RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of London City Council Meeting
Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD
Held February 1, 2024 20

London City Council

20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140

February 1, 2024 at 6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Absent - 0

Minutes – Approval of January 18, 2024 minutes, approved by unanimous voice vote

Public Hearing – none

Communications/Announcements - none

Audience Concerns

Raymond Anthony, 521 Eaton – Asked questions about Council meeting videos, why the last meeting, 1/18/24, wasn't on the city's website, and how long does it take for the video to post to the website.

Response – *Council President Peters* and Safety Service Director Castle provided answers about technical difficulties during last Council meeting on 1/18/24 and how recordings can be viewed immediately on the city's YouTube channel, but the Council Clerk needs to move the recording to archive for it to be viewed on the website. We try to complete this process within 24 hours after the Council meeting ends.

Anita Likens, 157 E 1st St. – Two years ago today, she began reading sections of the Constitution. Today she will begin with what the founding fathers felt were the most important, the first three articles that address Congress powers, Executive powers of the President, and then the powers of the Supreme Court and judicial system. Mrs. Likens read Sections 1 & 2 of Article 1 before running out of time.

Committee Reports

Personnel & Finance Committee –

- *Councilman Eades* – Finance Committee members and some Council members had an informal training session with the City Auditor. We learned a lot of information on the reports that are out there and how to read those. A little bit about what we can see in the future. The Personnel & Finance Committee's first meeting of the year will be next Monday, 2/5/24 at 5:30pm in the conference room to the right of the stage. We're going to try and record it on ZOOM, so we can have it for records later.
- *Councilwoman Treynor* – Next meeting is 2/13/24 at 5:30pm

Public Service Committee –

- *Councilman Hitt* – next meeting is 2/13/24 at 5:00pm.

Public Safety Committee –

- *Councilman Hays* – BPU notes:
    - This is from Richard Duncan, Waste Water Superintendent
        - I have the screw press equipment, scheduled delivery March 24, 2024. Equipment installation expected to take 3-4 months and begin June 2024.
        - Hired a new Assistant Waste Water Operator on 12/11/2023, Mark Fisher. He's making good progress and a valuable addition to the team.
        - Septic and grease, 350,635 gallons, was accepted from 23 waste haulers. Total revenue of $27,796.75.
        - Sanitation notes – getting new tires for units 19 & 20 this week. Spoke to Les Geyman before meeting. They are here. Unit 2's engine should be installed this week. The old engine was beyond repair.
        - New employee, Kevin Crossly, is working out really well. Still short one person. Will keep running the ad. They currently have five employees including him.
        - New trash cans will be in at the end of January.
        - First Public Safety meeting of the year will be 2/13/24 at 6:00pm.
    - *Councilman Eades and Councilman Hays* – Discussed the possibility of lowering water rates, since the transfer to Mid-Ohio, but the BPU board declined the request.
- *Councilman Peters* – I just want to add, February 13th the Law Director is

going to do an informal training for City Council. She'll go through basic information on public meetings, public records, procedural issues and answer all of your questions. Again, that will be at 7:00pm on 2/13/24.

City Official Reports

Mayor – not in attendance

Safety Service Director – Rex Castle, just want to reiterate, that we had equipment issues last County meeting. I had our support person sign in and find the issue. He found that our settings were a little screwy in the system. He questions if somebody had been messing with it. I told him nobody has access to it except me and I wasn't in there. He suggested re-starting the equipment. Once re-started, the settings were al back to what they were. The support person suggested that a power flux or power failure may have caused a system reboot and during the reboot another power failure caused the system to go into a locked-up state. I sent an email to Council President informing him that I'm going to check the equipment before each Council meeting. To make sure everything is working. Seems to be working tonight. I do have several items that I'll be bring to the committees. I just wanted to give you a heads up.

Councilman Eades – Mr. Castle, just because you're in the report section, curiously, is 4th Street closed due to an issue or the trail?

Mr. Castle – It's due to the trial.

Auditor – not in attendance

Old Business

ORDINANCE 238-23 - Sponsored by Henry Comer – An ORDINANCE amending official zoning map. 216 E. First St., London, OH from M1 to R3.

Public Hearing scheduled for 2/15/24

Discussion – *Councilman Norman, Council President Peters*, and Safety Service Director Castle discussed the usage of this property and if any plans have been submitted for review. It was determined that the property is being split to sale.

3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 101-24 - Sponsored by Rich Hayes - A RESOLUTION authorizing the advertisement for bids for personal property no longer needed for city purposes. The City owns the personal property a 2005 Ford F150. Said personal property is no longer needed by the City for its purposes and wishes to dispose of the property in accordance with law.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

New Business

RESOLUTION 103-24 - Sponsored by: Rich Hays - A RESOLUTION authorizing the Board of Public Utilities to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the lease of the city farm

Councilman Hays – The City farm contract has to be advertised for five weeks per the new law.

Les Geyman, Superintendent of Sanitation – The farm is 164 acres of tillable ground. The new contract will be for two years, instead of three years. As what we've done in the past. The sooner we get it out, we can get more bids.

Discussion – *Councilman Eades, Councilman Norman*, Safety Service Director Castle and Les Geyman about the current usage of the land, past practice, and how these kinds of requests should be added to other resolutions that don't need to come to Council for approval.

