

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

CLERK CALLED ROLL: Brenda Russell, present; Josh Peters, present; Bryan Robinson, present; Rich Hays, present; Andrew Hitt, present; Carla Blazier, present; Anthony Smith, present.

MINUTES of the previous meeting were approved and received.

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: Mr. Mike Carter, 52 Elm Street, addressed council. He showed council members pictures damage done to his basement due to flooding over just the past three to four years. It's cost him \$7,000 in damages just this year! The city is causing his flooding problems. The sewer water backs into his basement.

He's been told there is a blockage in the main sewer causing flooding in his basement. He had 26" of black water in his basement this last time.

Councilman Smith offered a few suggestions that might work.

President Comer felt that Mr. Long should take a look at it to determine if the flooding is being created the city. We need to do our due diligence.

Councilman Hays felt that the city should at least go to the front of the property too.

Councilman Robinson asked if other neighbors' basements were also flooded.

Mr. Carter replied that they were.

Councilman Smith instructed Mr. Carter to attend the next Board of Public Utilities meeting. They need to start dealing with this.

President Comer thanked him for bringing his concern to city council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilwoman Blazier reported that the finance committee met and discussed two proposals for the next levy. One is to resend the .5% we give refund back to people who work outside the city. She asked that council members attend the next finance meeting for their input on this important issue.

Councilman Hitt attended the public safety committee meeting. Officer Keith Akers retired May 2 after 30 years with the department. The police department has been in close contact with health department regarding COVID-19 proper safety practices. They've participated in numerous drive-by celebrations parades.

The next meeting is June 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Hays attended on the public safety committee meeting and reported on the fire department activities.

The safety committee discussed the city's corporation signs. They would like to have numerous signs, connected to the corporation signs, removed. Mr. Hitt and Mr. Hays wrote up a narratives to be considered. They hope to have a proposal prepared for the next city council meeting.

Mr. Hays felt the signs should be posted at the school.

Mr. Peters said the city is proud of their accomplished athletes.

Councilwoman Blazier suggested guidelines of what can go on the corporation sign. Possibly have separate signage sponsored by another organization.

There are numerous individuals who are recognized for outstanding achievements on the corporation signs. There may need to be a separate sign from the corporation sign.

Councilman Hitt felt that recognizing our accomplished athletics promotes athletics in town.

Councilwoman Russell reported on the finance committee. The state auditor is currently conducting the yearly audit.

There will be in-house employee transfers, but nothing that will affect the city's budget.

She asked that council members attend the next finance committee meeting on June 8th.

Councilman Peters attended the finance and public service committee meetings.

He reported on the parks and recreation and street departments. The new splash pad is completed and they are just waiting for it to be tested. City parks have been roped off due to the COVID-19 virus.

He gave an update on the Park Avenue project

There will be a special public service meeting Tuesday, May 23, to decide if the city will be able to open the pool this season.

The next regular meeting is June 10.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS: Mayor was unable to attend this evening.

OLD BUSINESS:

AMENDED ORDINANCE 140-20 Sponsored by: Josh Peters AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 874 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES (attachment) Motion by Hays to place on second reading, second by Russell. Clerk read.

Councilman Smith explained that the amendment is for just public properties, not private.

Councilwoman Russell asked if licenses are required for each individual or group, like an amusement company.

Councilman Peters replied it would be for the company.

Councilwoman Blazier had concerns if just one person was in violation would the vendor be shut down. She asked how this information would get out to event organizers. She just wanted to make sure the vendor could be asked to leave if the proper paperwork is not on file, on top of the misdemeanor.

She also appreciated the amendment to public events as that answered a lot of her questions she had, if it would have included private property.

Councilwoman Russell pointed out that the city only has a couple of big festivals. The Strawberry and Rib & Jazz festival committees make sure that all proper paperwork is filed.

Amy Rees, Executive Assistant, concurred with Mrs. Russell, that it is the committees' responsibility to file all the appropriate paperwork with the police and health departments. Background checks are required if the event is two days or more.

Paperwork is already required to be filed with the Police Department 90 days prior to an event.

Councilman Peters motioned to amend to public property, second by Hitt. Roll to amend: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes. **AMENDED**

LEFT ON 2ND READING.

ORDINANCE 141-20 Sponsored by: Andy Hitt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1446 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES (attachment) Motion by Hitt to place on second reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Councilman Hitt explained the types of contractors and subcontractors required to register and get a permit. This would not include individual lawn services such as family or friends providing work.

