London City Council

20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140

August 20, 2026, at 6:30 pm

Minutes

Call to Order

President Peters called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a moment of Silent Reflection.

Roll Call

Present – Councilwoman Jackman, Councilman Boyd, President Peters, Councilman Eades, Councilman Stahl, Councilwoman Treynor, Councilman Hays, Councilman Hitt

Absent –

Minutes – Approval of August 6,2026 minutes, approved by unanimous vote

Public Hearing – none

Communications/Announcements –

-Board Appointment - Nick Markley, Board of Zoning Appeals term expiring 12-31-28. Approved by unanimous vote.

Audience Concerns –

Mike Cutler. I own a house on East 5th that I grew up in and own a house on 91 North Union. Came here roughly a year ago and complained about the sidewalk. Figured I'd just complain again. Walk up to Cowling Park from there with the dog every morning, and it's an obstacle course. There are a couple of houses just short of Cowling Park. That have a sidewalk that must be up four inches. Nobody can walk on that sidewalk without the lights being on. So that and other streets I wish the city would do something about. Thank you.

President Peters - Yep, I know it's been the talk. I think the city's trying to get a plan together. Yeah, if we could just get the city to include property owners, the city. Yeah, if they could keep up their sidewalks, that would be much appreciated before we have an enforcement officer at some point.

Councilman Eades - So, Mr. Cutler, we discussed at the committee meeting the other night specifically sidewalks that are city owned. So, what's your appraisal of the sidewalk at Cowling itself? The city owns part of that. Do you mind stepping back up? I'm sorry. One of the processes is grinding sidewalks that may be raised. Yeah, these are way beyond that. Well, I mean, at the park itself. Oh yeah. I think I think as a council, we've discussed with the administration at different times that we should probably take care of ours first before we start to really enforce.

Mr. Cutler - That was said a year ago.

Councilman Boyd - I'll chime in since Steve's not here also. But one thing that was

brought to the attention of Finance the other day that had been brought up for the Public Service Committee, was the need for a capital improvement plan. And that will be a big piece for us to actually start getting in place to be able to start actually planning for these things.

Mr. Cutler - When I come back a year from now, will there be a plan?

Councilman Boyd – I would say we could. Greg?

Councilman Eades - We have to work with the administration. Everybody has to come to the table and try to figure this out. So, we have the data now about the sidewalks that we did not have at that point. So, we paid a company to come in. They've graded all the sidewalks. We've got video, and that was the first step I thought to go forward. That's where we're at with that right now. And that's all that's been done. And I'm aware of that at this point.

Mr. Cutler – That's city-owned sidewalks?

Councilman Eades - All sidewalks. Well, we paid the company we paid to come in and gauge all the sidewalks.

Mr. Cutler – I hope they reported on Main Street near Cowling Park.

President Peters - Yeah, they did all the sidewalks. So even the sidewalk there. Your Fifth Street and Chandler property. Yeah. I mean, that needs repairs too.

Councilman Boyd - Yeah. Mostly just saying, hey, hopefully we're getting some kind of plan put in place to start picking at it little by little. Can I promise by next year? I don't want to put that out there quite yet, but we'll be on our best for it.

Mayor Closser - Can I add a couple of things, please? So, sir, as Councilman Eades said, they did. City Council did pay to bring a company, and they came through; they graded all the sidewalks they videoed all the sidewalks. I think probably close to five to 10 times in my updates. I've talked to City Council about what the next steps are. Because the last time we spoke, some people said, well, the city should go out and start paying for people's sidewalks. Some people said no. It's the property owner that needs to pay for it. We need to go after the property owners. There were talks of grants. There were talks of matching, where they paid this and they paid and we paid part. And then when Steve came in, one of the things that we talked about in the administrative office was the one thing we can't do, I don't believe, is tell people to fix their sidewalks if our sidewalks aren't fixed. So, we need to lead by example. Well, we felt that, you know, I can't tell somebody to cut their grass if I'm not cutting my grass. I can't tell people to clean their porch off if my porch isn't clean. So that's what we're doing right now. And I urge the council once again to come up with how we're going to do you want us to just send the building enforcement officer out and start telling people that they have to fix their sidewalks? Because it might be a little difficult to go tell an elderly lady on a fixed income. Now you need to spend five thousand dollars to fix your sidewalks. So, these are all things that need to be taken into consideration, and hopefully the city council can direct us on how they want us to move forward. And in the meantime, the city will the administration will start working on our own sidewalks.

