

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
London City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

CASTO & HARRIS INC. S-301

Held July 27, 2026 20

London City Council
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140
July 27, 2026, at 6:30 pm
Special Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Pro Tem Eades at 6:38 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of Silent Reflection.

President Pro Tem Eades - This is a special council meeting. I did confirm with the law director before we started the meeting that when you call for a special meeting, it is the only item to be discussed. So, we have one item on the agenda for tonight. We won't be bringing up anything else from the last meeting. We welcome audience concerns, but we're not going to have to do a full meeting tonight.

Roll Call

Present – Councilwoman Jackman, Councilman Hays, Councilman Boyd, Councilman Eades, Councilman Hitt, Councilman Stahl, Councilwoman Treynor

Absent – President Peters

New Business

RESOLUTION 162-26 Sponsored by:

A resolution declaring the necessity of levying a property tax in excess of the ten-mil limitation for general operating Expenses and requesting certification from the Madison County auditor.

President Pro Tem Eades - We have in our presence tonight our law director, Rickelle Davis. Rickelle is going to have further information on what's happening with all of this and why we have a special meeting scheduled tonight. So, this is, it states in excess of the 10-mil limitation. Can you explain what the 10-mil limitation is?

Law Director Davis – (unable to hear due to microphone not working)

President Pro Tem Eades - And I'm not an attorney and probably shouldn't speak. But I do, from what I believe to be true, the 10 mil is a floor. It's an automatic. Anything a city asked for outside of those 10 mils has to go before the voters. So and so this, because it's in excess of the 10 mils, which is the floor, and I had a really long explanation from the auditor's office last week about this, and I don't work for the auditor's office either so I don't want to get too specifically into the details there and into the weeds because I don't know that I can answer all that correctly but, but I do know that this is an excess we have, we have a number here that actually is what forth to our was forwarded to our city. It is the tax year 2025 tax rates and revenue, and it shows the inside millage. There's a general fund, there's the police pension, there's the fire pension; that's all built into that part. And this is in addition to that part so we have this, anybody can request this, I think, from the county auditor, and you can get the same document that I have. So, this is outside of that; this is why we have to come back. And, as the law director mentioned, it states in the legislation. This is a renewal. So, a renewal means we're all we're doing is asking for

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permission to continue to collect the same taxes that we have since at least 2012. This is not an increase. This is not a replacement. Can you explain the difference between that, between a renewal and a replacement, if you're familiar with that or not?

Law Director Davis – (unable to hear due to microphone not working)

President Pro Tem Eades - From what I understand again, I'm not an attorney nor do I work for the auditor's office, and anybody here that knows better than I should correct me, but a replacement says, we will revalue using today's valuations at the 2.1 mills that we have, and it would raise your taxes because over time, as more houses are built. Our bill actually goes down a little bit as more properties pay into this month this fund. So, this fund, generally, if I'm correct, generates \$438,841. And that would be the same amount if 3,500 houses are paying it, or 4,000. It just changes the amount each household pays, because it's a set number. If I'm, I believe I'm correct, and I believe that was how it was explained to me. So, is that right? As long as it stays the same, there's not anything about that. Right. And this is just the renewal of this. Okay, so anybody else that can correct me or has better information than I do on this? We're going to open this up to audience concerns here in a minute if anybody wants to come up and ask questions. That was just the explanation that we know from the law director and what little information I can give that may or may not be 100% correct. This will, if the two pieces pass, this will be put on the ballot in November for collection starting next year.

Councilman Boyd - I just want to ask before we go on to concerns. Did you say 2012 is when this was enacted and put in place then, or 100% on that?

President Pro Tem Eades - So when I talked to the auditor's office, she thought it was renewed as far back as she can see; it was renewed in 2012. However, if you look at your tax bill, it says 2012; it says 2012 current expense levy. So, I believe that may have been the first year that this was put in place, which was in 2012.

Councilwoman Treynor - Yeah, there's a line item for general fund, which is what this particular resolution would generate, not the 2012 current expense line item, right? I mean, if you look at our tax bills, the, um, the items that are earmarked for London city are the fireman's pension, policeman's pension, general fund, and the 2012 current expense. I believe this particular resolution is a renewal of the general fund levy, not the 2012 current expense levy.

President Pro Tem Eades - So this was, I think, a question that's been asked, um, and I don't, I don't know that I want to ask it now or if I want to open this up, um, but I think the question that has been asked is why is this an emergency now, especially if we're that far out, right? And I don't know if you have an answer for that.

Councilwoman Treynor - Well, I think, I mean, based on the other things that, uh, that we had, um, come before council that also had to be on the ballot, there's like an end of August deadline for language to be certified by the board of elections. So, this is just a matter of making sure that we meet that deadline to get it to the board of elections so that we don't have any issues about getting it, um, appropriately published.

