RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of London City Council Meeting
Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD
Held March 7, 2024 20

London City Council

20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140

March 7, 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, Councilwoman Treynor, Councilman Norman, Councilman Hitt, Councilman Stahl*

Absent - none

Minutes – Approval of February 15, 2024 minutes, approved by unanimous voice vote

Public Hearing - none

Communications/Announcements –

President Peters – Reminded everyone that the Fire/EMS levy is on the primary ballot on March 19th, please get out and vote! Also, the language on the ballot is missing the "*temporary increase to the municipal income tax by twenty five hundredths of one percent (0.25%) per annum for a set period of time of seven (7) years, commencing July 1, 2024*", per Resolution 233-23 adopted at the December 7, 2023 Council meeting.

Mayor's appointment for the Planning Commission, Joe Moser – approved by unanimous voice vote.

Eve Breedlove, Executive Assistant Administration, PowerPoint presentation on Event Feedback Survey Results – Video recording available on YouTube.

Downtown Festivals Discussion – Town Hall discussion. Video recording available on YouTube.

Audience Concerns

Vincent Morse, 134 N. Main St, - Discussed pedestrian safety and Walk Friendly Communities. More information online at National Safety Council. Also, brought

current pot hole issues to the administration attention and how Bill Long responded quickly and filled in the pot hole. I'd like to thank Bill Long's 40 years of work to better London. Ask that outside companies who come into London and dig holes for adding services to London residents to stop digging until previous holes are fixed. Request that the speed limit to be 5 mph on N. Main St. from the Hospital to High St. An eyewitness account of blind spots at crosswalks.

Councilman Eades – Thank you for bringing your witness account to this serious and dangerous issue. Our committee that works with the streets will discuss this at their next meeting.

David Mars, 155 N. Oak St., Discussed the London Marathon and its history, and MeriMac Park fundraiser. April 29th. 4th annual marathon with, so far, 260 people registered. Expect to reach 500 registrants that include 24 US states, Quebec, Netherlands, and Italy. To date, all groups have raised $50,000.

Anita Likens, 157 E. 1st St, Going to read the Inaugural speech (excerpts), but due to the length of the Townhall I will defer to next Council meeting.

Raymond Anthony, 521 Eaton, Asked for an update on the East High water tower up and running. Time frame on when will this tower be functional?

Safety Service Director Castle – We had a meeting yesterday with the EPA to go out and look at the new well that is being dug. 3 months to get the well done. By the way, the water tower has been working for years, it's the water plant that we are working with the EPA on and we are working through barriers of red tape. We'll keep everyone informed.

Councilman Norman – Are we under any EPA order right now? Is that why this is taking so long?

Safety Service Director – I'm not aware of any EPA order. We are waiting for approval from the EPA for the plant production. Right now, there is only one person for the whole state who approves these requests.

Tommy Boyd, 48 N. Main St., 3 items

- Crosswalk awareness. Would like to see an increase of awareness.
- Last Finance meeting there was an approval of $400 - $500,000 for the street department. Is that for the Lincoln storm water?
    - Mayor Closser – That was for tearing down the building next door. It was a reimburse grant. Money went through the county and we had to get the money from them.
- Any update on the sewer project?
    - Safety Service Director Castle – The engineers have questions about right aways, water and sewer lines, as they develop the bid. They just sent those out this week. In the process of answering those questions. As soon as we get all the engineering pieces finished, we're going out to bid. The bulk of that project is paid through

OBWC loan. $700,000 grant and a $1.2 million low interest loan.

- Playground at MeriMac,
  - Safety Service Director Castle – It was going next to Tolen Street, but there were concerns with flooding issues and being unsafe. Requested by citizens to move to MeriMac Park
- Comprehensive Plan, too expensive?
  - Mayor Closser – Not too expensive, but Council will need to appropriate the funds.
  - Safety Service Director – We need to put out an RFQ to look at engineer companies.
  - Mr. Boyd - The first step in this should be a Strategic Comprehensive Committee. Have individuals look at all structures of the city. Water, storm, and sewer systems to learn more about the age of our infrastructure and everything going on.
  - Safety Service Director – Our plan is to hire an engineer company to do this work and develop the right kind of committees. Just as you are saying. The city went through a committee in 2013 for a year with documentation and they had no idea on how this should be done. We want to do it right and have a company that knows how to do this right.
- Sewer study coming in May. What study is that for? Storm sewer survey?
  - Safety Service Director - Northeast waste water survey?
  - Mayor Closser - Mid-Ohio will take over water and sewer. We still have storm sewer.

