a meeting can be cancelled at the last minute. I.e.; not enough members. By law we do have to give a 24 hour notice to have a meeting.

Elizabeth Branson, 500 Graceland Ave

- Provided a short tribute to Stan Kavy
- The American flag at the corner of Center St & Main St is flying shredded. I called city hall and they said that they’ll take care of it.

President Comer – Bill Long & Councilman Hays will take care of the flag.

Committee Reports

Personnel & Finance Committee –

Councilman Stahl – Don’t have anything, but we have Finance & Personnel on Monday, 9/11. We also have a Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, 9/12.

Public Service Committee –

Councilman Robinson – Street Department report. They are very busy, down 3 employees with 3 employees working hard. Lots of work with challenges. Boring company in town, mowing, brush work, fixing sewer lines, catch basins. Met with the fair grounds regarding two catch basins on their grounds that needs to be found. New Truck – waiting on truck bed. Walk through for Ward 3 project. Next Public Service Committee on 10/4.

Councilman Eades – Also attended the Public Service Committee.

- Rec. Department report. Swimming pool season is done. They met 105% of estimated revenue.
- The cost of chlorine is higher. Three years ago, it was \$1.63 a gallon, \$2.88 a gallon.
- American Leak Detection, checked out the expansion joint leaks and fixed them. We don’t know the cost yet, but it should be under what’s available to him.
- Four sand filters need to be replaced. Received a bid around \$24,000, but would like more bids. They do have some money left, but will probably need

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- more from finance.
- Cowling Park – Thank you to the Madison County Vineyard Church, who painted the trains.
 - Looking at old asphalt that use to be two basketball courts to turn into two Pickle ball courts.
 - Meri-Mac park – work on the 2nd field starting this fall.
 - Sand volleyball season wrapped up. They had six teams.
 - Youth outdoor volleyball starting now. Schedule posted today.
 - Winter basketball – working with schools for practice times.

Public Safety Committee –

Councilman Hays – nothing to report for Public Safety Committee

BPU meeting 8/24. Public concerns with unusual water bills. She incurred three months of water bills each over \$400. Everything is ok now. Possible meter malfunction. She does have a balance of \$500 and requests the city to pay it. Chairman Vest requested a water flow test. Two employees resigned from the Water Dept. They are under staffed and advertising to fill positions. Another asked a question about scuba divers inspecting the water tanks. Mr. Long stated they will by the end of the year. Progress on sewer line study. Mr. Long stated one part is complete and the next phase will begin in the spring. Boring company has hit several infrastructure lines. Partnership with the city is good. Tom Taylor from the Mid-Ohio sewer & water district was in attendance. Mr. Long will remain as Superintendent. Waste Water – nothing to report. Sanitation – An employee will be retiring in December. Will begin advertising for the position and hope to hire someone in November. Purchased new trash cans. New Business – Main St. water line replacement bids, tonight’s legislation. Request appropriation of \$250,000 from BPU general fund to Water Dept fund.

Councilman Hitt – Nothing new to report

City Official Reports

Mayor – Pat Closser

Good evening and thanks to everyone for coming out.

I would like to start off by thanking the City Administrations Executive Assistant Amy Rees. If you have not heard, Amy has decided to further her career by taking another job. Amy’s last day will be Tuesday September 19th. Amy has been an integral part in the successes of the City of London. We appreciate everything she has done for our office, the city and the community. Amy will be missed and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

With that being said, the Safety Service Director will need to fill that position. We are currently working on the process that will be used to fill the vacated position. Our office does not want to rush the process to fill the executive assistant position.

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We understand how important that position is to the city and want to make sure the right hire is made.

If you have not seen our social media posts or our website lately an article was done by Business View Magazine on the City of London. They reached out to us a while back wanting to do an article on the great things that have been happening in the city and the future. This 10-page article highlights a lot of the things we have been able to accomplish and what the future holds for the City of London. I want to thank Business View magazine for choosing us and if you have not seen the article, please go take a look at it.

The Madison County Mayor’s Committee can food drive challenge will be back in October. London, West Jefferson, Mount Sterling and Plain City will be competing on who can bring in the most can food items. The food will then be donated to the local food panties in each town that they were dropped off. This will take place from October 15th through the 21st. We will have more information come out as it gets closer but items will be able to be dropped off at the City Halls in each town.

