

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

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

MINUTES of the previous meeting were approved as received. All were in favor by responding “aye”.

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARING: President Comer asked for a motion to adjourn to public hearing for Ordinances Nos: 108-20, 147-20, and 149-20.

Motion by Hays to adjourn to a public hearing, second by Hitt. Roll call: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes.

Public hearing for 108-20:

Jessica Mackan 1396 Payne Thompson, addressed council. She expressed her dissatisfaction of the annexation request. The annexation would not benefit her property. She is located right across the street from the property. She fears there will be more traffic with the construction and then with the veterinary clinic.

Heather Armentrout, 1415 Payne Thompson, addressed council. She agreed with Ms. Mackan. She felt the veterinary clinic would create excessive traffic. She was afraid there would be a lot of barking and didn't feel it was a good location for the clinic. They moved to the country to get away from traffic.

Councilman Peters asked if she was aware that the Union Township Association had already approved the annexation.

Mrs. Armentrout was not aware of it.

Councilwoman Russell asked if Union Township had contacted them to make them aware of this annexation request.

Mayor Closser did not know what the township's process was in notifying residents.

Bud Armentrout, 1355 Payne Thompson Rd, addressed council. He explained there was already a drainage issue by the old railroad somewhere. He did not feel that this annexation or the veterinary clinic was beneficial to the area and was not in favor of it.

Councilman Hays asked Mr. Armentrout if he attended the township meeting.

He replied that he had and spoke with them about the drainage situation.

Matt Armentrout 1455 Payne Thompson, addressed council. He was not in favor of the annexation or construction of the veterinary clinic. The annexation does not include his property. He didn't feel that it would benefit him or the neighborhood. He was not in favor of barking dogs. He said he lives in the country for a reason!

Councilman Hays asked Mr. Armentrout if he was aware of the township's public hearing regarding the annexation.

Mr. Armentrout did not. He was only aware of this one.

Councilman Peters explained that this is just for the annexation. This doesn't automatically mean that the building can be constructed. Building and zoning will be another whole different process. This is just to annex the property.

Mr. Armentrout also concurred with Bud Armentrout that there was a drainage issue, creating flooding.

Councilman Hitt asked that if the drainage problem was fix, would it help.

Mr. Armentrout said it would help, but not the excessive noise from the animals.

Councilman Smith explained that he was trying to understand why there is so much opposition to the construction and dogs. He's never lived near a clinic though. He asked if the dogs would be kept outside. He asked if the Sunnyside veterinary clinic or landowners had made people mad in Madison County. He wondered if there would really be that much increase in traffic.

Mr. Armentrout pointed out there would be construction traffic. He also commented that dogs barking can be heard around the human society's building

President Henry reminded that this is just for the annexation. The building is another whole process.

Councilman Hays explained a building request will go to planning commission first where. He recommended that Mr. Armentrout attend that meeting when it is scheduled.

Jonathan Morris, 1425 St Rt. 665, addressed council. He explained that he lives directly across from the property to be annexed. He was against the annexation citing there would be a lot of construction traffic, mud, and dirt.

Councilwoman Russell pointed out that it would only be during the construction of the building, if it's approved.

Councilman Hays asked Mr. Morris if he was aware of the Union Township meeting.

Mr. Morris replied that he was not.

Public hearing for 147-20. There was no opposition for this alley vacation request.

Public Hearing 149-20

Tracee Bennett, 502 Samantha Circle, addressed council. She was opposed to the rezoning request from **R-3 to B-2**. She plans to build on her property. Her backyard is diagonally across from the property in question. She bought it because it is residential. She couldn't remember if the property was empty when she bought her it less than five years ago. There are vehicles on it now.

Cindy Bevens, 15210 Yankeetown-Chenowith, addressed council. She has owned a rental property at 75 Wood Street for 15 years. Mr. Cain's property is unkept. The grass is waist high. There are ground hogs living in it. She's complained many times through the years regarding the property's condition. She is opposed to the rezoning.