Councilman Norman – (to Administration) - Are we on course with that grant for the 3rd Ward? Are we in any situation that we'll lose any grant money? During that process "Witiker" said over and over again that we have to have this done by August 2024.

Safety Service Director Castle – There are different projects going on. The CBDG grant that's through the county is opening for bids, I think, next week. From what I understand they are on schedule and we are not in any danger.

Committee Reports

Personnel & Finance Committee –

- *Councilman Eades* – Meet on 3/11/24 at 5:30pm in the conference room and it will be recorded using ZOOM.
- *Councilman Hitt* -
- *Councilwoman Treynor* -

Public Service Committee –

- *Councilman Hitt* – Next meeting is Tuesday, 3/12 at 5:00pm in the conference room.

- *Councilman Norman* – Next meeting is 3/12 at 5:00pm in the conference room. Come on out.
- *Councilman McDaniels* – nothing to report

Public Safety Committee –

- *Councilman Hays* – Next Public Safety meeting is 3/12 at 6pm in the conference room.
    - *BPU notes* – 2/22/24
    - EPA restrictions
    - Water is over chlorinated. Hardness at 130.
    - Bearing went out at plant, County Water used
    - Water Dept. As of this meeting there are 1400 meters left to install.
    - New Wall being built at the plant.
    - Unit 2 update. New head did not fix the engine problems. The truck needs a new engine, currently looking at new verses used.
    - Trash cans order has been delivers. 95 gallons
    - Tires for unit 19 & 20 have been installed
    - Load of recycle tires have been picked up
    - Screw Press Contract Schedule revised:
        - Due to equipment delays, coming from Europe, the revised schedule is as follows:
            - Begin construction: May
            - Screw Press Delivery: June
            - Project Completion and Start up: August (previously June)
    - Waste water treatment plant – Dan Leavitt evaluated the condition of the sludge digestion system. Helped staff with repairs, training, maintenance, and created a list of repairs that still need completed.
    - Plant personnel cleaned all the sewers on Stump Lane and Deger Street to prevent future backups, following a call from resident.
    - The thickened primary sludge pump failed, which prevents us from accepting grease from septic haulers, and affects revenues. It's 20 years old.
    - The position of Lead Operator remains vacant. Mid-Ohio will be making the hire.

- In January, 251,925 gallons of septage and grease was received from 20 waste haulers. Total revenue generated was $16,627.75.

- Councilman Eades – Dan Leavitt, is he now an employee or a consultant?
  - Mayor Closser – He came down to consult
- Councilman Norman – With a question. Heard from a citizen asking when is the city going to fix the leaking water going down the street from 1st to S. Main St.
  - Mayor Closser – It's a water leak and it's a valve. We've been waiting on the part. The part just came in and now we are waiting on the company to come in and fix it. We write an email every other day to come in and fix this problem.
  - Councilman Norman – Follow up question. Who is going to pay for all the lost water for the past several months.
  - Mayor Closser – It's not on a meter. The loss is on the city.
  - Councilman Eades – Somewhere in front of Taco Bell on High St., there's also a leak there.
  - Mayor Closser – We have not heard that, but Mid-Ohio or Bill may have. Can you shoot us an email and we'll take a look at that tomorrow.
  - Councilwoman Treynor – The company who will fix the valve, are they under contract with the city?
  - Mayor Closser – yes, they are a 3rd party. This fix can only be done by a few people and they want to do it over the weekend. We are working with them to make this happen.
- *Councilman McDaniels* – nothing to report
- *Councilman Stahl* – nothing to report

City Official Reports

Mayor – Welcome Councilman Stahl back after his surgery. I appreciate the citizens coming out and Eve for being an asset to the city.

Safety Service Director – Councilman Norman, I looked it up on the Messenger website and the bid is opening up on 3/12 at 10:50am at the Courthouse (3rd Ward).

Old Business

3rd Reading

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.

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

2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 104-24 - Sponsored by Greg Eades - A RESOLUTION authorizing the Auditor to transfer funds during 2024. City Council approved legal fund transfers as part of the City's annual 2023 budgetary resolution, Ordinance 231-23.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 0 against by voice vote.

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

RESOLUTION 105-24 - Sponsored by Shannon Treynor - A RESOLUTION authorizing the Auditor to increase appropriations and transfer funds. There are street repairs that are needed; and the funds cannot be transferred without sufficient authorization and appropriation from Council.