The MOLO Fun Fact is the number 31. This year’s Trick or Treat will be held in the City of London on Tuesday October 31st from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. We have been getting some inquiries about when the date will be and I wanted to let everyone know. We will slowly start putting the information out on social media.

Before I finish my update, I would like to read a proclamation that I did for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, childhood cancer remains a pressing public health issue, affecting the lives of thousands of children and their families every year; and

WHEREAS, the impact of childhood cancer goes beyond physical health, causing emotional and financial burdens for affected families; and

WHEREAS, during this month, we honor the young warriors who have bravely fought against cancer, remember the lives of those who lost the battle, and stand in solidarity with the survivors; and

WHEREAS, research, early detection, and access to quality treatment are crucial in improving outcomes and saving the lives of children with cancer; and

WHEREAS, our community recognizes the tireless efforts of healthcare professionals, researchers, volunteers, and organizations working to support children with cancer and their families; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and support for childhood cancer research and funding are essential to improve treatment options, enhance survival rates, and eventually find a cure; and

WHEREAS, we, as a community, have the power to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer and their families through education, compassion, and advocacy.

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patrick J. Closser, Mayor of the City of London, Ohio, do hereby proclaim the month of September as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Month" in London, Ohio. I urge all citizens, businesses, schools, and community organizations to join in raising awareness about childhood cancer, supporting affected families, and advocating for continued research and funding.

Safety Service Director – Thanked Amy for all she has done and wished her the best.

Auditor – Not in attendance

Old Business

2nd Reading

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
 Leave for 3rd Reading

New Business

RESOLUTION 200-23 Sponsored by: A RESOLUTION authorizing the mayor of the city of London, Ohio to apply for, accept, and enter into an Ohio EPA water supply revolving loan account (WSRLA) agreement on behalf of the city of London for construction of the west water treatment plant filter media and solids contact tank project, designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Eades, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Hays, 2nd by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

RESOLUTION 201-23 Sponsored by: A RESOLUTION requesting construction loan financing from the Ohio water development authority for the city of London’s sludge press project by the city of London, Madison County, OH and declaring an emergency.

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 202-23 Sponsored by: A RESOLUTION authorizing the Board of Public Utilities to advertise for bids and enter into contract for replacing the North Main water main

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hays, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote.

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Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Stahl, 2nd by Councilman Hays. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

Round Table

Councilman Eades – Spoke about Mr. Kavy’s career with the City of London and his impact on the city. It was brought up earlier about Mr. Castle requesting that we change how we bring legislation for projects through a little quicker. Don’t we operate with one piece of legislation for each item? How would we work that?

Mr. Castle – All I want to do is have the individual pieces together then take to Finance. Try to get it up and talked about at Finance Committee & get their blessing. So, they’ll be ready when needed to go to Council quicker. Instead of being behind the 8 ball. Not consolidating projects, just getting them in front of committee.

Councilman Robinson – Nothing

Councilman Hays – I’d like to take a moment of silence for Stan Kavy. Thank you for your service, Amy. I want to thank all the city employees for their good work. Thank all council members. Next Public Safety meeting is next Tuesday at 5:00pm.

Councilman Hitt – Thank Amy for all her help.

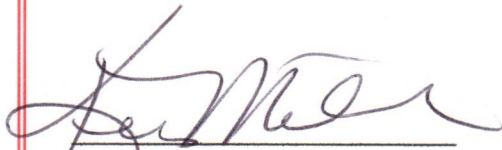
Councilman Stahl – Memory of Stan Kavy. Thank Amy for her help. Attended downtown meeting. Wonderful presentation and what they are doing.

President Comer – Thank everyone for their comments. Questioned Fire Levy plans. Provided a suggestion – If they levy doesn’t go, some cities combined their fire & police departments in one building. Share space and possible more access to Public Safety grants. One location for everything.

Adjournment

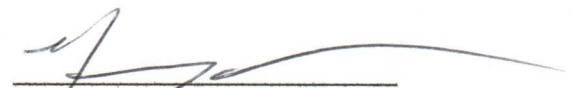
Motion to adjourn at 7:17pm

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



Kris Miller, Council Clerk

9/21/23
Date



Henry Comer, Council President

9/21/23
Date