REGULAR MEETING: Motion by Hays to reconvene the regular meeting, second by Hitt. Roll to reconvene Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes.

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: Matt Daley, 99 Andrew Court West, addressed council. He expressed his concern with the .5% tax credit being eliminated for those working outside London. He pointed out a lot of cities offer this type of tax credit.

He asked how many taxpayers it would affect and what additional revenue would be created. He felt it should be up to the taxpayers to make this decision.

Councilwoman Russell replied that it would affect 1500 individuals. It would be approximately an additional \$288,000.00. The additional revenue from this ½ percent would go directly to the fire department.

She pointed out that those currently not paying are receiving fire department services for free! It is a fairness issue. It should be paid for equally by all.

Mr. Daily asked why not put it back to the voters if it is a fairness issue. It felt this is being very rushed with no discussion. He asked if the city was under pressure due to a lack of funding.

Councilwoman Blazier expressed that she really hated going back on a promise to the voters but pointed out that this council did not make that .5% tax credit decision. She was very much on the fence about breaking a promise. She said it was either this or raise taxes for everyone. It's only fair to residents to live and work in the city.

Councilwoman Russell added that this has been "hashed out" in many committee meetings. Committee meetings are open to the public.

Councilman Smith pointed out that there are not a lot of facilities to work at here in London. People living and working in London can't afford to pay for everyone. There are houses being built, yet many of those residents work outside of London and receive the tax credit. The fire department needs to grow with the new homes.

Mr. Daily agreed that the fire department needs funded. He thought it would be fairer to have the new households paying for it. He suggested reducing the overall tax rate for now, tax neutral.

He pointed out that citizens have had no chance to say anything about this. He felt there will be a lot of unhappy people having no decision in this. This is a tax increase and it is supposed to be approved by the taxpayers.

Councilwoman Russell reminded that the city did away with the 3% tax mill by taking over the EMS. People don't have to pay that anymore since the city took it over.

Mr. Daily opinioned that technically, the 3% tax only got shifted.

Councilman Hays pointed out the safety services take care of London 24/7. It's a service that is provided to everyone in the city. Property taxes are considerably lower in London than Columbus. Those who work outside the city limits, spend more time at their homes in London. This funding goes directly to the fire department. He was unsure about resending the tax credit at first, but now feels it is a necessity. "Sitting on this side of the table, I think we should to it."

Mr. Daily explained that those 1500 residents will also potentially see other tax increases for the school, library, etc. It will be more us. We had no say in this matter. Council put this on us. Nine people essentially imposing tax without asking the community. It make it hard for us. If you have to go back to the voters for other tax increases, it will be hard to pass. This is a bad way to accomplish this goal.

Mr. Robinson pointed out that the audience concerns do give residents an opportunity to come in and have their voices heard. He understood Mr. Daily's frustration. We are elected to make these types decisions. We are making the decision best for the city.

Councilwoman Blazer said other than raises taxes for everyone, this is the better option for the entire city. There will be future revenue from potential housing.

Councilwoman Russell stated we need to make these decisions. We have to do what is best as the city's finances change. Residents vote us in as council members to make these decisions. Trust us.

Councilman Smith reminded that with the types of jobs in London, residents can't continue to fund the city services for everyone. With new houses development, we ask that they help. He hated taking away the credit too.

Mr. Smith commented that Mr. Daily was the only person, that he's talked to, that has been against this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilwoman Russell shared that the next finance committee meeting is Monday, August 10.

Councilman Peters announced the safety committee will meet Wednesday, August 12.

Councilman Hays informed that there was a special public safety committee meeting July 28. Legislation is on docket this evening as a result of that meeting. The next meeting is Tuesday, August 11.

Councilwoman Blazier offered the worksheet that determined what contractors would be listed in the legislation.

Councilman Smith reported on the Board of Public Utilities meeting. They are hoping to receive the new trash trucks by mid-September.

Dumpsters will be leased to the commercial accounts for additional revenue. The city will continue to service the leased and serving the trash.