Councilwoman Treynor - Can I also address this, especially with a track up to Cowling Park, because I have one of those houses with a large drop of five to six

inches, and it's horrible. Part of what we've researched is trying to find grants to pay for it because part of the underlying problem is the trees that are in the tree lawn. Our city owned trees, and we as property owners don't have the right to damage or remove any of those trees, and the trees are the offenders when it comes to the majority of the lurches that you're seeing in the sidewalks underneath. So how to preserve the trees and fix the sidewalks, and also prevent the issue from coming back, has been a struggle, especially when it comes to assigning what portion of that is the property owner's responsibility and what portion of that should be a city responsibility, given the fact that the city owns the tree but the property owner's responsibility to maintain the sidewalk. There are shared consequences there, but assigning that is not something that happens overnight.

Mr. Cutler – How many trees has the city pressed in this case? Cut the roots and pull up the pavement and put something new in. Have you done any of that?

Councilwoman Treynor - Well, that's not I mean, I'm a city council person. I'm not a person; I'm not even sure what department that would be. If that's parks and recreation or the street department or tree department, I have no idea.

Unknown speaker – Are there any examples of the city cutting back trees from the sidewalks?

Councilman Stahl - Most of the trees that we've had problems with are back to the elm, not the elms from years ago. One tree died, and they might plant the fast-growing tree, which is a silver elm. Oh yeah, they grow fast; they tend to be disruptive. We've got, in the past 25 years, we don't plant that type of tree anymore, just to have the old things we're trying to read about like that once on the trees. Like, to go down in the storm last week first would be fine just took right over us when it goes.

Unknown speaker – Again, what trees...

Councilman Hitt – Again, I can't tell you specific trees, but I think it does allow for grinding back the roots. Correct, John; you can grind back the roots?

Councilman Stahl - Yes, a lot of people take it out. You grind that root back and put your sidewalk in; it helps out. A lot of people have done that.

Mayor Closser - The city would be doing that. So, if you have to grind, the city will do that because it's the city's tree.

Councilman Hitt - We do have a tree commission meeting September 15th if you're interested in attending.

Unknown speaker – Will I learn anything if I go?

Councilman Hitt - I don't know. I mean, you could bring up your concerns, so if you feel like you would learn something from bringing up your concerns, that would be something to attend. That's at five o'clock in the meeting room next door.

Donna Martin – Extended discussion regarding past issues with trees and neighbors' legal concerns. Council members appreciated her feedback and

concerns.

Committee Reports

Public Service Committee –

Councilman Hitt - The public service committee meeting was also cancelled because of the tornadoes, and the next one will be September 8th at 5 o'clock. That's the public service committee meeting in the meeting room next door.

Councilwoman Jackman – I have nothing to add.

Public Safety Committee –

Councilman Hays - Due to the tornadoes and the weather that we had Tuesday and everything being what it was. The Safety Service Director, with which I strongly concur, decided to cancel the meetings. The next safety meeting will be held on September 8th at 6 pm in the conference room.

Councilman Stahl – My meeting was also cancelled.

