

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

## London City Council

Casto &amp; Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held 20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140 20

March 16, 2023 at 6:30pm

## Minutes

**Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

Present – Councilman Eades, Councilman Peters, Council President Comer, Councilman Hays, Councilman Hitt, Councilman Stahl

Absent – Councilman Robinson

Guest(s) – Cole Antle with Andy Warnock and Westwood Collective

**Minutes**

The minutes were approved by a unanimous Voice Vote.

**Public Hearing**

*The motion to enter Public Hearing moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**5th Reading**

ORDINANCE 118-23 Sponsored by John Stahl -A resolution adopting the recommendations of the planning commission for preliminary development plan. **Public Hearing 3/16**

The motion to enter to read by title or number moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

- Councilman Stahl – Keny Station Apartments has changed their plans from 2 entrances to 1 and changed the number of apartments to 55 units.
- Councilman Hays – Expressed concerns of safety hazards with an additional 110+ cars driving on Keny Blvd, road overload and overworked. He also brought attention to the 400 people living in the condos who are scared and not happy. They have concerns of people coming into their private community and too many uncertainties. Councilman Hays states that he's against this proposal.
- Councilman Peters – This will be a great addition for London

- Councilman Stahl – When Keny Blvd was built, it was meant to have a middle turn lane in the future.

~~Held~~ Council President Comer – Asked Bill if the turning lane will fit. 20

- Mayor Closser – Responded by stating that they have measured Lafayette, 44 feet wide, and Keny Blvd is 40 feet wide.
- Councilman Hitt – Will there be a traffic light added at Keny Blvd and High Street (SR 142).
- Mayor Closser – Responded by stating they are looking at a possible traffic light at Keny Blvd and High Street (SR 142).
- Rex Castle – We did a traffic survey last summer and showed it didn't merit a light.
- Councilman Eades – There are 40-60 employees at the ADS office who use to use Keny Blvd before it closed. Peters owns the lot next to the Madison County Chambers of Commerce, will this limit their growth?
- Council President Comer – We don't want to limit growth

#### Audience comments:

- Jamilin Wilson, 850 Circle Drive, Trucks driving on Keny Blvd shake her condo when they go by and concerned with added traffic. Asked if there is an alternate access to the apartments.
- Michelle Durban, 520 Brandon Street, Worried about people coming into the private condo area that don't belong. Difficulty turning into the condos and cars passing on the right. States that she has safety concerns.
- Council President Comer – Will there be lights on Keny Blvd?
- Mayor Closser – The change from 2 exits out of the apartments to 1 because one of the exits lined up directly across from the condo exit. The new entrance/exit will not line up with the condo entrance/exit. This eliminates a need for a traffic light.
- Joyce Boyd, 600 Brandon Street, Concerned with any children living at the new apartments being so close to traffic on Keny Blvd and senior citizen's slow response. Fears children being hit on Keny Blvd.
- Don Hartly, 627 Circle Drive, Asked for more information on where the one entrance/exit to the new apartments will be located. Mayor Closser provided a detailed description.
- Developer (Mark?) – Provided drawings and pictures to the audience and council members. There will be 5 handicap spots and Mayor Closser stated they'll have to meet the code. Councilman Eades asked if there will be stairs or elevators and the Developer stated stairs with fire suppression. There will be around 18 1 bedroom apartments and around 37 2 bedroom apartments. He will be personally managing the apartments.
- Charlotte Hirst, 511 Brandon Street, Keny Blvd is not wide enough for a middle turn lane.
- No other questions

*The motion to close Public Hearing moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

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**Communications/Announcements** - NoneMarch 16<sup>20</sup> 23**Audience Concerns**

- Cole Antle with Andy Warnock and Westwood Collective – Available to answer any questions or concerns regarding the 3 abatements on Main Street. Provided a drawing of what the project will look like when complete. Comer requested a photo be added to the website. All agree the drawing looks great and look forward to the completion of this project.

**Committee Reports***Personnel and Finance Committee –*

- Councilman Eades attended the meeting and states that most of the legislation that will be reviewed tonight under New Business, came from this committee.
- Councilman Peters also attended and states everyone will hear more during legislation discussion.

