RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of London City Council Meeting

Casto & Harris Inc. Form S-301 E1412692LD

Held February 15, 2024 20

London City Council

20 S. Walnut Street, London, Ohio 43140

February 15, 2024 at 6:30pm

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council President Peters at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with a moment of Silent Reflection.

Roll Call

Present - *Councilman Eades, Councilman McDaniels, Councilman Hays, President Peters, Councilwoman Treynor, Councilman Norman*

Absent - *Councilman Hitt, Councilman Stahl*

Minutes – Approval of February 1, 2024 minutes, approved by unanimous voice vote

Public Hearing

Motion to exit the regular meeting and enter into the Public Hearing by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilwoman Treynor. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

ORDINANCE 238-23 - Sponsored by Henry Comer – An ORDINANCE amending official zoning map. 216 E. First St., London, OH from M1 to R3.

Motion to exit the Public Hearing and enter into the regular Council meeting by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilwoman Treynor. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

Communications/Announcements - none

Audience Concerns

Anita Likens, 157 E 1st St. – Mrs. Likens read Sections 1 & 2 of Article 1 and provided background information on how these articles were developed.

David Mars, 155 N. Oak St. – Real estate investor. Expressed his gratitude to all council members for serving and what they'll do for the growth in London.

Committee Reports

Personnel & Finance Committee –

- *Councilman Eades* – I attended the Personnel & Finance Committee and there are a number of items that is coming tonight. We discussed having supporting documents for agenda items prior to the meeting, so we can be better prepared. This will help eliminate items being cancelled or moved to next meeting.
- *Councilwoman Treynor* – nothing to report

Public Service Committee –

- *Councilman Norman* – The committee discussed several topics
    - Pickleball courts and possible locations.
    - Fireworks. The mayor brought a contract and encouraged us to move quickly.
    - Discussed parking downtown issues. Nothing was resolved, but more discussions will be coming.

Public Safety Committee –

- *Councilman Hays* –
    - The Police and Fire/EMS Department reports were accepted
    - Looking at re-drawing ward boundaries. London is growing and some wards are becoming busier.
    - New Building & Zoning fees will be in line with other city fees.
    - Updating Codified Ordinances with filing requirements to reflect correct number of days to apply. All filings must read 21 days to file.
    - Discussed assessing unpaid mowing fees from 2023 and adding them to owner property taxes.
    - Read the Police Department report.
    - First Public Safety meeting of the year will be 3/12/24 at 6:00pm.
- *Councilman McDaniels* – Read the Fire/EMS Department report.

City Official Reports

Mayor – Please see attached.

Safety Service Director – nothing to report

Old Business

6th Reading

ORDINANCE 238-23 - Sponsored by Henry Comer – An ORDINANCE amending official zoning map. 216 E. First St., London, OH from M1 to R3.

Motion to adopt ORDINANCE by Councilman Norman, 2nd Councilman Hays. The motion carried with 5 in favor and 0 against by voice vote

2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 103-24 - Sponsored by: Rich Hays - A RESOLUTION authorizing the Board of Public Utilities to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the lease of the city farm.

Leave for 3rd Reading

New Business

RESOLUTION 104-24 - Sponsored by Greg Eades - A RESOLUTION authorizing the Auditor to transfer funds during 2024. City Council approved legal fund transfers as part of the City's annual 2023 budgetary resolution, Ordinance 231-23.

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 105-24 - Sponsored by Shannon Treynor - A RESOLUTION authorizing the Auditor to increase appropriations and transfer funds. There are street repairs that are needed; and the funds cannot be transferred without sufficient authorization and appropriation from Council.

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 106-24 - Sponsored by: Andrew Hitt - A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The Tax Department is in need of an online software upgrade.

Motion to amend $11,103 to $11,143 by Councilman Eades, 2nd Councilman Norman. The motion carried with 4 in favor and 1 against by voice vote

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 107-24 - Sponsored by: Shannon Treynor - A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The lot where the Community Center was previously located needs additional work to be completed.

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 108-24 - Sponsored by: Greg Eades - A RESOLUTION increasing appropriations. The Police Department is in need of replacing an unmarked cruiser.

Leave for 2nd Reading

RESOLUTION 109-24 - Sponsored by: Michael Norman - A RESOLUTION authorizing the Safety Service Director and/or the Mayor to apply for various grants throughout the 2024 calendar year.

Leave for 2nd Reading

Round Table

Councilman Norman – The mayor mentioned our discussions about moving the festivals or not moving the festivals. We have a meeting scheduled to further discuss this topic. We also hope to have a Public Forum, so the business owners, festival organizers, and the public can come in and speak. I'll be hosting a meeting on the 20th at 5:30pm at the Public Library in the meeting room down stairs. Members from the Fire/EMS Department will be there to educate the public on services they offer and to answer any questions. I appreciate everyone coming out tonight. Mr. Mars, I think you are one of the hardest working men in town. I'm out a lot and you're always working. I appreciate what you do for London.