Councilman Peter's main concern is there will be no one to enforce this. He didn't feel we should even have requirements if it can't be enforced.

He asked if a one- time door installation, purchased from a Lowes or Home Depot, would require a permit.

Contractors don't need a license to build, but they do need insurance.

Councilman Hitt thought Mr. Oswald would be able to enforce it.

Mrs. Blazier asked if licenses are required on all the types of contractors listed, such as snow removal.

Councilman Smith opinioned that revenue for the city could add up if contractors register with the tax department like they are supposed to.

President Comer wondered if the city shouldn't be looking into our own building and zoning department.

Mr. Smith responded that the city is saving a lot of money the way we are operating now. He wondered if the legislation should be amended to just those required to have permits for their type of work.

Mr. Hitt explained that Mr. Long presented this to the safety committee. He felt it would help prevent shoddy work and create some revenue for the tax department with outside contractors paying into the city income tax. Anyone one working in the city should be paying.

Mr. Mosier added that this for many days of working within th city. The tax department will try to follow up with large jobs. This only affect those coming in for a permit. The money goes into building and zoning.

President Comer asked again if we should have our own building and zoning department.

Mr. Smith said we should create the revenue first, then do our own department.

Safety Service Director Mosier explained the main purpose of this requirement is to keep track of who the contractors are. The city needs to keep track of contractors performing shoddy work. He gave an example if sewer work was done and the street wasn't closed back up properly, they'd want to able to reach that contractor.

It is more for tracking purposes than revenue. It's for building and infrastructure work, not for someone painting.

The homeowner could get into trouble for not letting a contractor know he needs to register with the city.

Contractors and sub-contractors should be registered with the tax department.

President Comer asked that this go back to committee and have Bill Long at the meeting. It is nowhere close to being able to approve.

LEFT ON 2ND READING.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 143-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS
Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Russell. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained this is to pay for the frontend loader.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules, second by Russell. Roll to suspend: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes. **SUSPENDED**

Motion by hays to adopt, second by Hitt. Roll to adopt: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes.

ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 144-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE CDBG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Russell. Clerk read.

This is to apply for a matching grant to be used to fix some of London's flooding problems.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules, second by Hitt. Roll to suspend: Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

Motion by Russell to adopt, second by Hays. Roll to adopt: Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes.

ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 145-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKER'S COMPENSATIONS Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Blazier. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained this grant would be used to purchase a trench box.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules, second by Hays. Roll to suspend: Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes. **SUSPENDED**

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Russell. Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes.

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 146-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE SMALL CITY PROGRAM Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Hitt. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained this is a matching grant. The grant will be used for traffic lights.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules, second by Hitt. Roll to suspend: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

Motion by Russell to adopt, second by Hays. Roll to adopt: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes.

ADOPTED

ROUND TABLE:

Councilman Peters reminded everyone of the special public service meeting next Tuesday at noon.

He also noted that the Goodwill boxes are overflowing again.

Councilwoman Russell encouraged all council members to attend the next finance committee meeting on June 8.

Councilman Robinson thanked everyone for coming in this evening. Everyone needs to continue to take steps to be safe.

Councilman Hays thanked all city employees for the service. He also thanked Mr. Carter for coming in this evening.

He hopes that with the anticipated re-opening of the state by Governor DeWine, people will use common sense. This closing has gone on long enough. People need to get back to work and businesses need to open. Threats against the government at the state capital building are not the way to go. People need to back off and relax.

The governor announced that there would be no Ohio State Fair this year.

Councilman Hitt agreed with Mr. Hays. We need to get back to some normalcy.

The next public safety meeting is June 9. The committee will discuss tonight's legislation.

Councilwoman Blazier thanked essential workers for keeping us all going. Everyone needs to comply with rules, wear masks, and be safe. We need to keep moving forward.

She also encouraged everyone to shop local. We need to help our local businesses to recuperate after this closing and stay in business.

Councilman Smith reminded everyone of the Board of Public Utilities special meeting Wednesday, May 27.

He also thanked Governor DeWine for his quick action at the beginning of this COVID-19. Ohio has not faced the outbreaks that states like Michigan and Kentucky have.

Churches were never mandatory to shut down. His church chose to go with online services to keep everyone safe.

President Comer thanked everyone for continuing to be responsible, following guidelines, and remaining safe.

Councilman Peters encouraged residents to use hire contractors, purchase vehicles locally, lawn services, etc.

ADJOURN: Motion by Hays to adjourn.

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

Henry Comer, Council President