Finance, Budget, and Personnel Committee –

Councilman Eades – All right, the personnel budget finance committee met Monday. A couple of pieces of information that I can give you the we'll do we'll do the expenses and the revenue for the year. The revenue for the year is just over 15 million dollars; that includes 3.2 million dollars that came in from the grant, so it would be less than that. Our expenses are almost 17 million 16 993 but that includes 5.3 million for the police department, so when it's all said and done, we probably still have more revenue than we do expenses, but not by a whole lot. We did talk about background checks for new employees. We did talk about Councilman Boyd wanting to discuss the tax credit. You will be seeing, I think, at the next meeting, legislation for elected officials' salaries. We do have a donation that's going to come through. We're reappropriating money back to the fire department that we appropriated last year for them to make renovations, but it didn't get done, so that's going to go back out to bid. There was a very interesting discussion, and I think you can have that discussion, or maybe Steve will be here to discuss a capital improvement budget and try to get things in place so that maybe by September or October at the latest. We have an idea of what we might be looking at for capital for the next year. It's going to be graded; it's going to go through channels before it comes to us, and then Council gets to make some decisions at that point, but I think it's a well needed piece moving forward that we get that done. I think it's imperative that we have that type of document to move forward. The other piece that I almost overlooked, just to give everybody a quick heads up for the year, our tax revenues for the general fund are down 2.2% from where they were last year, and the fire department's down 1.45% overall, so we're a little bit light this year. I asked, you know, if we knew why that was, and she thought that the residential income tax was probably a little bit above where it was; however, the businesses were not getting we haven't received what we normally receive for that, so that may be the difference. Our next meeting will be held along with everybody else's meeting on September 8th, and we're going to meet at 630 or no earlier than 630 but after the other two meetings that day. That's all I have.

Councilwoman Treynor - I also attended the finance committee, and Greg covered the highlights on that one already.

Councilman Boyd – Same, got to the finance one. I guess the last little piece to kind of put in there since we still weren't sure of the final numbers for 2025. Income tax has risen $1.4 million since 2020, and if it returned the $400,000, it would still be $400,000 higher than it was in 2020. This is $400,000 to $500,000 worth of deductions that could help families with the cost of bills, could go back into our small businesses, and would still leave the city with $400,000 extra a year. But that's all for me.

City Official Reports

Mayor Closser - I appreciate you guys coming out tonight. I appreciate City Council approving my appointment of Mr. Markley to the Board of Zoning Appeals. I know he's done some contracting work in the past too, so you know I think he sold himself a little bit short on the background that he has, but definitely excited to have him aboard the Board of Zoning Appeals. One of the highlights this month was the swearing-in of Donovan Cooper as the new Chief of the London Police Division. Thanks for coming tonight, Chief Cooper. He brings years of dedicated service, leadership, and a strong commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. It actually was a special moment for me personally because I've known Donovan for many years and have had the opportunity to watch each other grow both personally and professionally. I know the character, dedication, and integrity that he brings to this role, and I'm proud to see him take on this important responsibility. I look forward to working alongside him as we continue our commitment to keeping London safe, strong, and in a connected community. I've been pretty busy with development lately, having a lot of different meetings with potential businesses looking to come this way. Continuing those discussions, I hope to be able to release some information soon. As summer comes to an end. I want to say goodbye to our summer intern, Vivian Drake. If you guys remember, Vivian joined the City of London through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's summer internship program and quickly became a valuable part of our team. Throughout her internship, Vivian did an outstanding job assisting with marketing, communications, events, social media, and a variety of other projects. She brought great energy, creativity, and professionalism to everything that she worked on, and it was quite the pleasure to have her be part of the City team. She is now at THE Ohio State University studying policy and public policy. I do not doubt that she has a bright future ahead of her, and we're grateful for everything that she contributed to the City of London and wish nothing but the best to her. The new school year is officially underway as students, teachers, and families all return to the classroom. I want to welcome everyone back, but especially London City Schools. I wish our students, teachers, administrators, support staff, and families a safe and successful year, and now we will move on to the fun fact, which is the number 1.5, or you could say one and a half. I really wish I could have used the number two, but I felt that 1.5 was fitting for this. We had another great community event recently that took place in historic downtown London as we celebrated the annual London Rhythm and Rib Fest. It's a two-day event usually, but with the beautiful weather that we've had, we had about 1.5, one and a half days of good weather. So, it was a great weekend of music, food, and family, and I just want to thank all the vendors and everyone who came out, and all the sponsors. It's festivals like this, and the Strawberry Festival and the different events that we do around town provide great entertainment, bring people to downtown, support the local businesses, and also show what we have to offer in that area. So, thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored, performed, and everyone who helped make this another success.

Old Business

3rd Reading

RESOLUTION 148-26 Sponsored by: Greg Eades

A resolution increasing appropriations. The Police Department has received a donation from London Rotary.

