

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

LONDON CITY COUNCIL Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held

APRIL 21 20 22

London City Council
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140
April 21, 2022 at 6:30pm

Minutes

Council President, Henry Comer, called the regular meeting of the London City Council to order at 6:30pm. He led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silent reflection.

Council members present: Henry Comer, Rich Hays, Andrew Hitt, John Stahl, Anthony Smith, Josh Peters, Bryan Robinson and Greg Eades

The minutes of the April 7, 2022 meeting were approved as written

COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS – none presented

AUDIENCE CONCERNS

Michael Norman – 188 S. Oak Street, London, Ohio 43140

- Stated that he has monitored other cities and have found that several cities stream their meetings live on Facebook and answer instant messages from the online audience. He stated that he believes the city should do this for all committee and Council meetings and asked Council if they have future plans to do so.

Phyllis Hicks – 400 Circle Drive, London, Ohio 43140

- Asked who decides what residents pay taxes and how the tax rate is determined. She suggested that the city use a sliding scale fee to benefit those with lower incomes.
- President Comer stated that he would get more information about this and relay it to her
- Councilman Eades stated that City Council can determine the tax rate or a petition could be signed by citizens to place a different tax rate on the ballot.

Jackie Call – 253 Jacqueline Drive, London, Ohio 43140

- Ms. Call made the following statements:
 - Sewage backed up into the basement of her business at 24 S. Main Street due to a clog of the main sewer line, several feet away for her building
 - A neighboring business had a water leak during this time and after the repairs, a water leak is still present
 - There are potholes in the alley that continually need repairs
 - There is a breakdown of communication within the city
 - That she is on the upcoming Board of Public Utilities meeting agenda
 - That she should not be responsible for the damages to her business
- Ms. Call asked who was responsible for ensuring vacant building owners are maintaining their sewer and water lines.
 - Mr. Long, City Street Superintendent, said that all property owners are responsible for their lateral line from their property to the main lines.
- Ms. Call asked for a reinspection after all repairs are fixed

David Mars – 155 N. Oak Street. London, Ohio 43140

- Stated that he believes that Ms. Call has grounds for a law suit against the city
- Promoted the upcoming London Marathon taking place on April 30 at 7:00am. A half-marathon and 5k are also taking place along the same route and that the half-marathon is the second fastest race in Ohio. 200 participants are expected.

Tommy Boyd – 48 N. Union Street, London, Ohio 431401

- Asked if the city knew that the Community Center would be unusable and youth programs would not be able to take place when it was decided to put the tax levy on the May 3rd ballot.
 - Mayor Closser explained that no one has stated that youth programs would not happen if the levy fails
- Mr. Boyd asked what the cost would be to renovate the current gymnasium
 - Mr. Castle explained that the cost to renovate the current facility would far exceed the cost to build a new community center
 - Mayor Closser stated that funds from the current general fund would have to be used to make any improvements to the gymnasium. If the levy passes, all new money will be used for the new facilities, leaving more money in the general fund for other projects, such as infrastructure repairs.

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COMMITTEE REPORTSAnthony Smith – Board of Public Utilities Representative

- The Board of Public Utilities is still working as quickly as possible on the east side water plant and that they are waiting in a report from the EPA regarding the ammonia

John Stahl – Safety Service Committee

- Read the March, 2022 London Police report

Andy Hitt – Safety Service Committee

- Read the March, 2022 London Fire/EMS Report

Rich Hays – Public Safety Committee Chair

- Legislation regarding farmland within the city will be presented to Council soon
- Legislation regarding a temporary increase in the Police Department is on the current Council agenda
- The committee postponed making the correction needed to the Police Captain's pay scale
- The next Public Safety Committee meeting will take place May 10, 2022 at 5:00pm.

Bryan Robinson - Public Service Committee Chair

- The next Public Service Committee meeting will take place May 4, 2022 at 6:00pm

Greg Eades – Finance Committee

- Legislation regarding an \$.89 cellular water meter fee to be added to the utility bills is on the current Council agenda
- Legislation regarding cameras and electric at Merri Mac Park is on the current Council agenda
- A capital request for a new police cruiser was discussed. Mr. Castle researched and learned that extra funds from the traffic light project cannot be used for other purposes
- Legislation regarding a temporary increase in the Police Department's strength ordinance is on the current Council agenda
- A correction to the Police Captain's pay scale was postponed
- Legislation regarding a grant from the Ohio Department of Criminal Justice Services for the Police Department is on the current Council agenda
- Mrs. Combs, City Auditor, announced upcoming retirements and resignations and their respective payouts

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS – Mayor Closser's report attached**OLD BUSINESS**Ordinance 129-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters – An Ordinance vacating an alley