The water towers are down to almost 18'. Everything is being pump from the old plant.

The BPU is still working with the EPA to borrow their equipment which would allow the city to perform test on removing the ammonia. If the equipment works, the city could look into getting their own. The city could lease this type of equipment for \$33,000 or wait a week for free equipment.

Councilwoman Blazier asked there were measures in place to ask residents to stop using water if need be.

Mayor Closser explained the steps in place. The haulers will be the first ones that they city would not be able to provide service to. Then, residents would be asked to cut back, but nothing mandatory. If necessary, then it would be mandatory that lawns couldn't be watered, or sprinkles ran, etc. The towers are 40' tall, so when the water drops below 20' there is a some concern.

President Comer noted that getting the new water tower up and running is the BPU's top priority right now.

CITY OFFICIAL REPORTS: Mayor Closser thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He appreciated them expressing their views even though some of them were not London city residents. He gave his administrative report at this time. (see attached)

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 147-20 Sponsored by Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY (attachment) Motion by Hays to place on fifth reading, second by Russell. Clerk read. Councilman Hays reminded the alley is beside the fire department running from High to Fourth Streets. There was no opposition at the public hearing.

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

AMENDED ORDINANCE 141-20 Sponsored by: Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 1446 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES (amended attachment) Motion by Hays to place on fourth reading, second by Robison. Clerk read.

Councilman Hays thanked Mrs. Blazier for the all the work she put into this legislation. He pointed out that the list was trimmed down and redundancies removed. The responsibility of registering, was put solely on the contractor instead of the homeowner having to make sure they are registered.

Councilman Peters wanted to know who is going to enforce this.

Councilman Hays replied the building and zoning administration.

Councilman Peters wanted to know how commercial snow contractors would be different from a snow removal business hired by an individual.

Councilwoman Blazier said it would be more for someone who could damage city roads with their plow. Not someone using a shovel. The committee concentrated on those contractors/sub-contractors that are more apt to cause damage to property.

President Henry shared that there had been some discussion if is a "cart before the horse" issue. Needing to make sure there is someone in place if there is a incident that a contractor is not registered yet working.

Councilman Hitt didn't see how it could be enforce either.

Council Robinson pointed out that this will protect the citizens too. The contractor has to have proof of liability insurance.

Councilwoman Russell added that there is the difference between just someone's handyman and contractor.

Councilman Smith felt that we do have people to enforce this. It is just another "tool in our belt. A \$25.00 registration fee is not that much. He explained that the sanitation department has information on those using their service and they pay a small bi-annual fee.

This legislation will protect the city and the homeowner as the city grows.

Motion by Hays to accept the following amendments: The new sponsor is Rich Hays, edited contractors list, changed buildings/structures to "property", and removed the minor misdemeanor for homeowners. Motion to amend was second by Blazier. Roll to amend: Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes. **AMENDED.**

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

RESOLUTION NO. 108-20 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ANNEXATION OF LAND CONTIGUOUS TO THE CITY OF LONDON, OHIO Motion by Hays to place on fourth reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Councilman Hays pointed out that many of the concerns were for building of the veterinary clinic. This only has to do with the annexation of the property.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 149-20 ORDINANCE 149-20 Sponsored By: Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OFFICIAL ZONING MAP Motion by Hays to place on fourth reading, second by Russell. Clerk read. Councilman Hays explained that this is a request to change the zoning map from an R-3 to B-2.

Councilman Peters asked about the notification process to surrounding property owners, as the two who addressed council said they were only notified of this public hearing.

Safety Service Director Mosier replied that the planning commission sends out notification to surrounding property owner of a zoning request change. So, they receive two notices between the planning commission and council.

Councilwoman Blazier noted that complaints have been made regarding the upkeep condition of the property. She felt that if the owner is making this request of the city, then he needs to keep it cleaned up.

Councilman Smith said there is a commercial property at the end of Olive Street that is disgusting. He said personally would not want it in a residential area.