Councilman Eades - I want to thank the London Rotary. It's a local service organization. They think that they can help out the London Police and the London Fire Departments by making donations. I'm sure the money will be put to good use by our new chief. This is an amount of $250. And this is the third reading.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Eades, 2nd Councilwoman Treynor. The motion carried by the following vote:

Abstain:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Eades, Hitt, Jackman, Boyd, Hays, Stahl, Treynor**
Against:	**0-**	

RESOLUTION 149-26 Sponsored by: Greg Eades

A resolution increasing appropriations. The Fire Department has received a donation from London Rotary

Councilman Eades - Again, the London Rotary made that donation of $250. This is for the Fire Department.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Eades, 2nd Councilman Stahl. The motion carried by the following vote:

Abstain:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Eades, Hitt, Jackman, Boyd, Hays, Stahl, Treynor**
Against:	**0-**	

RESOLUTION 150-26 Sponsored by: Lisa Jackman

A resolution increasing appropriations. The Fire Department has received a donation from the Cobra Club

Councilwoman Jackman - This donation from the Cobra Club is in the amount of $7,500. They've donated it from a fundraiser that they held during the Strawberry Festival, and they've donated it to the Fire Department.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilwoman Jackman, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried by the following vote:

Abstain:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Eades, Hitt, Jackman, Boyd, Hays, Stahl, Treynor**
Against:	**0-**	

RESOLUTION 151-26 Sponsored by: Lisa Jackman

A resolution increasing appropriations. The Police Department has received a donation from the Cobra Club

Councilwoman Jackman - This is another wonderful donation from the Cobra Club. This one is also $7,500, and it is intended for the Police Department.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilwoman Jackman, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried by the following vote:

Abstain:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Eades, Hitt, Jackman, Boyd, Hays, Stahl, Treynor**
Against:	**0-**	

RESOLUTION 152-26 Sponsored by: Greg Eades

A resolution increasing appropriations. The Fire Department has received a donation from a private citizen

Councilman Eades - So this is a little bit different in that a private citizen chose to support our fire department and made a donation of $410. I don't know if that has significance, but it's just kind of neat that someone wants to make that donation out of their own pocket.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilman Eades, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried by the following vote:

Abstain:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Eades, Hitt, Jackman, Boyd, Hays, Stahl, Treynor**
Against:	**0-**	

RESOLUTION 153-26 Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor

A resolution increasing appropriations. MORPC has reimbursed the City for a portion of the intern's salary

Councilwoman Treynor - This is a, let's see, MORPC has reimbursed the City for at least a partial cost of the intern that was here for the summertime for $2,700 going to part-time salaries recreation.

Motion to adopt RESOLUTION by Councilwoman Treynor, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried by the following vote:

Abstain:	**0-**	
Affirmative:	**7-**	**Eades, Hitt, Jackman, Boyd, Hays, Stahl, Treynor**
Against:	**0-**	

2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 164-26 Sponsored by: Lisa Jackman

A resolution authorizing the safety service director to file a ditch petition with the county. The ditch on the City farm needs repaired; and the ditch extends onto to property that is not owned by the City of London, and the owners reside in the County; and the City must file a petition with the County to be able to get the entire ditch repaired; there is a $1,500.00 bond required to be filed with the ditch

petition.

Councilwoman Jackman - Steve discussed this one quite a bit at our last meeting, but there is a ditch on the city farm that needs to be repaired, and the ditch extends onto property that's not owned by the city. The owners do reside in the county, so the city has to file a petition with the county to be able to have the county help assess that and take input from the adjacent property owners to see if it's something feasible to do to get that ditch repaired. There is a $1,500 bond required to file with the ditch petition. And this is just the second reading on this one.

Councilman Boyd - I know last time we were asking about whether we could get just that map posted up. Mayor Closser, do you know if we have any kind of progress or if we were maybe able to get anything like that on social media yet?

Mayor Closser - I don't believe that's been put on there. If you want to send an email and send a request to Steve and me, we'll make sure that we get that.

Leave for 3rd reading

New Business

RESOLUTION 165-26 Sponsored By: Rich Hays

A resolution designating Madison County Future, Inc., as agent for the sale of real property and authorizing an agency agreement.