*Public Service Committee – nothing to report**Public Safety Committee –*

- Councilman Hays attended Special meeting with BPU Board to discuss tap fees for developers on new construction. No action taken. Attended Public Safety Committee meeting on 3/8/2023, accepted Police Chief's report and approved Fire Department report. Safety Service Director Castle discussed storm water and sum pump regulations for new builds. Legislation on this evening's agenda and next meeting that came from this committee: Feral Cat legislation will be submitted for the April 6 London City Council meeting, Federal appropriations for new Rec. facility, approved EPA revolving loan for a \$1.2 million High Street project, train safety and setting speed limits while traveling through the City of London. Rumors of hiding the new fire truck are false. The fire truck is parked inside the Fire Station garage being out fitted for service. These rumors need to stop.
- Councilman Hitt – Police Department report. The Police Department is conducting the hiring process. Recently accepted B. Bennett as a lateral hire. Received an Architectural design renovation estimating \$4,000. Project is paused pending possible federal grant. Working with Congressmen Carey's office to apply for federal funding grant of \$12 million construction on new Police Department building. Flock safety project has an estimated completion in 2 months. 7 license plate readers across the city. This will alert officers to potential crimes. 3 minor cruiser crashes, adding to the 2 from earlier this year. Car 15 is out of service, waiting on engine repair and Car 19 is also out of service for recall repairs.
- Councilman Stahl – Fire Department report. The Fire Department has conducted departmental fire and EMS training. Conducted hands only CPR to High School seniors

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and taught CPR to staff at London Health Rehab, Madison Senior Living, and St. Patrick's

Early Learning Center. Provided presentation for Fire Safety at Seaton. Prevention  
 Held maintenance on rescue tools. Physical fitness for full and part-time employees. Worked  
 with Lieutenant Assessment Center.

## City Official Reports

Present – Mayor Closser, Rex Castle, Kenna Combs

Mayor Closser –

- Attended Healthy Children & Family Consortium meeting. A community Baby Shower will be held on April 12, 2023 at the Mt. Sterling Community Center. Event is for new and expecting mothers. Many items and helpful resources will be available.
- Legislation being presented this evening for property tax abatement on 3 buildings in downtown London. 22, 106-114, & 116-122 South Main Street. This proposal will allow for developer to renovate these properties and bring new business to the downtown area. The company is very community oriented and has completed property developments in Old Hilliard and Plain City. The tax abatement is for 15 years on all development costs. The property will still be responsible for taxes on current property value.
- Spoke with local schools, including Tolles Careers and Technical Center, and their leadership feels this tax abatement won't hinder their schools. However, their boards have not expressed their support or concerns.
- The Local Government Fund reduced beginning in 2011 under Governor Kasich term and has continued to the current 1.66% level. This reduces availability from the General Revenue Funds. The Ohio General Assembly has significantly reduced the Local Government Fund. The sudden revenue loss has made it tougher on us to help rebuild out infrastructure. I hope you pass this legislation to reinstate this funding and support the lobbying at the Statehouse.
- The Park & Rec legislation that will be presented this evening is for resurfacing the ball fields in our parks. We received estimates close to \$70,000. However, we are attempting to complete this project in-house to reduce the cost. They've started removing a layer of the dirt and will report back to me if this project can remain in-house.
- There's legislation presented this evening for replacing the curbs at the South Walnut sidewalk project. The grant we received for the sidewalk improvement did not cover curb replacement. Our crews attempted to save the curbs; however, they are very deteriorated and in need of replacement.
- I met with aptegy Communications Specialist regarding updating or develop a new City website that includes an app for cell phone access. This will allow for the City website be more accessible to the citizens of London, more user friendly for city and council staff.
- Attended the Madison County Public Health Advisory Board meeting. Election and appointments were conducted, with Dana Fisher being confirmed as the City of London's representative board member.

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- Finalized application for FY 2024 Ohio 15 Community Project funding. The funding of \$2,852,222 would be used to build a new Rec Center. Ohio 15 funding will also be used to build a new Police Department. 20

- I'd like to thank Congressman Mike Carey and his staff, especially Mr. Abdoulaye Dieng, for all their help.
- A special thank you to the executive assistant Amy Rees for all her hard work and research on this project. She's been valuable to this project.
- Council President Comer expressed his thanks to the Congressman and his staff for their assistance with several grant application and support.

## Old Business

### *Tabled Items*

**ORDINANCE 151-22 Sponsored by Rich Hays.** An Ordinance amending official zoning.

### *3rd Reading*

**RESOLUTION 130-23 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt.** A resolution adopting the recommendations of the planning commission for preliminary development plan **Public Hearing 4/6**

**ORDINANCE 131-23 Sponsored By: John Stahl.** An ordinance amending official zoning map **Public Hearing 4/6**

## New Business

**RESOLUTION 132-23 Sponsored by: Greg Eades and Henry Comer.** A Resolution increasing appropriations. There is grant money available to purchase equipment for the School Resource Officer; and the available funds must be appropriated prior to expenditure.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**RESOLUTION 133-23 Sponsored by: Josh Peters.** A Resolution increasing appropriations. The Street Department needs to replace a plow truck that was totaled in an accident; and the available funds must be appropriated prior to expenditure.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**RESOLUTION 134-23 Sponsored by: Josh Peters.** A Resolution increasing appropriations. The ball fields at Merri Mac Park and on Park Ave need improvements; and the available funds must be appropriated prior to expenditure.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

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**RESOLUTION 135-23 Sponsored by: Josh Peters.** A Resolution increasing appropriations. The ball fields at Merri Mac Park and on Park Ave need improvements; and the available funds must be appropriated prior to expenditure 20

