

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

LONDON CITY COUNCIL

Meeting

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

Held

FEBRUARY 1 20 22

**London City Council Special Meeting  
20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140**

**February 1, 2022**

**Minutes**

Council President, Henry Comer, called the special 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, Josh Peters, John Stahl, Bryan Robinson, Anthony Smith, Andrew Hitt and Greg Eades

**AUDIENCE CONCERNS**

Stacy Patterson – 1082 Exeter Court, London, Ohio 43140

- Stated her belief that the legislation regarding the income tax increase is being rushed and more public information is needed
- Stated her opinion that a new community center for the Parks & Recreation Department should not be included in the proposed legislation and the Fire/EMS Department funding and a new Police Department building should be on separate tax levies

Anita Likens – 157 E. First Street, London, Ohio 43140

- Spoke of the issue of civility and read an excerpt of the Constitution regarding senators

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

- Urged that City Council pass Ordinance 110-22 and Resolution 111-22
- Reminded Council that the Mayor has committed to holding several townhall meetings
- Stated that by passing the legislation, Council is transferring their power to the voters and not passing the legislation would send a message to the voters that they cannot be trusted with the decision
- Stated that the proposed building project and infrastructure repairs could occur at the same time
- Requested that a feasibility study be created for infrastructure renovations

Phil Dowler – 2 Laurel Street, London, Ohio 43410

- Stated his opinion that the city's infrastructure needs to be fixed before spending millions of dollars on a new construction project

Brent McDaniels – 1051 Amherst Boulevard, London, Ohio 43140

- Stated that the most recent tax increase was to fund the Fire/EMS Department
- Stated that the income tax credit for working outside the city was taken away
- Questioned why it has taken three years to figure out the funding needs for the Fire/EMS Department
- Stated his opinion that the proposed tax increase is enabling the Mayor's reckless behavior
- Stated his belief that the City's infrastructure needs fixed before funding the proposed project

Joann Gray – 27 Arlington Avenue, London, Ohio 43140

- Stating that the flooding issues are back and asked how and when the storm sewer issues can be fixed
- Stated that she learned from a recent Facebook post of Andrea Markley Dillion that \$200,000 from the storm sewer fund was used to pay back COVID-19 money.
- Requested a comparison of replacing vs building a new community center and Police Department building
  - Mr. Castle stated that no storm sewer funds were used for COVID-19 relief.

Rob Newman – 22 Richmond Avenue, London, Ohio 43140

- Thanked City Council and the City Administration for their public service
- Explained the types of debt cities can incur and suggested that the city work with a bond consultant
- Stated that the General Fund can be used for infrastructure repairs and urged the city to make the needed improvements

Held \_\_\_\_\_

20 \_\_\_\_\_

Steven Miller – 225 Jenkinson Avenue, London, Ohio 43140

- Inquired about the dates for the upcoming townhall meetings
- Asked how much money would be made by selling the current London Police Department building
  - Mayor Closser replied that at least four townhall meeting will take place and the dates are still to be determined. He also explained that the Police Department building would be sold by asking for bids from the public and the market would determine the selling price

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### Third Reading

- Ordinance 110-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays – An ordinance to increase the municipal income tax by one half of one percent (0.50%) per annum for a continuing period of time for the purpose of providing funds to pay costs of acquiring, constructing, furnishing, equipping, improving, maintaining and repairing municipal recreational facilities, municipal fire department facilities, and municipal police department facilities owned by the city of London, to pay general operating expenses related to municipal recreational facilities, of the fire department, and of the police department, and to pay any expenses and debt service charges for debt incurred in connection therewith, authorizing the question of such increase to be placed on the ballot at the election to be held on May 3, 2022 and declaring an emergency

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

Motion by Hays to adopt, seconded by Stahl

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

PASSED

- Resolution 111-22 – Sponsored by Rich Hays - A resolution to place the issue of increasing the municipal income tax by one half of one percent (0.50%) per annum for a continuing period of time as provided in ordinance no. 110-22, on the ballot at the election to be held on May 3, 2022 and directing the Board of Elections of Madison County, Ohio to conduct such election, and declaring an emergency

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

Motion by Hays to adopt, seconded by Stahl

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

PASSED

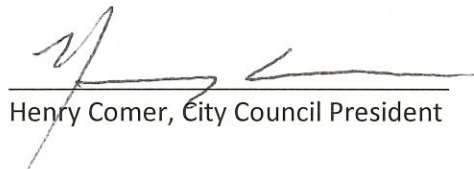
Councilman Smith addressed issues with the City's water. He explained that a 4' bearing in the water softening tank needs to be replaced and a specialist is being consulted. Stopping and draining the tank caused it to freeze which then delayed the repair process. He reassured the city residents that the water is safe to drink and said that the repairs will take time but the Water Department staff is working to fix the issue as soon as possible.

Council Smith explained that the recent message from the Board of Public Utilities Department about water being shut off at residences with delinquent accounts was sent to everyone but only accounts with past due balances needed to take action.

Motion by Hays to adjourn at 7:43pm



Amy Rees, Clerk



Henry Comer, City Council President