Mayor Closser - So when we finally do get to vacate the police department's current building at 10 East 1st Street, we will need to sell that. We are looking to go and sell that through Madison County Future, Inc., which is the community improvement corporation for Madison County. Madison County Future, Inc. voted 7-0 to sell the property on our behalf. We feel this will help us pick the best use of it as well as get the best price for it. CIC will take 1.5% of the total sale of the property. This was done many, many moons ago when we sold the old armory. We sold that through Madison County Future, Inc. So, it's just way better than a sealed bid process when you're talking about real estate and being able to try to get the best dollar you can for what you have. We felt it was a better process than doing a sealed bid process. And there is an emergency on this. This does not mean that we need to suspend the three-reading rules. That is so when we do vacate the property, if the emergency clause is on there, we can start the process of selling it immediately and not have to wait 30 days after passage of the legislation.

Councilman Eades - Mr. Mayor. So, the other night we discussed the discussion around being maybe not the lowest, but maybe the best bid. And you discussed it previously, I think, when you said it was the armory when they sold that, that the decision was made maybe not for the most money, but for something that was going to be a better use. Can you elaborate a little further on that?

Mayor Closser - Yeah, if I remember correctly, back then, I think the person that was going to buy it, that was bidding more money, it was going to be a storage facility just to kind of store their stuff. And we needed more daycare at that point. That was what citizens were telling us. And so, we took a lower bid, but it was better for the community. And I know you asked who makes that final decision. I have that email out to Savannah Andrews, who is the head of the CIC and also the economic developer for Madison County, and she is actually out of town right now. So, I am waiting for her to get back, and I'll let her and Raquel make that decision on who makes the final decision on what property we go with, if there is more than

one bid.

Councilman Eades - Okay, and I was asked by a local resident to ask this question of you tonight. Are you still on that board, the CIC?

Mayor Closser - Yes, in my capacity as mayor, I do serve on the CIC, and I abstained from the vote to sell the City of London property.

Councilman Eades - That was the next question. Thank you.

President Peters - Now that's just for the structure there, isn't it, Pat? Not the parking lot?

Mayor Closser - Correct. So that is actually two parcels. One is the building itself. One is the parking lot. The administration's thought is that we will retain the parking lot, move the small shed that houses the carts, the golf cart, and the UTV, remove that, and add more public parking for our downtown as our downtown continues to grow and get more visitors. That is our initial thought.

Leave for 2nd reading

Round Table

Councilman Stahl - First of all, I'd like to congratulate Rich and his wife on their 43rd anniversary the other day. Also, I'd like to mention that Sue Minner passed away recently, and she was a member of the council quite a few years ago for several terms, and she's one of the first women, I think, who served with us. It was nice to have her point of view on all that, and I also want to wish good luck to the Raiders in the new season coming on.

Councilman Boyd – Thank you, everyone, for coming on out. I always enjoy hearing, you know, the viewpoints, but I'm glad that we're finally getting some plans in place to start maybe picking at some of the things that, hey, have been the issues, such as sidewalks. Thank you for coming out.

Councilwoman Treynor - I don't have anything to add.

Councilman Hitt – The Public Service Committee meeting is September 8th, next door in the meeting room at 5 o'clock, and then the Tree Commission is September 15th at 5 o'clock in the meeting room next door, if you want to come and address your concerns.

Councilman Hays - Yes, I'd like to thank all of our city employees for their jobs. Well done. I know there's been a lot of trees and things down, so I know there's been a lot going on this past week. I'm just thankful to God that we didn't have any more damage than what we did here. There are some other places that are really in bad shape, and hopefully they'll get federal help, be declared disaster zones, and get the federal aid to them right away. As John said, I just celebrated my 43rd wedding anniversary. I'd just like to thank my wife for putting up with me for 43 years. I'm not the easiest person to live with or to get along with at times. Tomorrow night, it starts. Red Raider football. Go Raiders! We'll have it on the radio. We'll have it at readyfm.com, so if you can't get to the game, listen in to us tomorrow night. I've got a couple of new features that I'm going to spring on everybody. Hopefully, we'll have a winning season this year and go right on into the playoffs. We're 28-2 right now in the past 30 games.