Councilman Norman – I'd like to make a motion to amend the resolution. I'd like to amend the following:

1. Remove "**WHEREAS,** this legislation must be an emergency for the renter to be able to prepare for the upcoming planting season;".
2. Remove Section 2 "That this Resolution is hereby declared an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the City to take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage".
3. Replace Section 2 with "Shall take effect and be in full force from and after the earliest period allowed by law".

Discussion – Safety Service Director Castle, Councilman Eades, Council President Peters, Councilwoman Treynor on how this legislation is listed as an emergency and why is it an emergency based on, "...necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the City…". Questions referred to the City Law Director for clarification. Long discussion regarding the five weeks of advertising and the need to pass this now, so farmers can plant on time. There was also discussion regarding the contract and City Council approval, again, referred to the City Law Director for guidance.

Motion to Amend the RESOLUTION as stated by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman McDaniels. The motion failed with 2 in favor and 5 against by voice vote.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion failed with 4 in favor and 3 against by voice vote.

Round Table

Councilman Eades – Today is 2/1/24. It's a historical day that Mrs. Likens came back to read the Constitution to us once again. It's actually the start of Black History Month. So, I got to thinking about this and I don't mean to forget anyone, but in my life time I remember people serving on City Council or many other ways.

- Bussy Hollaway was on City Council for a long time.
- Fred Scurry was the Law Director. When Fred was first put in the position, from what I heard, he was considered a brilliant man and made a lot of changes to our Codified Ordinances at the time.
- Betty Scott served relatively recent on City Council. She was a true champaign for her ward. I really appreciated that she stood up for her ward.
- Brenda Russell was our most recent member on Council. She was the Chairperson of Finance. She served 2-3 terms; I don't recall exactly.
- Marilyn Hall is actually Brenda's sister who is on the Parks & Rec committee. At least according to the city website. She's a true champaign for that also.
- Vicky Victor was the Chairperson of the Civil Service Commission for many years.
- Cecil Herman worked for the Street Department for many years.
- George, his last name may have been Jenkins. George was the man who lost his arm. He went around with a broom and a scoop shovel and he would work up and down High Street.

Councilman Eades - Today I received a BPU bill electronically; which I've never requested for that format.

Rex Castle – It has the announcement of the switch over and she wanted it to go to everyone.

Discussion – Councilman Eades, Councilman Norman, and Safety Service Director Castle discussed any updates of the transition of Mid-Ohio. Employees from water, sewer, and the water office employees will move to Mid-Ohio on 3/10/24. Other transitions are scheduled throughout the year. Weighed in on the finalization of the transition and how billing will be going forward.

Councilman McDaniels – I think it's kind of absurd that we are in such a hurry to rent off some farm land to get bids, but we didn't get any bids to give away $60 million of our assets in the Water Department. No bids for that.

Councilman Hays – Thanks to all city employees for jobs well done.

Councilman Hitt – Public Service committee is on 2/13/24 at 5:00pm in the meeting room.

Councilwoman Treynor – Finance meeting on Monday at 5:30pm.

Councilman Stahl – nothing

Councilman Norman –

- I was also going to mention that today is the 1st day of Black History Month. It started out as a week of recognition in 1926. In 1976 it became a monthlong celebration. Every year there is a theme and this year it's "African Americans and the Arts". The next several weeks there will be activities at the library and on TV. I hope we all explore and recognize and enjoy those contributions.
- March 19th for the presidential primary. For London it's also another chance to vote for our Fire/EMS are fully funded. I encourage everyone to not forget that this is on the ballet. Weather you fare for it or against it, I'd like to see some people come out and place your vote.
- Public Service committee is on 2/13/24 at 5:00pm.
- I have one final issue; I'd like to see if we can get some information about. The space here in City Hall, space that should be designated to City Council. Councilman Eades brought this up 2 ½ months ago. The Administration said that it could be looked into. So, my question is 2 ½ months later, what exactly does "look into" mean and has it been "looked into"? I myself had a couple of meetings with members of the community and met with one of them at a business. I have to scramble to find a place to have these meetings. Going to a Coffee Shop is ok, but to be able to bring them into this building, a place where we can meet. So, the public can't listen in on the conversations. I also feel we need that space, more so for our Council Clerk. I watch her come in for these meetings and basically has to unpack. I feel at least our Clerk has a designated secured area. If she doesn't want to take everything home, she can leave it on her desk, leave and lock the door. Can we set some kind of time line and who needs to do it? I'm willing to come out and move furniture from one room to another. It's not beneath me.
- I'd like to invite those who are watching the meeting, to come to the meeting in person, and I appreciate those who are here.
- Again, thank those who voted for me and allowing me to serve.

President Peters – Regarding office space, you can meet here during business hours.

Councilman Norman – I think we need Council and the Administration to be separate. Council needs a designated spot in this building.

Rex Castle – We've tossed around a few ideas. Right now, unless we do some

construction, there's no open spaces available. Upstairs isn't conducive for offices. It's used for storage. It's not handicap accessible. I wouldn't recommend taking people up there to meet. It's good for storage. With Mid-Ohio taking over, there plans are to build their own building with offices. That would open up potential space.

Councilman Norman – So we could potential have the space where BPU is currently?

Rex Castle – They occupy two spaces.

Councilman Norman – I don't think the BPU should take priority over Council. IF that room/office isn't going to be used, maybe we could start there.

Rex Castle – I can check into it. I don't know their plans.

President Peters – Thanks to everyone for coming out this evening. Next Council meeting is 2/15.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:18pm

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

Kris Miller, Council Clerk

2/15/24
Date

Josh Peters, Council President

2/15/24
Date