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

Move to 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 106-24 - Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt - A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The Tax Department is in need of an online software upgrade.

Leave for 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 107-24 - Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor - A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The lot where the Community Center was previously located needs additional work to be completed.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 against by voice vote.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Stahl, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 against by voice vote

RESOLUTION 108-24 - Sponsored by: Greg Eades - A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The Police Department is in need of replacing an unmarked cruiser.

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

Leave for 3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 109-24 - Sponsored by: Michael Norman - A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director and/or the Mayor to apply for various grants throughout the 2024 calendar year.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hays, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 against by voice vote.

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

New Business

RESOLUTION 110-24 - Sponsored by: Josh Peters - A RESOLUTION adopting the recommendations of the tax incentive review council

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 111-24 - Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt - A RESOLUTION authorizing the safety service director to advertise for bids and enter into contract for Americans with disabilities act (ADA) compliant ramps throughout the city

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hitt, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried with 7 in favor and 0 against by voice vote.

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

RESOLUTION 112-24 - Sponsored by: Michael Norman - A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The City is funding the annual July 4th fireworks.

Motion to suspend the 3-reading rule by Councilman Hays, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 6 in favor and 1 against by voice vote.

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

RESOLUTION 113-24 - Sponsored by: Josh Peters - RESOLUTION authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2024

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 114-24 - Sponsored by: Brent McDaniel - A RESOLUTION assessing the costs of the removal of high grass and weeds

Leave for 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 115-24 - Sponsored by: Rich Hays - An ORDINANCE amending section 1464 of the Codified Ordinances

Leave for 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 116-24 - Sponsored by: Rich Hays - An ORDINANCE amending section 1244 of the Codified Ordinances

Leave for 2nd Reading

ORDINANCE 117-24 - Sponsored by: Rich Hayes - An ORDINANCE amending section 1242 of the Codified Ordinances

Leave for 2nd Reading

Round Table

Councilman Norman – I appreciate everyone who came out tonight and especially for those who stayed. Councilman McDaniels and I went to a seminar and the Lt. Governor said something that stuck with me, "our progress will move at the speed of trust". I've been going door to door and informing citizens on the Fire/EMS Levy. I found that there is a trust issue against our "local government". They fill that we failed them in the past. It's something I feel we need to work on and improve our transparency. Another concern, Council doesn't have a designated place or more access to City Hall to do Council work. Next Public Service 3/12 at 5:00pm. Ward 3 Community meeting here at City Hall, 3/27 at 7:00pm.

Councilman Stahl – Go out and vote!!

Councilwoman Treynor – Conversation with Law Director about proposing a possible transient/hotel tax with everyone in and out of the city. We are working on ideas and different possibilities. As soon as we have something, I'll let you know.

Councilman Hitt – nothing to report

Councilman Hays – 3/12 at 6:00pm in the conference for the next Public Safety meeting. I want to thank all city employees, police and firemen for jobs well done. Thank Council for doing a great job tonight. Last Wednesday we were woken by sirens. Our county got hit, but London didn't suffer any major catastrophe. I drove around and looked at the damage, and we are very lucky that we didn't lose anyone. Election is coming up! Three minutes is the difference between life and death. Please vote for the Fire/EMS levy. Thank you everyone for coming out tonight.

Councilman McDaniels – Thank everyone for coming out tonight for the Town Hall and providing their concerns about the Strawberry Festival. Can we also have a Town Hall regarding our water department before we give it all away? After attending another training session, I really like the idea of having a charter. I'd like to begin the process of being a charter. It gives the people a stronger voice, stream lines a lot of processes, and saves money.

Councilman Eades – I appreciate Vince Morse coming out, Rick too. Quick question, getting prepared for the solar eclipse. I had someone ask if the city is going to have

glasses or something?

Mayor Closser – The library is doing the glasses and giving up to 7 glasses to each family. The learning lunch box we do with COSI, this year we should be getting things for the eclipse for the 2nd graders at London Elementary, St. Patrick School, and Fairhaven School. Anything leftover we'll send to the library.

President Peters – I just want to Thank everyone for coming up. Remind everyone that the Fire/EMS Levy is taxed on earned income, not on retirement, social security, Medicare…etc.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:21pm

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

Kris Miller, Council Clerk

Josh Peters, Council President

3/20/24
Date

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