

January 2, 2020

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

CLERK CALL TO ORDER: Brenda Russell, present; Josh Peters, present; Rich Hays, present; Andrew Hitt, present; Carla Blazier, present; Anthony Smith, present.

MINUTES of the previous meeting were approved as received.

COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: Motion by Hays to exit into a public hearing for Ordinance No. 208-19, second by Hitt. Roll call: Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes; Russell, yes.

Resident Jane Beathard, 460 Samantha Circle, addressed council. She was concerned that she did not receive notification of the public hearing and wondered if that was still standard procedure.

There was no opposition to the alley closing.

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

AUDIENCE CONCERNS: Mr. Daryl Champer, 11760 Kiousville-Palestine Road, Mt. Sterling, Ohio, addressed council. He introduced himself and just wanted to make everyone aware that he is running for County Commissioner and would appreciate their support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilman Smith informed that the BPU should have the online pay system up and running soon. The department is looking at purchasing two used trucks and will be putting a budget proposal together.

President Comer read council committee assignments:

Finance: Carla Blazier, chair; Josh Peters, Andrew Hitt
Public service: Josh Peters, chair; Rich Hays, Andrew Smith
BPU: Brenda Russell, representative
Public safety: Carla Blazier, chair; Andrew Hitt, President Comer
President Pro Temp: Josh Peters

President Comer asked for approval by responding aye: Councilwoman Blazier

Opposed: Brenda Russell, Rich Hays, Andrew Hitt, Anthony Smith

Councilwoman Russell expressed her concerns for the extreme switching of council members on committees. She is not familiar with BPU, yet councilman Smith has been attending the meetings for years. There is a lot in motion in the Board of Public Utilities right now that he is familiar with.

She also said that she is concerned after losing Councilman Castle on the finance committee. He was the rock and very valuable to the committee.

She did not feel that these big drastic changes were good.

Councilman Hitt also felt that extreme switching committee was too much of a hit. He felt he is still learning on his current committees.

Councilman Smith agreed that the committee changes would be beneficial to the city. He felt that he knows 60% of what projects are going on in the BPU.

Councilman Hitt asked President Comer his thoughts on the proposed changes.

President Comer explained he felt a fresh group of members on a committee would bring different ideas and views. He felt very confident that any council member can sit on any committee. Everyone is very capable.

Councilman Hays agreed with Councilwoman Russell. He feels the changes are too big of a move right off the back. He has nothing against Mrs. Blazier, but she is new to council to be serving as the chair for the finance committee.

Councilman Smith asked Mrs. Blazier what background she has for finance. He felt it was too drastic of a move. He asked her background in finances confessing that he is not aware of her abilities and what she would have to offer.

Councilwoman Blazier replied that she has no college financial background, but served as the finance person for the emergency district for 30 plus years on the Madison Medical District

President Comer said he did not want to put a council member in a position they are not comfortable with. These committees are not concrete and are open for discussion.

Mayor Closser suggested meeting in executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss this.

Auditor Long said that she did not have to have a finance committee meeting Monday. She could group email the committee for what she needed to discuss.

Mayor Closser recommended bumping all committee meetings until after the next council meeting.

CITY OFFICIALS REPORT: Mayor Pat Closser gave his administrative report. (attached) He will give his state of the city address at the next meeting.

Auditor Long pointed out that she left her business card for each council member. She asked that questions be sent to her email so she will have it in writing.

OLD BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 208-19 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Motion by Hays to place on fourth reading, second by Russell. Clerk read.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

ORDINANCE 101-20 Sponsored by: Brenda Russell AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN ALLEY Motion by Hays to place on first reading, second by Russell. Clerk read.

Councilwoman Russell explained that the alley runs between Eberle-Fisher Funeral Home and the Creamery. It is one continuous alley running behind the Creamery, with the creek beside it.

A public hearing is scheduled for February 6.

LEFT ON 1ST READING

Councilwoman Blazier asked about the utility easements.

Mr. Long explained that it's standard procedure with alley vacations to check with the utility companies for easements. A property owner could put up a fence, but no building.

ROUND TABLE

Councilman Smith thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He congratulated President Comer and welcome councilwoman Blazier.

He thanked Rex Castle for the tremendous job he did on council and as the finance chairman.

Mr. Smith also said he is glad a Dairy Queen is opening up!

Councilwoman Blazier thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on council. She will ask questions and appreciates all the help she is offered.

Councilman Hitt welcome Mrs. Blazier and congratulated President Comer.

Councilman Hays congratulated Mrs. Blazier and President Comer. He thanked everyone for coming in this evening and appreciates the public support.

He heard the Dairy Queen is to open February 1.

He will miss Councilman Castle. He did a great job!

"God bless everyone!"

Councilman Peters thanked everyone for coming in. He welcomed Councilwoman Blazier and congratulated President Comer.

He commented that Councilman Castle's resignation is a tremendous loss to council. He did an excellent job as finance chairman.

Councilwoman Russell congratulated President Comer and Councilwoman Blazier. She thanked everyone for coming in this evening. We will adjust change and the city will continue to flourish.

President Comer thanked everyone for coming in this evening. He thanked council for their input on the committees and they will finalize committees this evening in executive session.

"I am great full to all of London for your confidence. I am looking forward to working closely with all of the departments of the city to move the city forward. We have already made many strides as a team. We can only move forward with the momentum of every single person in the city. We can not do this alone. No one person is an island. I encourage everyone to attend committee meetings for an in-depth discussion on potential issues and then to attend Council Meetings for a final vote on those ideas. Many of the discussions are solidified in committee for a final vote in Council. So please attempt to be a part of the process. So if you can not make it to Committee meetings please bring your comments to Council which is held every first and third Thursday at 6:30. The only guarantee that I will make is that I do not have all of the answers but if we work together as a team we can come up with an appropriate solution. Thank you and I wish all of us guidance from Above."

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion by Peters to exit into executive session to discuss council committees, second by Hays. Roll: Russell, yes; Peters, yes; Hays, yes; Hitt, yes; Blazier, yes; Smith, yes.

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

President Comer announced the committees:

Finance:	Brenda Russel-chair; Carla Blazier, Andrew Hitt
Public service:	Josh Peters-chair, Brenda Russell, Anthony Smith
BPU rep:	Anthony Smith
Public safety:	Rich Hays-chair; Carla Blazier, Andrew Hitt
President Pro-Temp:	Josh Peters

All council members were in favor by responding "aye".

ADJOURN: Motion by adjourn by Councilman Hays.

Arlene Duffey, Clerk of Council

Henry Comer, Council President