September 17, 2020

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

**CLERK CALLED TO ORDER:** Brenda Russell, present; Josh Peters, present; Bryan Robinson, present; Rich Hays, present; Andrew Hitt, present; Carla Blazier, absent; Anthony Smith, present.

**MINUTES** of the previous meeting were approved as received.

**COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Motion by Smith to adjourn to public hearing for Ordinance No. 159-20 An Ordinance Vacating an Alley, second by Robinson. Roll to adjourn to public hearing: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes.

Councilman Hays explained the location of the alley.

Jeff Krieg, 171 North Madison Road, addressed council. He is opposed to the alley closing as it is a shortcut for him. If the alley were to close, he would have to travel four to six additional blocks.

Councilwoman Russell asked if others used the alley.

Mr. Krieg responded that another neighbor uses it every day as the other end of his driveway leading to his garage.

Duane Gamble, Jr., 157 North Oak Street, addressed council. He explained that the alley behind this one is just grass, with a fence behind that alley. The alley being requested to vacate, belongs to him and Adam Shonkwiler. Their main concern is the safety of their children. The turn around radius is very close to his property and people frequently drive in his grass.

Councilwoman Russell asked if the four abutting residents would like the alley vacated.

Mr. Gamble responded “yes”.

Motion by Hitt to adjourn from the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting, second by Hays. Roll to reconvene regular meeting: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes.

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS:** Ms. Leah Baird, 316 Sherman Avenue, coordinator for Madison County Meals on Wheels, presented Mayor Closser with a “spirit” award. Thanking him “berry” much for his support of the program.

Mayor Closser thanked Ms. Baird and shared that she’s been with the program since 1983. If anyone has free time and can volunteer delivering meals, please contact Ms. Baird!

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**: Councilman Smith reported that the new trash trucks are to be delivered Monday.

Anthony Rice, water superintendent, has been consistently checking water samples. Things are looking good, but we’re still a ways out. The EPA has to do their testing. It may be another 8-10 months before everything is completed.

Councilman Hitt reported on the public safety committee meeting There have been many new housing permits issued.

Visitors from the Parks & Trails group Mike Michaels and Gene Pass presented trail maps. They would also like to paint chevrons on the streets, directing bicyclist to the trails.

The safety committee voted to allow the paintings.

They would also like to see “welcome” to London structures.

The next public safety committee meeting is October 13, 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Hays reported on the police and fire department portions of the public safety committee.

Officer Reggie Wilson resigned to take a position in the private sector. The police department is set up to accept online ticket paying. The department received new respirators. Amazon donated disposable masks. They also received a donation of Narcan.

The fire department is continuing inhouse EMS training, was present at the football game, participated in drive-by birthdays, and are continuing LCS training.

Councilman Robinson shared there are plans for the signs recognizing our local outstanding sports figures at the city limits.

The next public safety meeting is October 13th.

Councilman Peters reported on the public serving meeting. The pool closed August 16th. Youth, outdoor volleyball starts this Sunday with 78 kids signed up.

The next public safety meeting is October 14.

Councilwoman Russell reported on the finance committee. The auditor's office reported that revenue is up, and expenses are lower than anticipated.

The city needs to start paying London City Schools the CRA payment. For whatever reason, it hasn't been paid since 2015.

Administration is reviewing the city employee's health options.

The next finance committee meeting is October 5.

**CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS:** Mayor Pat Closser gave his administrative report at this time. Thanked Ms. Baird for her dedication to the "meals to wheels" program in Madison County. He encouraged residents to volunteer their time delivering meals. *(Report attached)*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE NO. 159-20 Sponsored by: Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY (attachment) Motion by Hays to place on 4th reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Hitt. Roll to adopt: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, no; Robinson, yes. **ADOPTED.**

ORDINANCE 163-20 Sponsored by: Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY (attachment) Motion by Hays to place on third reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. A public hearing is scheduled for October 1.
**LEFT ON 3RD READING.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE 178-20 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY (attachment) Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. A public hearing is scheduled for November 5.
**LEFT ON 1ST READING.**

ORDINANCE 179-20 Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY (attachment) Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read. A public hearing is scheduled for November 5.
**LEFT ON 1ST READING**

RESOLUTION 180-20 Sponsored by: Anthony Smith A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED Motion by Hitt to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Councilman Smith explained that the belt press needs to be replaced. They had looked into replacing the centrifuge. This legislation only grants them permission to apply for the grant.

Motion by Smith to suspend rules, second by Hays. Roll to suspend: Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes. **SUSPENDED**.

