London City Council

20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140

October 17, 2024 at 6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council President Peters at 6:30p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with a moment of Silent Reflection.

Roll Call

Present – *President Peters, Councilman Eades, Councilman McDaniels, Councilman Hitt, Councilman Stahl, Councilman Norman, Councilwoman Treynor*

Absent- *Councilman Hays*

Minutes – Approval of October 3, 2024 minutes, approved by unanimous vote

Public Hearing - none

Communications/Announcements – none

Audience Concerns

Michael Christopher Norman has observed the pedestrian flashing signs at the corner of Center and Main Street as a citizen. While these signs have improved the flow of traffic between lights, they have also led to significant congestion at the intersection of High and Main, turning it into a traffic nightmare. Additionally, the concrete partition at Center and Main barely stays in adequate condition. Other than these issues, there are no major complaints

Committee Reports – *(Department reports are attached to committee meeting minutes.)*

Councilman Eades – meeting next Monday at 5:30 in conference room. Councilman Eades also mentioned he received a call of citizen complimenting the new picnic tables at Merimac Park.

Councilman McDaniels Attended public service and public safety and provided the Fire Department report

Councilman Hitt – Attended public service committee meeting. Parks/Recreation department reports given. Next service meeting is November 12 at 5pm

Councilwoman Treynor reiterated the Finance Committee meeting is Monday at 5:30pm

Councilman Stahl gave the minutes of Safety Service meeting and the police department report

Councilman Norman gave the street department report

City Official Reports

Mr. Castle reported on the success of the Pumpkin Palooza, highlighting a great turnout and thanking Councilman Eades and Councilman Norman for dressing up for the occasion. He also mentioned the large number of children who attended the volleyball clinic. Additionally, he provided an update on the storm water project, noting a delay due to Columbia Gas.

Councilman Eades inquired about the funding source for Pumpkin Palooza.

Mr. Castle responded that it was covered by the Parks and Recreation budget, though he was unsure of the exact cost. He added that the cotton candy machine was donated by Mt. Sterling and went over other associated event costs.

Councilman McDaniels raised a concern about the paving company working in the Amherst area, questioning why they were allowed to discharge gravel and synthetic material into the sewer system.

Mr. Castle explained that the gravel and membrane need time to settle to be effective.

Councilman McDaniels pointed out that the work left behind loose stones, gravel, and debris, which he worried might end up in the sewer system.

Mr. Castle acknowledged the issue and said he would discuss it with Bill but noted it would take a heavy downpour for the materials to reach the sewer.

President Peters also mentioned that loose stone and gravel had been observed in the Amherst development area.

3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 181-24 Sponsored by: John Stahl A RESOLUTION approving an easement

Mr. Stahl – we discussed at last meeting. We don't want to sell this, just want to give an easement

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman McDaniels. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent:	**1-**	**Hays**
Affirmative:	**6-**	**Eades, McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman**
Against:	**0-**	

RESOLUTION 182-24 Sponsored by: John Stahl A RESOLUTION approving an easement
Mr. Stahl stated this is same as other

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Stahl, 2nd Councilman McDaniels*. *The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent:	**1-**	**Hays**
Affirmative:	**6-**	**McDaniels, Hitt, Treynor, Stahl, Norman, Eades**
Against:	**0-**	

2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 184-24 Sponsor: Brent McDaniels An ORDINANCE creating a designated outdoor refreshment area

Mr. McDaniels commented that the project should be beneficial for the downtown area.

Mr. Eades added that although we don't know what might develop in the area, it may be worth expanding to include the location of the previous hotel, which was recently purchased by Westwood Collective, though their plans are still unclear. This expansion would add another block to the designated area.

He also shared his research on other towns like Hilliard and Dublin, noting that they have different operating hours from ours, typically 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. He inquired if it would be possible to adjust our hours similarly, pointing out that other cities have implemented similar changes.

Councilwoman Treynor asked whether the DORA follows standard liquor license hours.

Mr. Eades clarified that local businesses like Jim's Bar and MadCow are open seven days a week.

Mr. Castle suggested that a public hearing could provide useful community feedback. He emphasized that the council has broad authority to adjust DORA rules as needed, including amending days and hours if certain times aren't working well. He noted that they had originally avoided extending the DORA across the railroad tracks, depending on future development at the old hotel site, but that expansion could be revisited if the council wishes.

Mr. Eades then asked if council approval would be final or if further approvals would be necessary.

Mr. Norman raised a question about the interaction between DORA and downtown events, particularly regarding whether an event like Rib Fest, which sells alcohol, would follow event-specific regulations or DORA rules.