Motion by Hays to place on third reading, seconded by Stahl

LEFT ON

- The public hearing to discuss this Ordinance was rescheduled to May 19, 2022

Resolution 132-22 – Sponsored by Josh Peters - A Resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2022

Motion by Hays to place on third reading, seconded by Stahl

Motion by Stahl to adopt, seconded by Eades

Roll to adopt: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Smith, yes; Peters, yes PASSED

NEW BUSINESSResolution 134-22 – Sponsored by Bryan Robinson - A Resolution increasing appropriations

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

Motion by Robinson to suspend, seconded by Hays

Roll call to suspend: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Smith, yes

Motion by Hays to adopt, seconded by Stahl

Roll to adopt: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Peters, yes; Smith, yes

PASSED

Resolution 135-22 – Sponsored by Anthony Smith – A Resolution assessing the costs and collecting delinquent water charges

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

Motion by Smith to suspend, seconded by Eades

Roll call to suspend: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Smith, yes; Peters, yes

Motion by Hays to adopt, seconded by Stahl

Roll to adopt: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Smith, yes; Peters, yes PASSED

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Resolution 136-22 – Sponsored by Anthony Smith – A Resolution approving the BPU to apply the cost of the cellular read modular service to water bills

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Robinson

- Councilman Smith explained that there is not a specific assessment amount for the cellular signal in the legislation because the fee may fluctuate by a few cents
- Councilman Peters asked why there is a need to pass the \$.89 fee onto the residents if less manpower will be needed to read the meters. Councilman Smith explained that the Water Department is keeping their existing staff levels and that their efforts will be diverted to more productive projects.
- Councilman Peters stated that he did not feel the assessment should be passed onto the residents because the Water Department is still working on the east side plant and that the city's water is still discolored. Councilman Smith explained that the current discoloration is due to the annual work of flushing the city's fire hydrants

Motion by Smith to suspend, seconded by Stahl

Roll call to suspend: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, no; Smith, yes; Peters, no
LEFT ON

Resolution 137-22 – Sponsored by Anthony Smith – Sponsored by John Stahl – An Ordinance for strengths of job descriptions

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Stahl

Roll call to suspend: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, no; Smith, yes; Peters, yes

Motion by Stahl to adopt, seconded by Robinson

Roll to adopt: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Smith, yes; Peters, yes
PASSED

Resolution 138-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays – A Resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to apply for and accept a grant from the Ohio Department of Criminal Justice Services

Motion by Hays to place on first reading, seconded by Stahl

Motion by Hays to suspend, seconded by Stahl

Roll call to suspend: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, no; Smith, yes; Peters, yes

Motion by Stahl to adopt, seconded by Robinson

Roll to adopt: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Stahl, yes; Eades, yes; Smith, yes; Peters, yes
PASSED

ROUND TABLE

Councilman Eades

- Asked for more information from Councilman Smith on the east side water plant
 - Councilman Smith explained that a well, to test for the presence of ammonia, will be drilled on a nearby property soon. A pilot test of extracting ammonia with bacteria is also underway and awaiting a report from the EPA

Councilman Peters

- Thanked everyone for coming and reminded all to remember to vote on May 3rd

Councilman Robinson

- Announced that the next Public Service Committee meeting will take place on May 4, 2022 at 1:00pm

Councilman Hays

- Thanked those in the audience for their attendance
- Announced that the next Public Safety Committee meeting will take place on May 10, 2022 at 5:00pm
- Asked for prayers for the people of Ukraine
- Reminded everyone to vote on May 3rd
- Asked God to bless London, Ohio

Councilman Hitt

- Thanked those in the audience for their attendance and for their comments and questions
- Reminded everyone to vote on May 3rd

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Councilman Stahl

- Attended the Tree City USA event in Mt. Vernon, Ohio and explained that the City began the Tree City program in 1976 and London became involved in 1984
- Announced that Arbor Day is celebrated on April 29, 2022

Councilman Smith

- Thanked those in the audience for their attendance
- Stated that he is excited about the upcoming London Marathon and that all of the proceeds got to the Merri Mac Miracle Park project.
- Stated that he also excited about all of the progress that the Merri Mac Miracle Park project has made
- Announced that the next Board of Public Utilities meeting will take place on May 26, 2022
- Announced that the final CDBG 3rd Ward grant meeting will take place on May 7, 2022 at 10:00am at City Hall

Council President Comer

- Reminded everyone to vote on May 3rd and stated his belief that if a pool was included in the community center plans, more people may support the levy
- Asked everyone to pray for the people of Ukraine and for freedom

Motion by Hays to adjourn at 8:31pm



Amy Rees, Clerk



Henry Comer, City Council President