President Pro Tem Eades - So I would like to invite anybody that wants to come up and ask a question, even though the microphone may or may not work and our podium's a little out of the way; we can move that back. So, I would like to ask if anybody would like to address council as part of what we normally do. We didn't have a sign-in sheet, but we'll have you

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step up here. Please state your name and address, and you can address council with any questions you have.

Audience

Linda Heyl. I live at 61 Chandler Avenue, and we own 65 and 67 Chandler Avenue. Um, I, just because I hear things from people who don't understand- I need to know, um, so, I'm hearing that this is a kind of a renewal, but we're using new valuation figures. Is that right? So, the valuation of people's properties, uh, is what's going to be considered also?

Councilwoman Treynor - I can just speak, um, from personal knowledge; I know that the, uh, Madison County auditor has recently reappraised everybody's houses. Those are the figures to be used, um, in to, to place the value for city-owned properties or cities that fall within this particular valuation. Nothing is going to change about any individual tax bill that isn't already incorporated into that tax bill. So, I'm just looking at properties that we own; for example, my, um, I think based on the total valuation and the millage for this, the actual percentage may vary property by property but not by a significant amount. Our personal residences, uh, millage for this general fund, I think, was 4.3%, and I'm looking at the London State Theaters, and it, percent-wise, for the general fund was 3.66% of your total tax bill. So, if you have a property tax bill of like 100, or let's say it's \$1,000, \$30 of it would go to this particular fund if this fund were renewed as, you know, as being suggested here. Does that make sense? Um, sure. To answer your question, the auditor does the valuations, okay? So, this, this is not saying that the city's going to come out and, you know, send in a praise of your house. That's already done. This is just baked into the process of millages that are, are based on those total valuations. The percentage, as I said, may fluctuate slightly, but, um, it's not going to have a direct change because we've all, all already been paying this as part of our regular tax bill since at least 2007.

Ms. Heyl - So folks, um, I think the, the big worry is just everybody, everyday people need to know if there's going to be an increase in their property taxes.

Councilwoman Treynor - I know my property taxes went down because of a recent reevaluation. I suspect everybody's property taxes went down. This would not increase your property taxes, um, at all. If anything, they would stay the same, which is right now a little bit lower than where they were previously.

Leo Zhu - This is, uh, from the neighborhood of Chevington. Um, my question, a little bit like addressing everybody, is like, we're doing this meeting. We're going to have two meetings held, uh, holding for now, and, uh, it's just going to put this proposal, the levy, onto the ballot for the November election, right? Um, my question would be based on, um, the ballot. So hypothetically, if people voted no, for not raising, for not renewing the levy, what would be the next step? If this comes up with a new levy for, like, a new proposal as a replacement or no, no longer be a renewal, or what's going to be the next step for the council or for the city, for the auditor?

Councilwoman Treynor - I, I mean, I would suspect this, the portion of this particular, um, levy that is funding current city budgets was \$300,000 or somewhere around \$400,000 a year. \$438. \$438. \$438. The total city budget is significantly larger than that, so it's not a huge percentage. Whether the city chooses to go with a replacement levy for this, I suspect they would if it's allowed

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by statute. Um, obviously cities need money to operate, and you're going to look for it any place you can get it. Um, so if it would happen to get on the ballot and fail, I suspect very strongly that the city would look for alternative sources of funding. That would be my guess.

Mr. Zhu - Can I have like a follow-up question? Sure. Um, if this comes up, um, for, um, failing everything and then based on the, um, just by looking at people's comments, sentiment on social media regarding hosting this, uh, emergency meeting, a lot of people have a lot of sentiment about why we're still using, need this renewal based on the city giving, giving away the sanitary service, giving away the water service, why there's still the needs that we have to raise it. I understand that, based on the time when the levy came out, it was 2012. As you said earlier, it was based on the general funding, right? But still, people might not understand exactly why this is coming up as, especially like, an emergency meeting this time.

Councilwoman Treynor - Well, I think we've already answered how this came up as an emergency is that it just kind of fell off the radar. And then, um, to get it certified as a ballot initiative, it does have to be a certain deadline to the board of elections insofar as, um, the funding itself, you know, why do we need the money if we don't have any water services or if we don't have any sanitary services? That might be something that people can see, right, but there is some stuff people cannot see. Generally speaking, I can say that both the water and the sanitary services, what we call enterprises, enterprise funds, right? Um, so those are self-funded. So, anything that you paid by way of a tax bill or by way of a water bill only went to service those. So, by effectively no longer having either of those departments, the city also doesn't have that income anymore. So that's a zero-sum game if you ask me. Now, whether we can funnel \$400,000 towards other projects, which they would never would have gone to water or sanitation to begin with, but to the extent the city could very much use \$400,000 for a host of other things, um, I'm, there's never, there's never a lack of projects when it comes to all of the other things that the city is charged with, including not, you know, the, the street department, we've always got streets that are going to need repair. We've got sidewalks that need repair. We've talked about that too. And there's lots and lots of other, um, infrastructure and maintenance issues that we can earmark that money for.