Councilwoman Treynor – There's been some discussions on the city having a strategic plan before more of developers come to London. We've just had talking points, nothing official. More of a road map, not leaving it up to chance. The builders can go view the road map and understand traffic stressors and other possible issues. A thought about a city planner to develop this map.

> Mayor Closser – I agree, but we need to update the city's Comprehensive Plan first. We've been thinking about this for a while. It's a very intense thing to go. We are looking at companies the county and other cities have used, to come in and do a Comprehensive Plan for London. We'll send quotes to Council and work on legislation.

Councilman Hays – I'd like to thank all city employees for their work and efforts for the city. Last week we lost a good man who was the sheriff here for many years. I'd like to take a moment of silence for Sheriff Steve Saltsman.

Councilman McDaniels – I'd like to thank everyone for coming out and stay safe out there.

Councilman Eades – I have a few things that came up.

1. I sent a request to Clerk Miller for a copy of Codified Ordinance for Comprehensive Development plan (resolution 223-93) and the Development plan for the Downtown District (195-97).
2. City Website is a work in progress. I took the time to look around the site and found under Boards & Commissions, that members don't have their

contact number is not listed. I'm requesting this be a requirement, to follow Council.

3. Mentioned there are still openings on Commissions and asked the mayor if his office is actively recruiting to fill these openings. The mayor answered yes.
4. Didn't notice a retention schedule posted on the website or in any other location. Other cities have there's posted. I don't know if I've ever seen one posted for the City of London.
5. Was approached by a lady from the public asking about posting a list or directory of all the businesses in the city.

President Peters – Thanks to Anita & David for coming out this evening. Next Council meeting is 3/7 at 6:30pm.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:25pm

Attestation: Minutes approved, filed in Auditor's Office, and posted on City of London website for public review.

Kris Miller, Council Clerk

3/7/24
Date

Josh Peters, Council President

3/7/24
Date

London City Council Update February 15, 2024

Good evening and thanks to everyone for coming out.

On Friday February 8th the new website and the app went live. Please take a look at the new website and download the app. Our website address is londonohio.gov and you can download the app for your phone in your app store by searching City of London, Ohio. We are very proud of the new website and app. Both turned out great and this is just another tool to keep citizens informed and give them information at their fingertips. Thank you to our executive assistant Eve Breedlove for all her hard work on this project.

We are continuing to work through the Mid-Ohio Water and Sewer District collaboration. We have been meeting frequently to make the transition as smooth as possible. Citizens will start to see more information through our website and socials as well as in their utility bills. If anyone has any questions about the transition, please feel free to reach out to the administration's office.

Susan Thompson with the Madison County Board of DD has received the award letter from the state for the sidewalk grant. The funding was obtained to facilitate the construction of 340 ADA-accessible sidewalk ramps, a groundbreaking initiative that will greatly enhance accessibility in city. With these ramps now set to be installed throughout all areas of our city, we are making a powerful statement about our commitment to equal opportunities and to creating an environment where everyone can thrive. I am very proud of the work we did with Susan Thompson at the Madison County Board of Development Disabilities and our executive assistant Eve Breedlove to bring this accessibility initiative to the city of London. We will be meeting next week to go over the funding and start to put our timeline together.

The Public Service Committee met this week and part of the discussion was about the local festivals. The London Strawberry Festival and London Rhythm & RibFest are quickly approaching and we want to have the City's plan in place for the festivals. There are talks about festivals being moved to Cowling Park or remaining in the downtown area. We are going to be meeting to come up with some options for the festivals and then hope to have a town hall to invite citizens, festival volunteers and business owners in to discuss some of the options. We hope to have the citizen input meeting in March.

I want to take a second and thank some of our local, state and federal elected officials. I have had a few meetings this month with County officials, State Representative Brian Stewart and a representative from US Congressman Mike Carey's office. We are always in touch talking about funding, collaborations and our continued partnership. We are continuing to grow and these partnerships are important to our success.

I would like to welcome a new business, Nest & Bloom, to our beautiful historic downtown. They just had their ribbon cutting this past Saturday before the well-attended downtown chocolate walk. The Madison County Chamber of Commerce will be holding another ribbon cutting next week on Wednesday February 21st for Sovereign Village.

Now on to the MOLO Fun Facts which are the numbers 21 and 19. As we all know, there is an important election approaching fast with very an important issue on the ballot. Early voting begins next week on February 21st with the election being held on March 19th. I ask that people get out and vote.