Councilman Peters felt that Mr. Cain was trying to do the right thing.

Councilwoman Blazier commented that short of a "no" vote, she would table this.

Mr. Mosier said that Mr. Cain cleans up the property when the city sends him a notice. He will have to continue to comply.

Councilwoman Russell added that Mr. Cain wants to get his equipment off South Main Street. He's been in business a long time.

Councilman Peters asked if there would be a difference in the property taxes.

Mr. Bill Long, street department superintendent, replied that the commercial property pays higher taxes.

Motion by Smith to adopt Ordinance No. 149-20, second by Russell. Roll to adopt: Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, no. **ADOPTED.**

RESOLUTION NO. 151-20 Sponsored by Anthony Smith A RESOLUTION DECREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on third reading, second by Russell. Clerk read.

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

RESOLUTION 155-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on second reading, second by Russell. Clerk read. Councilwoman Russell noted that this is the donation from the Cobra's association to the fire department.

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

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

RESOLUTION 156-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS Motion by Hays to place on second reading, second by Russell. Clerk read. Councilwoman Russell stated that this is the donation from the Cobra's association to the police department.

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

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

ORDINANCE 157-20 Sponsored by: Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 176-74 (attachment) Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Councilman Hays explained that this amendment is to a correct a .23-acre track of property that was inadvertently annexed into the city. The property belongs to the Ohio Fuel Gas Company.

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

Ordinance No. 157-20 (continued)

Motion by Hays to adopt Ordinance No. 157-20, second by Blazier. Roll to adopt: Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes. **ADOPTED.**

ORDINANCE 158-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell AN ORDINANCE AMENDING 880 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES (attachment) Motion by Hays to place on second reading, second by Russell.

Councilwoman Blazier commented that this needs to go the three readings allowing for public comments.

LEFT ON 2ND READING.

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 159-20 Sponsored by: Rich Hays AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY (attachment) Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read. Council Hays explained that this alley is located beside and behind 157 North Oak Street.

A public hearing will be held at the September 17 council meeting.

LEFT ON 1ST READING

RESOLUTION 160-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AUDITOR'S WARRANT FOR PAYMENT (attachment) Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Russell. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that this is a bill for the new water plant due July 1st. The invoice had been sent to the old city address. It needs to be paid. This invoice is paid from the Board of Public Utilities, not the general fund.

Motion by Hays to suspend rules 160-20, second by Russell. Roll to suspend: Peters, yes; Robinson, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes. **SUSPENDED.**

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

ADOPTED.

ORDINANCE NO. 161-20 Sponsored by Anthony Smith AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$498,502 VEHICLE ACQUISITION BONDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson. Clerk read.

Councilman Smith explained this is for the purchase of the new trash trucks.

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

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

ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 162-20 Sponsored by: Anthony Smith A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MADISON COUNTY TO PROVIDE WASTEWATER SERVICES (attachment) Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Robinson.

Mayor Closser explained that this just puts the agreement with the county commissioners in writing. The county has been paying all along for the service.

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

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

ROUND TABLE: Councilwoman Russell thanked council for passing the legislation to purchase the new trash trucks. The employees will be “happy campers”!

Councilman Robinson thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He thanked Councilwoman Blazier for all the work she put into the contractor legislation and Councilman Smith for all the work he put into getting the trash trucks purchased.

Councilman Hays thanked all the city employees for all the work they do.

Councilman Hitt thanked everyone for coming in and speaking out this evening.

He reminded everyone of the safety committee meeting next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Blazier thanked everyone for coming in this evening and expressing their opinions. She employed everyone to continue to be safe. It doesn’t hurt to wear a mask. London is all about helping each other.

Councilman Smith thanked everyone for coming in. Everyone can’t always agree all the time. He thanked Councilwoman Blazier and Councilman Hays for the work they put into the contractor legislation.

President Comer stated that we don’t always agree, but can still agree to disagree! He thanked everyone for coming in this evening.

ADJOURN: Motion by Russell to adjourn.

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

Henry Comer, Council President