Resolution 180-20 (con't)

Motion by Smith to adopt Resolution No. 180-20, second by Hays. Roll to adopt: Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 181-20 Sponsored by: Anthony Smith A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Councilman Smith explained this legislation grants the BPU permission to apply for a grant for new, updated meters. Currently, numerous times meter readings are estimated. This will give an up to date information, even indicating increase usage caused by a line break.

Motion by Smith to suspend rules, second b hays. Roll to suspend: Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Robinson. Roll to adopt: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes. **ADOPTED**

ORDINANCE 182-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell AN ORDINANCE SETTING A MONTHLY STORM WATER UTILITY FEE Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robison Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that this water utility line has only been funded by left over capital money. The city needs to start "feeding" into this account. This legislation staggers the increase on residents' water bills over the next five years.

Money is needed to repair and upgrade the current storm water system. The EPA will be asking for the city's plan to take care of the city's infrastructure once the city's population reaches 10,000. We will know in March, once the census comes out, if we reached this mark. A written plan needs to be in place of how we plan to fund this account.

President Comer wanted to know the time frame on submitting the plan. He wondered if it would be more beneficial to wait for the census report to come out.

Councilman Robison pointed out that we have neglected to raise money for our infrastructure. Retention ponds will eventually have to be put in.

Councilman Hitt asked if grants would be available.

Council members Peters and Russell felt there would be.

Councilman Peters understood a good plan is needed for the city, but didn't like jumping right into this. This doesn't give residents time to respond.

Councilman Smith agreed. There have been a lot of infrastructure repairs over the years with new catch basins and pipe being installed. There is a project next year with an anticipated cost is $400,000-$450,000.

He would rather the city submit a plan than have the EPA give us one!

He wondered what the financial impact would be if this is not voted on tonight. He questioned if it would affect the billing cycle. He guesstimated it would cost the city $9,000, not including businesses, if the legislation went for one more reading.

He felt it was important to give residents an opportunity to voice their opinions.

President Comer opinioned it may be more beneficial to wait until the census report comes out, because it may be determined that more money is necessary. A more concrete plan could be presented to the EPA.

Councilman Hitt said it can be amended later if necessary.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules. As there was no second, 182-20 remained on 1st reading.
**LEFT ON 1ST READING.**

RESOLUTION 183-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT A LEVEL 2 ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION GRANT Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Peters. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained this gives administration permission to apply for two electric charging stations. One will be located at Cowling Park and the other in the city's parking lot. The deadline for application is September 30th. It is 100% reimbursable.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules, second by Hitt. Roll to suspend: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peter, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

Motion by Russell to adopt, second by Hitt. Roll to adopt: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters; Robinson, yes. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 184-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained this is additional CARES act money of $49,047.93 There is now a city hall COVID line for CARES Act money to be appropriated into.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules, second by Hitt. Roll to suspend: Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Hitt. Roll to adopt: Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 185-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Hitt. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained this is for a software upgrade for the auditor's office.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules, second by Robinson. Roll to suspend: Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes. **SUSPENDED**

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Robinson. Roll to adopt: Russell, yes; Peters; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 186-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules, second by Hays. Roll to suspend: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes. **SUSPENDED**

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Robinson. Roll to adopt: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 187-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules, second by Hitt. Roll to suspend: Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes. **SUSPENDED**.

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Hitt. Roll to adopt: Hitt, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes. **ADOPTED**.

RESOLUTION 188-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Hays. Clerk read.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules, second by Hays. Roll to suspend: Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Smith, yes. **SUSPENDED**.

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Russell. Roll to adopt: Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION 189-20 Sponsored by Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Motion by Russell to suspend rules, second by Hays. Roll to suspend: Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes. **SUSPEND**

Motion by Hays to adopt, second by Russell. Roll to adopt: Hays, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes. **ADOPTED.**

**ROUND TABLE**

Councilwoman Russell reminded that the next finance committee meeting is October 5.

Councilman Robinson thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

Councilman Hays thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He thanked all the city employees for jobs well done.

He also reminded that the next public safety committee meeting is October 13.

Councilman Hitt said it is good to hear a lot of positive feedback and plans for the city's future.

Councilman Smith thanked the Mayor and administration for providing activities for kids. The outdoor volley ball was a phenomenal idea.

President Comer thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

He thanked the auditor's department for all the hard work they are doing. They are deserving of the new software to help the city run even more smoothly.

**ADJOURNMENT** Motion by Hays to adjourn.

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Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council Henry Comer, Council President