Mr. Zhu - So that might be a good idea that city council or maybe the city can probably publish something of the idea to let people know that these funds will be used on what kind of facilities in the future. Then maybe people can put that in mind if they are looking to vote in November.

Councilwoman Treynor - I have a strong suspicion that the city's, um, uh, uh, what do you call it? They're a Facebook administrator, and anybody responsible for public relations will very likely do something along those lines.

Councilman Eades - So, so Leo Zhu, just one other, one other part I'm going to add, um, school issues, a lot of times they'll bring those up a little bit in advance because if it fails, they can bring it back. So, we, I think we actually have the, we have the opportunity time-wise that if this would fail, this council could decide to still bring it back under the same terms and not change anything or it could be changed later, but, um, it would have the opportunity to bring it up later if we, if the council so

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needed or felt that there was a need for that. So just, just wanted to clarify that, that, you know, there are certain timelines and we're under one now, but there are other timelines also.

Councilman Boyd - I do think that he brings up a good point also with the general operating expenses and kind of clarifying, hey, what all can that go into? Is that something our street department could use for new roads? Is that something that could go into our sidewalks, or is that primarily salaries? Is that primarily, you know, office maintenance type items that we're looking into? So that might be one to help boost that.

President Pro Tem Eades - Does anybody else would like to address council with you have further questions? Okay. So that being said, tonight's issue truly is just about getting this piece passed tonight so that we can get the certification from the county auditor, which will then certify the money that it would generate. If this passes tonight, then we'll have to come back for a second meeting to place this on the ballot within the timeframe we have, which is that it has to be done by August 5th so that we can get this to the board of elections to be placed on the ballot in November. Okay. Council members, we've allowed the council to speak. Are there any comments from council?

Councilman Boyd - Last comment piece, you know, while tonight I'll probably go with, hey, yeah, let's get the actual items from the county auditor, make sure everything's correct. But, you know, I think Thursday we're going to need to bring up the out-of-city income tax deduction that has been removed already, with that being part of this. I'm saying, with operating expenses, I know, I'm just saying why my choice would be towards this because I am the only one up here that pays this income tax twice. And so that's kind of where, you know, my mindset of, instead of passing it on to the voters, but today I think, yes, let's just look towards getting it evaluated. Would be good to go with.

Councilman Hitt - So if we don't suspend this tonight and pass it, they would come up Thursday also as a second.

Councilwoman Treynor - Well, Thursday would be eliminated if we don't pass this on an emergency. This is just a resolution to send it for certification to the auditors.

President Pro Tem Eades - We would have to call for another meeting, and we have to do 24 hours' notice. It has to be written to call for another meeting. I don't know why we couldn't use Thursday for that. If we already have a notice that there'll be a meeting. Is it already noticed that there's going to be a meeting for a second purpose on Thursday? Has that been published? Okay. But a special meeting has been published. So, okay. But regardless, we do have to; in order to move forward with this, we have to suspend the rules and take a vote on this to go on. So again, this is the only item we're discussing truly tonight. Thank you, everybody, for the comments, and we hope we cleared some of that up, but the issue at hand is whether or not we're going to move forward with asking the auditor to complete their part of this.

Motion to suspend the three-reading rule by Councilman Hays, 2nd Councilwoman Treynor. The motion carried by the following vote:

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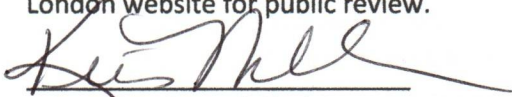
Abstain: 0-
Affirmative: 7- Eades, Hitt, Jackman, Boyd, Hays, Stahl, Treynor
Against: 0-

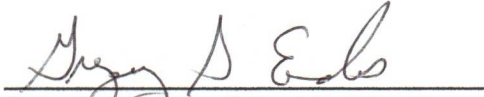
Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilwoman Treynor, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried by the following vote:

Abstain: 0-
Affirmative: 7- Eades, Hitt, Jackman, Boyd, Hays, Stahl, Treynor
Against: 0-

Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 7:11 pm

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


Kris Miller, Council Clerk
8/6/26
Date


Greg Eades, Council President Pro Tem
8-6-2026
Date