*The motion to move to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**RESOLUTION 136-23 Sponsored by: Greg Eades.** A Resolution increasing appropriations. The City needs to replace the curbs around the former Community Center; and the sidewalks and curbs that were torn up during demolition; and the available funds must be appropriated prior to expenditure.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**RESOLUTION 137-23 Sponsored by: Josh Peters.** A Resolution adopting the recommendations of the tax incentive review council.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**RESOLUTION 138-23 Sponsored by: Rich Hays.** A Resolution urging the legislative branches of the Federal Government as well as the State of Ohio to enact legislation to further protect the citizens of the City of London, Ohio from the inherent dangers of a train derailment on the tracks located at near our city and declaring an emergency.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**RESOLUTION 139-23 Sponsored by: Rich Hays and Henry Comer.** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of London, Ohio to apply for an Ohio EPA water supply revolving loan account (WSRLA) on behalf of the City of London for construction of the North Main Street water main replacement project, designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan, and declaring an emergency.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 4 in favor and 1 against by voice vote*

*The motion to move to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

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**RESOLUTION 140-23 Sponsored by: Josh Peters.** A Resolution strongly urging the Ohio Governor and members of the Ohio General Assembly to restore the Local Government Fund to pre-recession Levels. 20

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**ORDINANCE 141-23 Sponsored by: Greg Eades and Henry Comer.** An Ordinance approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a community reinvestment area agreement, and declaring an emergency.

*The motion to move to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**ORDINANCE 142-23 Sponsored by: Greg Eades and Henry Comer.** An Ordinance approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a community reinvestment area agreement, and declaring an emergency.

*The motion to move to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**ORDINANCE 143-23 Sponsored by: Greg Eades and Henry Comer.** An Ordinance approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a community reinvestment area agreement, and declaring an emergency.

*The motion to move to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**RESOLUTION 144-23 Sponsored by: Greg Eades and Henry Comer.** A Resolution authorizing the safety service director to trade in property unneeded, obsolete, or unfit for municipal purposes.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**ORDINANCE 145-23 Sponsored by: Josh Peters.** An Ordinance amending section 1476 of the codified Ordinances.

*The motion to move to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**ORDINANCE 146-23 Sponsored by: Josh Peters.** An Ordinance amending Section 1476 of the codified Ordinances.

Held \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

*The motion to move to 2<sup>nd</sup> reading moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**RESOLUTION 147-23 Sponsored by: Henry Comer.** A Resolution requesting financial assistance. The Federal Government, through the Community Project Funding Program, administers financial assistance for Local Governments; and the City of London desires financial assistance under this program would be used to support the London Police Department in building a new facility.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

**RESOLUTION 148-23 Sponsored by: Henry Comer.** A Resolution requesting financial assistance. The Federal Government, through the Community Project Funding Program, administers financial assistance for Local Governments; and the City of London desires financial assistance under this program to support The Parks and Recreation Department in building a new recreation facility.

*The motion to suspend readings and adopt resolution moved by Councilman Hays, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilman Stahl. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote*

### Round Table

Councilman Eades – Glad people came to the meeting to discuss the apartment complex. I'm glad to see people get involved and provide different views and prospective. I saw a post on Facebook regarding the road next to the London Visual Arts Gild and how bad the condition it has become. Councilman Eades wasn't sure if that was within the city limits and asked Safety Service Director Castle, who replied that they research this complaint and make any needed repairs.

Councilman Peters – Thanks to everyone for coming out.

Councilman Hays – Thanks to everyone for coming out. I need to clarify previous statement regarding motorcycles driving through condos parking areas. Kids come in on dirt bikes and run through splash ways. Called Police who advised them to leave and after the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, we have not seen them return.

Councilman Hitt – Thank you for all the city employees for everything you do. Next Public Safety Committee meeting is April 11 at 5pm.

Councilman Stahl – Tonight marks a ¼ of the year and look at all the legislation we passed. We are turning the corner for the City of London.

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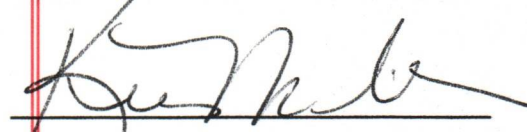
Council President Comer – I want to thank everyone for coming out. It's good to see all the growth coming to the city. People are taking notice of London.

Held

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**Adjournment**

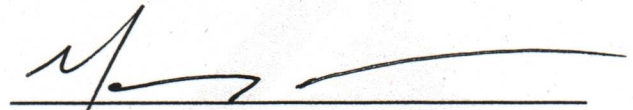
Council President Comer call the meeting to adjourn at 8:47p.m.

**Approved minutes April 6, 2023**

Kris Miller, Council Clerk

4/7/23

Date



Henry Comer, Council President

4/20/23

Date