Councilwoman Treynor responded that the Mayor had indicated the two could coexist, with the DORA in place and event-specific permits applying to smaller areas as needed.

President Peters announced that a public hearing on this matter would be held during the November 7th council meeting.

Leave for 3rd Reading

New Business

RESOLUTION 185-24 Sponsor: Brent McDaniels A RESOLUTION authorizing the Auditor to increase appropriations and transfer funds. The street department is in need of a new dump truck

Mr. McDaniels stated this is for the purchase of a dump trunk. He is looking at a few different options

Mr. Castle said that it is most likely in stock

Mr Hitt said its pending going through finance committee to make sure we are financially ok to purchase

Mr. Mcdnaiels said it will also have a plow on front of it

ORDINANCE 186-24 Sponsor: John Stahl An ORDINANCE declaring the necessity for planting, maintaining, trimming, and removing shade trees in and along the streets of the City of London, estimating the cost thereof and providing for the levy of special assessment.

Mr. Stahl explained that this process is required every two years and must go through the county treasurer, who manages all the finances associated with it.

Councilwoman Treynor asked if the proposal was to maintain the current funding amount.

Mr. Stahl clarified that they take the dollar amount from the current tax allocation. He noted that it's the same $40,000 that the city has long maintained through a special assessment, which has been in place.

Councilman Eades inquired whether this amount was sufficient or if they should consider an increase.

Mr. Castle mentioned it would require a ballot issue if they wanted to increase. He also clarified that they had leftover funds from previous year.

Councilwoman Treynor stated that if they renew then it doesn't require to go to ballot. City cannot act independently of the county on this matter. However, if they choose to renew at the current amount, it wouldn't require a ballot.

Mr. Eades asked if the funds are could be used to repair sidewalks damaged by tree roots. In the past, he has discussed that homeowners shouldn't be responsible for fixing sidewalks damaged by city-planted trees. The law director indicated that, based on a maintenance clause, these funds should be usable for such repairs, though it would require consideration from the Tree Commission.

Mr. Eades shared that many residents have expressed frustration over the large trees that have damaged sidewalks, leading them to seek city assistance with repairs. He suggested it might be worth discussing a different use of these funds moving forward.

Mr. Castle noted that the Tree Commission only meets when they have specific items to address.

RESOLUTION 187-24 Sponsor: Brent McDaniels A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director to enter into contract. The street department would like to purchase a dump truck.

Mr. McDaniels explained that this proposal would allow Rex to purchase a dump truck once it's approved by the finance committee, ideally before the next snowstorm.

Mr. Eades asked if the purchase needed to go through a bidding process.

Mr. Castle clarified that it would not, as long as the purchase is made through the state program.

Round Table

Councilman Norman thanked everyone who attended or tuned in, highlighting the success of the Pumpkin Palooza, which drew many people and families. He announced the second annual "Eye Ball" event at the fairgrounds on October 19 from 8-11 p.m., featuring a pumpkin carving contest with prizes. He wished everyone a great week.

Councilman Stahl raised a concern about trucks cutting through a gas station at the intersection of Kenny and Lafayette instead of making the proper turn.

Mr. Castle noted that such drivers should be cited if police are present, and he will bring it to their attention.

Councilwoman Treynor announced that the London State Theater will host a silent movie event on October 31 at 8 p.m., following trick-or-treating, with live music accompaniment by herself.

Councilman Hitt expressed thanks to everyone watching and attending, noting that the next service meeting will be on November 12 at 5 p.m.

Councilman McDaniels shared his appreciation for the Pumpkin Palooza and the farmers' market, describing it as a great event. He also mentioned the poor condition of local sidewalks and emphasized the importance of making repairs wherever possible.

Councilman Eades agreed that Pumpkin Palooza was a fantastic event, expressing gratitude to the organizers, particularly if Eve was involved, and praised it as a well-attended family-friendly occasion. He noted that these types of free outdoor events, even if they involve a reasonable cost to the city, are beneficial to the public. He also highlighted the London Lions' Eye Ball event, mentioning that it will feature a DJ, dancing, light snacks, adult beverages for sale, and a costume contest. The pumpkin carving is open to the public, with pumpkins to be dropped off for the contest. He concluded by noting the next finance committee meeting on October 21 at 5:30 p.m. and thanked everyone for their participation.

President Peters thanked everyone for attending and gave a special shout-out to the high school football team, noting they have two games remaining in the season. He also congratulated the high school volleyball team on finishing in second place and acknowledged the achievements of the high school girls' tennis team.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:14 pm

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

Matthew Edgington, Council Clerk	Joshua Peters, Council President
Date	Date